



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 6025/1
Permit Holder:	Eric John Sewell Lynette Kaye Sewell Tim Sewell
Duration of Permit:	28 June 2014 – 28 June 2019

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of cropping, access tracks and fenceline maintenance.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 170 on Plan 302136 (Sandsprings)
Lot 2164 on Plan 248502 (Sandsprings)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than three hectares of native vegetation and 20 native trees within the areas cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6025/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Vegetation management

The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 30 metres of the *riparian vegetation* of any *watercourse* or *wetland* within the areas cross hatched yellow on Plan 6025/1.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*; and

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.

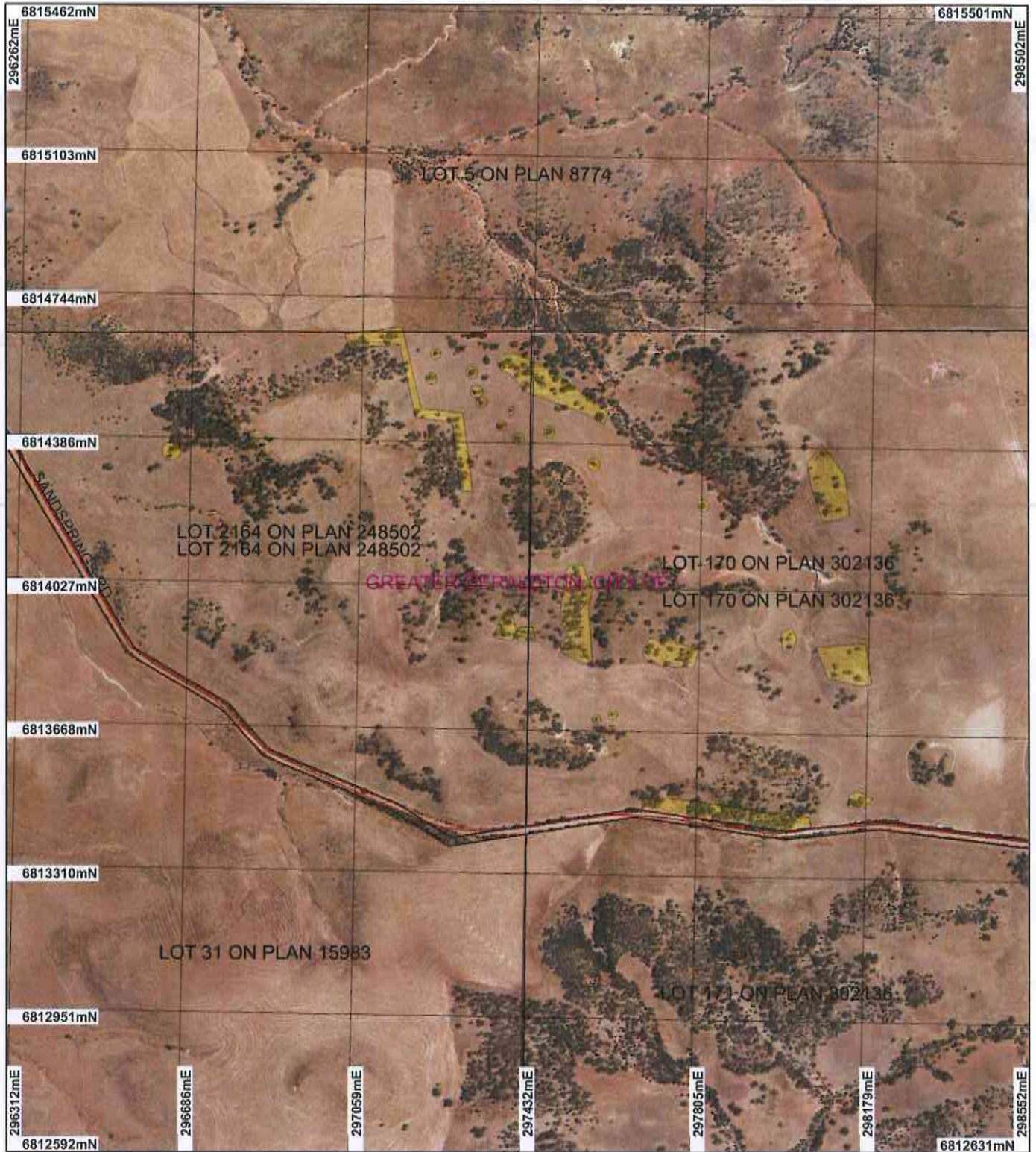


M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

29 May 2014

Plan 6025/1



LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities

Geraldton 50cm Orthomosaic -
Landgate 2006



Scale 1:12848

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

M Warnock Date: 29/5/16
M Warnock

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of
the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be
confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged
by the agency acronym in the legend.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6025/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Eric John, Lynette Kaye and Timothy John Morgan Sewell

