



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6287/1

File Number: 2012/006322-1

Duration of Permit: From 10 January 2015 to 10 January 2017

PERMIT HOLDER

Australian Wildlife Conservancy

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Paynes Find

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 11.2 hectares of native vegetation for access tracks within the area cross hatched yellow on the attached Plan 6287/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

DEFINITIONS

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

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

weed/s means any plant -

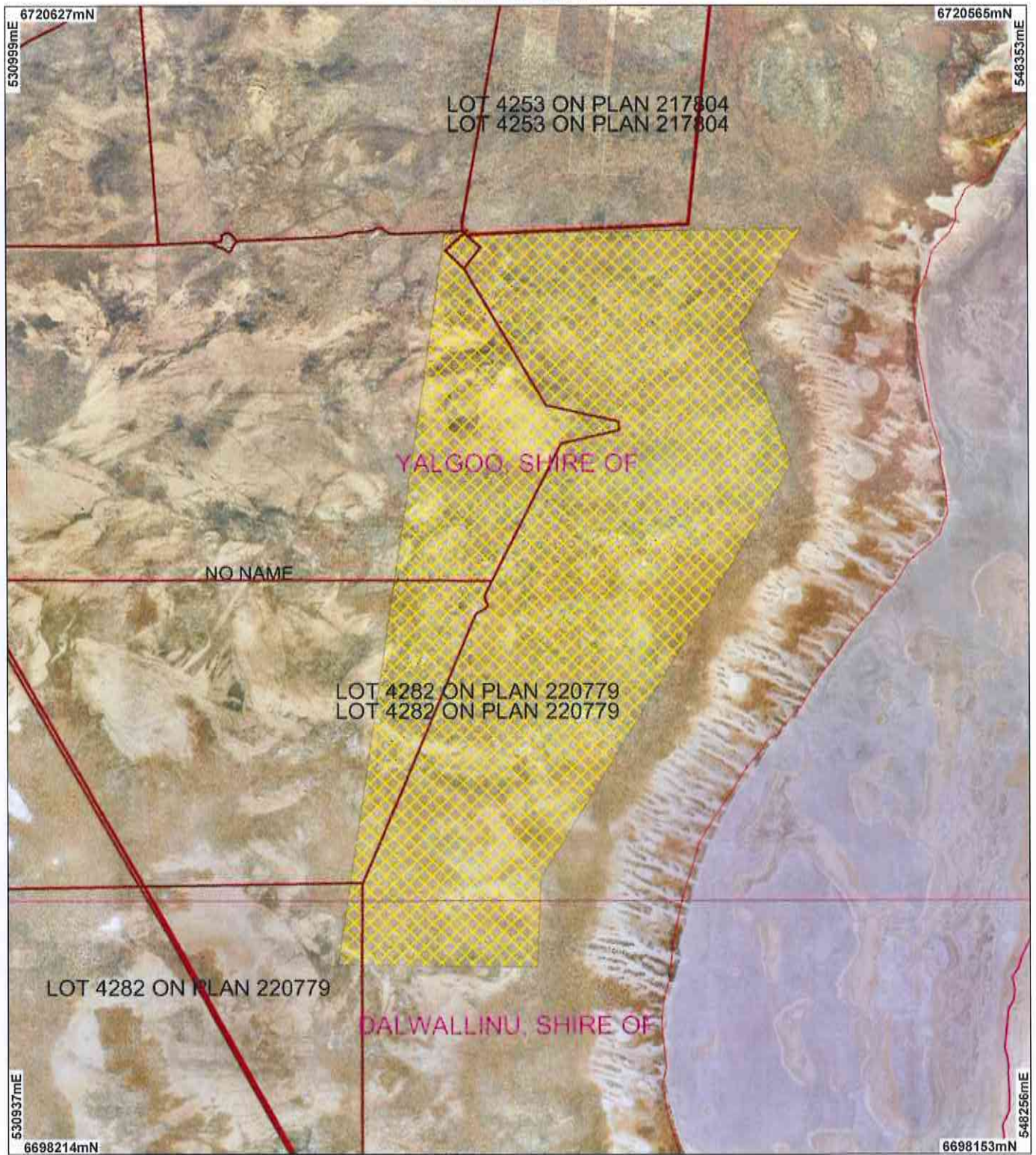
- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

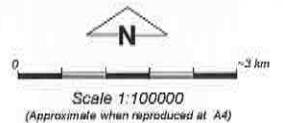
11 December 2014

Plan 6287/1



LEGEND

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Clearing Instruments | Local Government Authorities |
| Areas Approved to Clear | Road Centrelines |
| Cartastre | |



