



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6248/1

File Number: DER 2014/001885

Duration of Permit: From 29 November 2014 to 29 November 2016

### PERMIT HOLDERS

Rodney Graham Withnell

Helen Faith Withnell

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 104 on Plan 22404, Coonabidgee

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 4.57 hectares of *Xanthorrhoea preissii* within the areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 6248/1.

### CONDITIONS

Nil

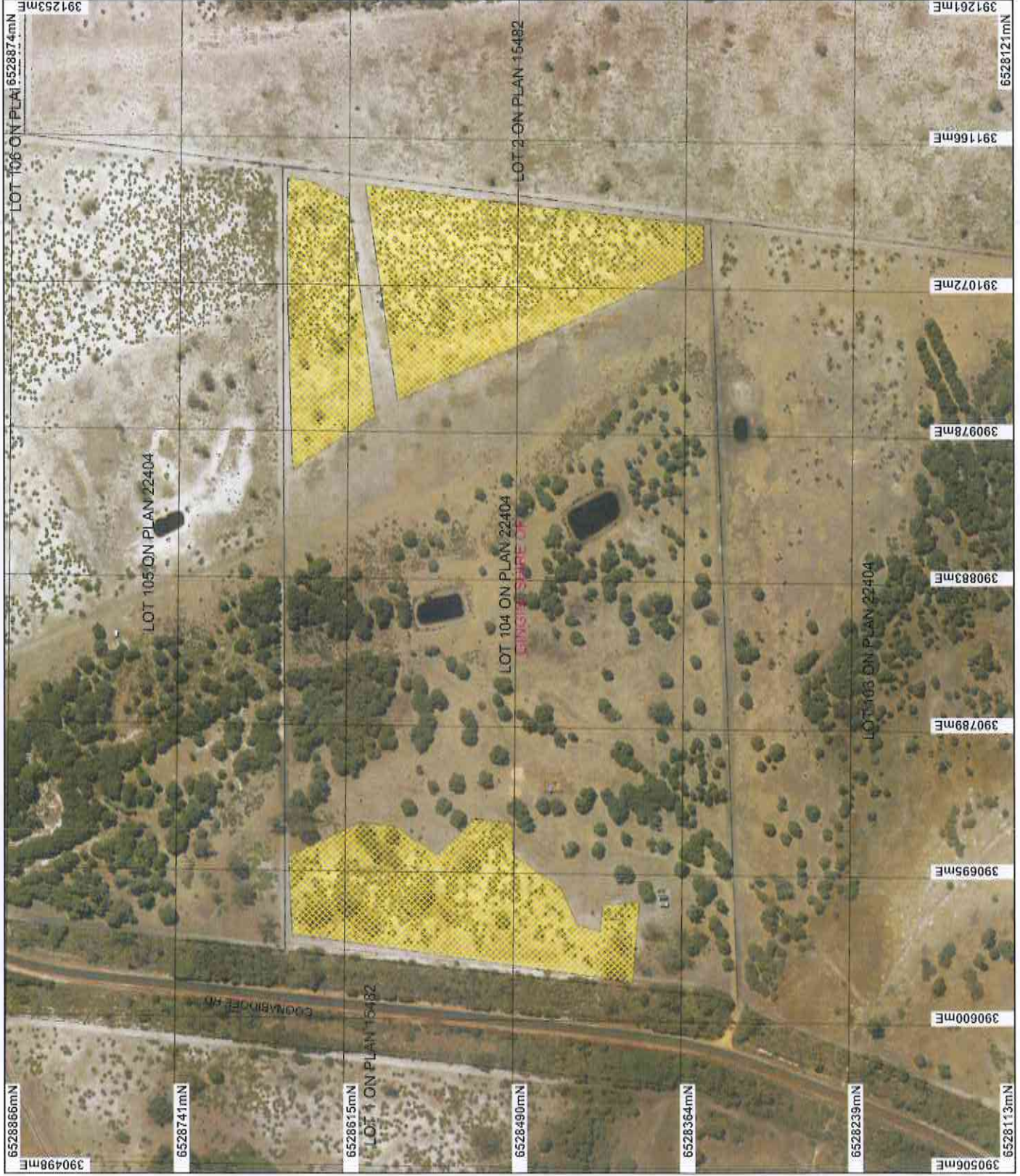
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Warnock", written over a horizontal line.

M Warnock  
SENIOR MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

30 October 2014

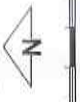
# Plan 6248/1



## LEGEND

- Local Government Authorities
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Perth Metropolitan North - 15cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2011

\* Project Data is denoted by asterisk.  
 This data has not been quality assured.  
 Please contact map author for details.