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2164 ON PLAN 248502 (SANDSPRINGS 6532)
LOT 170 ON PLAN 302136 (House No. 620 SANDSPRINGS SANDSPRINGS 6532)
Local Government Area: City of Greater Geraldton
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3	20	Mechanical Removal	Cropping

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 May 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Mapped Beard Vegetation Association 35: Shrublands; jam scrub with scattered York gum (Shepherd et al, 2001)	Clearing three hectares of native vegetation and 20 native trees within Lot 2164 on Plan 248502 and Lot 170 on Plan 302136, Sand Springs, City of Greater Geraldton for the purpose of fenceline maintenance, access and cropping.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation under application consists of an open woodland of eucalyptus, mallee and hakea species (Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2014). The property has been and is still subject to cattle grazing and cropping and comprises of very little understorey and has a ground cover of weeds. The vegetation under application is in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.
Mapped Beard vegetation association 675: Shrublands; mixed thicket (melaluca & hakea) (Shepherd et al, 2001)		To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was obtained from a site inspection undertaken by the Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) and aerial imagery (Geraldton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear three hectares of native vegetation and 20 native trees for the purpose of fenceline maintenance, access and cropping.

Several priority and rare flora species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application. The recorded priority and rare flora species do not occur in similar vegetation and soil types as the applied area. Therefore the vegetation under application is not likely to include or be necessary for the continued existence of priority and rare flora.

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application including *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) (DEC, 2007-). Historical data indicates that the proposed clearing area is outside of the known range of Carnaby's cockatoo breeding habitat (DEC,

2012). Therefore the vegetation under application is unlikely represent significant habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo. The vegetation under application is open and has been subject to grazing and cropping comprising of very little understorey and a ground cover of non-native vegetation, therefore it is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for ground dwelling fauna.

No threatened or priority ecological communities have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the proposed clearing area.

The area under application is represented by Beard vegetation associations 35 and 675. Within 10 kilometres of the proposed clearing area there is approximately 30 per cent of pre-European vegetation that remains. The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Both of the mapped Beard vegetation associations identified in the proposed clearing area fall below the 30 per cent threshold level. However, the proposed clearing has been subject to historical grazing and cropping and is in a completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and does not represent the vegetation associations mapped within the proposed clearing areas.

The area under application intersects a stream and a broad drainage line that runs through the property. The Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) advises clearing vegetation within close proximity to these watercourses may cause land degradation in the form of water erosion. Clearing vegetation in close proximity to these watercourses will destabilise the soil leaving them susceptible to soil erosion from water runoff. Vegetation buffers from the identified water courses will help to mitigate this impact.

The closest conservation area to the proposed clearing area is an unnamed nature reserve approximately 4.2 kilometres east of the applied area, the nature reserve as is approximately 407 hectares in size. The vegetation within the applied area and the nature reserve are not linked and given the distance between the areas it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation values of the nature reserve.

Due to the relatively small size of the proposed clearing it is not likely to cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding.

The assessment of the proposed clearing identified that the clearing may be at variance to principle (g) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References:

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
 - DEC (2007)
 - DEC (2012)
 - Keighery (1994)
 - Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)
- ##### GIS Databases:
- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed May 2014)
 - NLWRA, Extent of Vegetation Remaining
 - Hydrography, linear

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There proposed clearing area falls within the Gascoyne Groundwater and Greenough River and Tributaries Surface Water Catchment Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI) area. The Department of Water (2014) recommends the applicant to retain a 30 metre vegetation buffer of any waterway. There is no requirement for a bed and banks permit if the applicant complies with the above requirement (DoW, 2014). Should there be any proposed disturbance of the bed and banks of any waterway, the applicant should submit an application to the Department of Water for a Section 11/17/21A permit, as required under the RIWI 1914 Act.

The City of Greater Geraldton (2014) has no objection to the proposed clearing and advises it would be advantageous to utilise the cleared vegetative material at a restoration site.

Methodology

References

- DoW (2014)
- City of Greater Geraldton (2014)

4. References

- City of Greater Geraldton (2014) Comments received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6025/1. Received 11 April 2014 (DER Ref:A748085)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed May 2014
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2012). Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) Recovery Plan.

Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, Western Australia.

Department of Water (2014). Comments received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6025/1. Received 9 April 2014 (DER Ref:A746773)

Deputy Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6025/1. Lot 170 on Plan 302136 and Lot 2164 on Plan 248502, Sandsprings. Received 23 April 2014 (DER Ref:A750914)

Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.