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 11/12/14
 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

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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.: 6287/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Australian Wildlife Conservancy

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 4282 ON PLAN 220779 (PAYNES FIND 6612)
Local Government Area: Shire of Yalgoo

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
11.2		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 11 December 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 141 is described as medium woodland consisting of York gum, salmon gum & gimlet (Shepherd et al, 2001).	This application proposes to clear 11.2 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Paynes Find, for the purpose of constructing tracks within a feral proof fenced area, to support the Mt Gibson Endangered Wildlife Restoration Project.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation description was obtained through aerial imagery and an Australian Wildlife Conservancy Report (2012).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 357 is described as medium woodland over scrub consisting of York gum over bowgada & jam (Acacia acuminata) (Shepherd et al, 2001).		To	
Mapped Beard vegetation association 437 is described as shrublands consisting of mixed acacia thicket on sandplain (Shepherd et al, 2001).		Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is may be at variance to this Principle**

This application proposes to clear 11.2 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4282 on Deposited Plan 220779, Paynes Find, for the purpose of constructing tracks within a feral animal proof fenced area, to support the Mt Gibson Endangered Wildlife Restoration Project. The tracks will be used for fire management, to support feral animal eradication and to monitor the threatened fauna species within the enclosure.

The majority of the tracks already exist as they were old mining or pastoral tracks. It is proposed to reopen these tracks to minimise impacts on natural values.

The vegetation is in a good to degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2012).

Several threatened and priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius) and one priority 1 flora species has been recorded within the western portion of the footprint area by Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff (Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2014a). It has been advised that Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff have also recorded a number of other rare and priority flora (seven priority and three rare species) within close proximity to the proposed clearing. Although a number of the proposed tracks are unlikely to coincide with any significant areas of suitable habitat for these species, there may be suitable habitat for some species within the western portion of the application area (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014).

These species are associated with granite and ironstone rocky outcrops (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014).

As there are no surveys available for the entire application area, the Australian Wildlife Conservancy has committed the services of one of their botanists to walk the proposed track routes to ensure that rare and priority flora are not cleared. The applicant has also committed to using existing tracks where possible (Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2014b). These commitments will assist in minimising impacts to rare and priority flora.

No priority ecological communities (PEC) have been mapped within the local area (20 kilometre radius).

The local area surrounding the application area is well vegetated with approximately 85 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds spreading into adjacent vegetated areas. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given that a priority 1 flora species has been recorded within the application area, and several other rare and priority flora species are in close proximity to the proposed tracks, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:

- Keighery (1994)
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2012)
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014a)
- Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014b)
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets (accessed November 2014)

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Six fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius), these being, *Cacatua leadbeateri* (Major Mitchell's Cockatoo), *Idiosoma nigrum* (Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider), *Lagostrophus fasciatus* subsp. *fasciatus* (Bernier Is. Banded Hare-wallaby, Mernine), *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl), *Leporillus conditor* (Greater Stick-nest Rat) and *Merops ornatus* (Rainbow Bee-eater) (DEC 2007-).

The applied area forms part of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Mount Gibson Sanctuary, and is being used for the management of fauna habitat. The proposed clearing is for tracks within a feral animal proof fenced area to support the Mt Gibson Endangered Wildlife Restoration Project. The tracks will be used for fire management, to support feral animal eradication and to monitor the threatened fauna species within the enclosure. The tracks will therefore aid in providing a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Given the relatively small area proposed to be cleared and its linear nature the area under application is not likely to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:

- DEC (2007-)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

Several rare flora species have been recorded on the property by Australian Wildlife Conservancy staff (Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2014a). Some of the threatened flora species are likely to be associated with red earth and/or rocky outcroppings. Suitable habitat for some of these species may occur in the western portions of the application area (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014).

As rocky outcrops are unsuitable for tracks, the proposed tracks are unlikely to coincide with any significant areas of suitable habitat for these species. The Australian Wildlife Conservancy has committed a botanist to walk the proposed track routes to ensure that rare and priority flora are not cleared. The applicant has also committed to using existing tracks where possible (Australian Wildlife Conservancy 2014b). These commitments will assist in minimising impacts to rare and priority flora.

Given that the western portion of the application area may provide suitable habitat for, and therefore may contain rare flora species, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

A licence to take rare flora, issued pursuant to section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, is required before threatened flora are to be impacted.