Scale 1:3834  
 Approximate when reproduced as A4  
 Geocentric Datum Australia 1994  
 Note: the data in this map have not been projected. The only result is graphic distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

*M. Westrock* Date 3d/10/14

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.





# Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia  
Department of Environment Regulation

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6248/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Rodney Graham Withnell and Helen Faith Withnell

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 104 ON PLAN 22404 (COONABIDGEE 6503)

Local Government Area: Shire of Gingin

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 30 October 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
Beard Vegetation Association 37 is comprised of shrublands; teatree thicket.	The clearing of 4.57 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 104 on Deposited Plan 22404 is for the purpose of stock grazing and pasture. The proponent has advised that the clearing will involve the selective removal of grass trees by Grasstrees Australia. It is advised that no other trees will be removed.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via aerial imagery and a Land Degradation Assessment Report (CSLC, 2014)
Beard Vegetation Association 1014 is comprised of mosaic consisting of low woodland of banksia and shrublands of teatree thicket. (Shepherd et al, 2001).		To	
Hedde Vegetation Yanga Complex is comprised of predominantly a closed scrub of Melaleuca species and low open forest of Casuarina obesa (Swamp Sheoak) on the flats subject to inundation. On drier sites the vegetation reflects the adjacent vegetation complexes of Bassendean and Coonabidgee (Hedde et al 1980).		Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### Comments

The clearing of 4.57 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 104 on Plan 22404, is for the purpose of grazing and pasture. The proponent has advised that the clearing will involve the selective removal of grass trees by Grasstrees Australia, whereby no other tree species will be removed. The application area has been subject to historical grazing and is in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (CLSC, 2014).

There are no priority ecological communities mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

There are several records of conservation significant fauna species within the local area. Given that the application area is in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, consists solely of grass trees, and is within close proximity to extensively vegetated areas in better condition, it is not likely that the proposed clearing consists of significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

The closest rare and priority flora species are located approximately 7.2 and 1.9 kilometres south east and north west of the application area respectively. The selective removal of grass trees in a 4.57 hectare area that is degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) in condition (CSLC, 2014) is not likely to impact on the conservation status of these species.

The closest threatened ecological community to the application area is the 'Herb rich saline shrublands in clay pans' located approximately 7 kilometres north west. This TEC is classified as Vulnerable, as endorsed by the Minister for Environment. Given the distance to this TEC, and condition of the vegetation under application, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on this community.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss

appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). There is approximately 50 per cent pre-European vegetation remaining in the local area and 55 per cent pre-European vegetation remaining within the Shire of Gingin (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Given these values, the application area is not considered to be within an extensively cleared area.

The closest conservation area to the application area is Yeal Nature Reserve located approximately 3.8 kilometres west. The selective removal of 4.57 hectares of grass trees is not likely to impact on this Reserve, particularly given the distance and lack of connectivity between the proposed clearing and the conservation area.

The closest watercourse or wetland to the application area is a multiple use wetland (palusplain) dissecting the two application areas, whereby a 50 metre buffer is maintained on either side of the proposed clearing. The removal of 4.57 hectares comprising solely of grass trees, which are not considered riparian, is unlikely to impact on this wetland.

A Land Degradation Assessment determined that the risk of salinity, eutrophication, wind erosion, water erosion and waterlogging causing land degradation is low (CSLC, 2014).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

#### Methodology

References:

- CSLC (2014)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed October 2014)
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Vegetation

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

#### Comments

The clearing of 4.57 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 104 on Deposited Plan 22404, is for the purpose of stock grazing and pasture. The proponent has advised that the clearing will involve the selective removal of grass trees by Grasstrees Australia, whereby no other tree species will be removed. It is also advised that larger examples of grass trees on the property will not be disturbed.

There have been no submissions received from the public in response to the proposed clearing.

The Shire of Gingin has advised that the intended land use is exempt from a planning approval under the Shires Local Planning Scheme No.9, and as such the Shire raises no objection to the proposed clearing (Shire of Gingin, 2014).

The application area is located within a mapped Aboriginal Site of Significance. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The application area is zoned 'rural living' under the Town Planning Scheme.

#### Methodology

References:

- Shire of Gingin (2014)

GIS Databases:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

#### 4. References

- CSLC (2014) Land Degradation Assessment Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6248/1. Site inspection undertaken 10/10/2014. DER Ref A819031.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra
- 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.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.
- 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.
- Shire of Gingin (2014) Direct interest submission for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6248/1. DER Ref A818409.