



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6129/1
File Number: DER2013/001153-1
Duration of Permit: From 4 October 2014 to 4 October 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Jason Lesley Edwards
Jollie Go Edwards

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 156 on Deposited Plan 51537, Kalgan

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.15 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6129/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Warnock", written over a horizontal line.

M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION




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

4 September 2014

Plan 6129/1



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Areas Approved to Clear
-  Cadastre
-  Local Government Authorities
- Albany Townsite Jan 2011 Mosaic**



Scale 1:2000
(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 4/9/14
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

WA Crown Copyright 2002



Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6129/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Jason Lesley Edwards

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 156 ON PLAN 51537 (House No. 120 WALFORD KALGAN 6330)
Local Government Area: City of Albany
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.15		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 4 September 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
The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 3 which is described as medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The application is to clear 1.15 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 156 on Plan 51537, Kalgan, for the purposes of running livestock and to expand and clear around an existing soak.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via aerial imagery and a site inspection by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2014).
The Albany Regional Vegetation Survey (ARVS) has mapped the area under application as: Unit 59: Taxandria juniperina Closed forest Unit 49: Melaleuca pressiana Low woodland (Sandiford and Barrett 2010).			
The Department of Agriculture and Food of Western Australia (DAFWA) has classed the vegetation as Jarrah-Bullich woodland, sedge and tea tree heath (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2014).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear 1.15 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 156 on Plan 51537, Kalgan, for the purposes of running livestock and to expand and clear around an existing soak. The original application included an additional 0.6 hectares of native vegetation in good condition, adjoining the northern boundary of the current application area. This area was excluded from the application to avoid appreciable land degradation and impacts to indigenous fauna. The amended application area has previously been cleared and accessible to livestock and is in a completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Numerous priority flora species have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius), two of which are mapped within the same soil type and vegetation association as the application area. Both of these are Priority 4 species, the closest of which is approximately five kilometres from the application area. Priority 4 species are

considered to have been adequately surveyed and not in need of special protection but could be if circumstances change (DEC 2012a). Eight rare flora species have been recorded within the local area, none of which are mapped within the same soil type and vegetation association as the application area.

The nearest priority ecological community is mapped approximately 1100 metres from the application area within the same soil type and vegetation association as the application area. There are no threatened ecological communities mapped within the local area. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014) advised that the vegetation within the application area is not likely to represent a threatened or priority ecological community.

Given the degraded condition and the presence of livestock, the vegetation under application is not likely to be significant habitat for indigenous fauna. The application area is not likely to comprise a high level of biological biodiversity or serve as a significant remnant in a highly cleared landscape.

No wetlands or watercourses have been mapped within the application area, however a soak is present and therefore riparian vegetation may be located within the application area.

Following a site visit, the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) reported that the clearing is not likely to significantly increase surface water runoff and wind and water erosion is unlikely given the soil type and land slope. The risk of salinity causing land degradation is low. The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to cause appreciable land degradation or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Oyster Harbour is an Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) Wetland and is mapped one kilometre west of the application area. Drainage from the property flows to the west from the property into Oyster Harbour (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation 2014). Given the proposed clearing's small extent and the remaining vegetation serving as a buffer between this clearing and Oyster Harbour, it is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

Considering the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to clearing principles (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

Methodology

References:

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014)
- Keighery (1994)
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:

- Carnaby Cockatoo breeding, feeding, roosting sites
- DPaW Tenure
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide
- Topographic Contours Statewide
- Hydrography linear
- SacBiodataSets - accessed July 2014

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

Comments

The applicant is proposing to clear 1.15 hectares of native vegetation for agricultural purposes. The vegetation is within the agricultural area defined in EPA Position Statement No. 2 which states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred on agricultural land leading to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation. Therefore any further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture cannot be supported (EPA 2000). The EPA recommends that all existing native vegetation be protected from passive clearing through grazing by stock or clearing by other means.

The EPA (2000) has a general presumption against clearing within this area for agricultural purposes. In exceptional circumstances the EPA would consider supporting clearing for agriculture within this region if:

- there are alternative mechanisms for protecting biodiversity.
- the area to be cleared is relatively small, depending on the scale at which biodiversity changes over the area, including extent of vegetation in the surrounding area and recognising that values will vary for different ecosystems.
- the proponent demonstrates that the elements set out in Section 4.3 of this Position Statement are being met. This will require extensive local and regional biodiversity work.
- land degradation, including aquatic environments and threatening processes, such as dieback, salinisation or disruption of catchment processes, on-site and off-site would not be exacerbated.

Lot 156 on Plan 51537 is zoned Rural Residential 6 under the Local Planning Scheme 1. Planning approval for the keeping of hooved and/or large non-domesticated animals or pets has been granted (City of Albany 2014).

No aboriginal sites of significance are mapped within the application area.

No submissions from the public have been received for the proposed clearing.

Methodology **References:**
- City of Albany (2014)
- EPA (2000)

4. References

- City of Albany (2014) Grant of Planning Consent, received 22 September 2014. City of Albany, Western Australia (DER Ref: A785109).
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) Land degradation assessment report. Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DER Ref: A779647.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6129/1, received 12 June 2014. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A768329).
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Sandiford, E.M. and Barrett, S. (2010) Albany Regional Vegetation Survey, Extent Type and Status, A project funded by the Western Australian Planning Commission (EnviroPlanning - Integrating NRM into Land Use Planning and State NRM Program), South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. and City of Albany for the Department of Environment and Conservation. Unpublished report. Department of Environment and Conservation, 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.