Methodology Reference:
 Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014a)
 Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014b)
 Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
 The closest threatened ecological community (TEC) is Ninghan Calcrete, located 30 kilometres north of the application area.
 Given the distance to the nearest TEC the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
 -SAC Biodatasets (accessed October 2014)

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
 The area under application falls within two IBRA Bioregions, being Yalgoo (with approximately 85 per cent native vegetation remaining) and Avon Wheatbelt (with approximately 15 per cent native vegetation remaining) and two Shires, being the Shire of Dalwallinu and Shire of Yalgoo. These Shires have approximately 23 and 98 per cent pre-European vegetation remaining respectively.

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).

Beard Vegetation Association 141 has 31 per cent of its pre European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion and Beard Vegetation Associations 357 and 437 retain greater than 90 per cent native vegetation within the Yalgoo bioregion.

Despite the application area partly falling within the extensively cleared Avon Wheatbelt bioregion, the local area surrounding the application (20 kilometre radius) is well vegetated with approximately 85 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining.

Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DPaW Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Yalgoo	5,057,325	4,924,606	97	32
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109	1,778,407	19	10
Shire*				
Dalwallinu	722,663	167,910	23	4
Yalgoo	2,794,950	2,733,272	98	23
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
141 (Avon Wheatbelt)	250,615	77,323	31	1
357 (Yalgoo)	36,980	36,447	99	0
437 (Yalgoo)	5,880	5,878	100	56

Government of Western Australia (2013) *

Methodology References:
 -Government of Western Australia (2013)
 -Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A non-perennial lake associated with Lake Moore occurs within the north west portion of the property. The proposed track route within the application area will not encroach within 800 metres of the perennial lake and therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Hydrography, linear
- Hydrography, hierachy

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is composed of two main soil types. Ms11 is described as alluvial plains with laterite residuals and gravelly neutral yellow earths. Associated on the plains are neutral hard yellow soils. Other soils include red earths and occasional dunes of red sands. There is often much stone and gravel on the soil surface (Northcote et al, 1960-1968).

Sv4 is described as saline valleys and salt lakes-salt-lake channels, mostly devoid of true soils, and their fringing areas. Common soils are gypseous and saline loams on riverine wash and usually underlain by clayey or sandy strata. Associated are small areas of the soils of adjacent areas, with soils often underlain by calcrete (kunkar) and dunes and lunettes of sandy soils (Northcote et al, 1960-1968).

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause wind erosion due to the soil types present and given the low rainfall (300 millimetres per annum) and gently undulating topography of the local region, the likelihood of soil being eroded through surface water runoff is low.

The application area is mapped as saline to highly saline, measuring 7000-35000 milligrams per litre, however given the linear nature of the proposed clearing, in a highly vegetative area, the risk of salinity causing land degradation is low.

Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
-Northcote et al (1960-1968)

GIS Databases:
-Salinity, Statewide
-Soils, Statewide
-Topographic Contours, Statewide

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The applied area forms part of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy's Mount Gibson Sanctuary, and is being used for the management of fauna habitat.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds being introduced in the Sanctuary. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given that the proposed clearing is for the intended use of the sanctuary area, it is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-DEC Tenure

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The topography of the local region surrounding the application area (20 kilometre radius) is low (gently undulating), as is the rainfall (300 millimetres per annum), therefore surface water runoff is likely to be minimal. Furthermore, given the distance of the proposed tracks to the nearest watercourse (800 metres), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will result in the deterioration of surface water.

The application area is mapped as saline to highly saline, measuring 7000-35000 milligrams per litre, however, given the linear nature of the proposed clearing, in a highly vegetative area, the risk of increasing groundwater salinity is low.

Methodology The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.
GIS Databases:
-Salinity, Statewide
-Topographic Contours, Statewide
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
Flooding is unlikely to be an issue given the topography on site and the low rainfall of the local region (300 millimetres per annum).

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Rainfall, Mean Annual

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments
No submissions from the public have been received.
The application area is zoned 'rural/mining' under the town planning scheme.
The Shire of Yalgoo (2014) has advised that it has no objection to the clearing, and as the area is on a pastoral property it does not come under the Town Planning Scheme.

A licence to take rare flora, issued pursuant to section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, is required before threatened flora are to be impacted.

Methodology References:
-Shire of Yalgoo (2014)
GIS Databases:
-Town Planning Scheme Zones

1. References

- Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2012) Mt Gibson Species Restoration Project (DER ref:541908)
Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014a) Threatened and priority flora species locations (DER ref: 836478)
Australian Wildlife Conservancy (2014b) Proposed track routes and supporting information (DER ref: 839515)
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 27 October 2014
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014) Rare and Priority Flora Advice received for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6287/1 (DER Ref A836479)
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.
Shire of Yalgoo (2014) Planning Advice received for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6287/1 (DER ref: A819739)