



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6370/1
File Number: DER2014/002917-1
Duration of Permit: From 11 April 2015 to 11 April 2017

PERMIT HOLDER

Frank Herbert Ripper

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 21 on Diagram 87045, Dale

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 190 native trees within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6370/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Fauna management

The Permit Holder shall not clear *black cockatoo habitat trees* between 1 July and 31 December of any given year.

DEFINITION

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

black cockatoo habitat tree(s): means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater.

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*

12 March 2015

Plan 6370/1



Legend

-  local_gov_authority
-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic



1:15,000

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Matt Warnock Date 12/3/15
Matt Warnock

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6370/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Frank Ripper

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 21 ON DIAGRAM 87045, DALE
Local Government: Shire of Beverley

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit: Grant

Decision Date: 12 March 2015

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 4: Medium woodland; marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The application is to clear 190 native trees within a 132 hectare footprint within Lot 21 on Diagram 87045, Dale, Shire of Beverley for the purpose of cropping.	Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	<p>The vegetation under application consists predominantly of Eucalyptus wandoo with some smaller Corymbia calophylla (Marri) trees present (DER, 2015). There is no native midstorey or ground cover vegetation within the clearing footprint with the land currently being used for cropping and grazing (DER, 2015).</p> <p>The vegetation under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2015).</p> <p>The condition and structure of the vegetation under application was evaluated through a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Environment Regulation on 3 February 2015 (DER, 2015).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear 190 native trees within a clearing footprint of 132 hectares for the purpose of cropping. The vegetation under application consists predominantly of Eucalyptus wandoo trees (DER, 2015) and is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2015).

Several priority and rare flora species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area. The area under application is currently used for cropping and does not contain any ground cover or midstorey species. Considering this, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on priority or rare flora species.

There are no priority or threatened ecological communities recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application.

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the applied area, this includes Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) (DPaW, 2007-). Ground dwelling fauna are unlikely to be impacted upon by the proposed clearing given it is only trees proposed to be removed and no native midstorey or ground cover vegetation is within the clearing footprint (DER, 2015).

The local area has approximately 60 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining, therefore it is unlikely that the clearing of 190 paddock trees will have a significant impact on foraging and roosting habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo.

Several wandoo trees observed during the site inspection are considered to be of a suitable size for nesting purposes for black cockatoos (DER, 2015). The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 referral guidelines define breeding habitat for black cockatoos as trees of species known to support breeding within the range of the species which either have a suitable nest hollow or are of suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most trees, suitable DBH is 500 millimetres (SEWPaC, 2012). The site inspection identified that some of these trees have already developed hollows (DER, 2015).

Carnaby's cockatoo nest in the hollows of live or dead eucalypts, primarily the smooth-barked salmon gum and wandoo, though breeding has been reported in other wheatbelt tree species and some tree species on the Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest (DEC, 2012). A site inspection determined that only wandoo trees under application were of a suitable size for breeding (DER, 2015).

Hollow-bearing trees suitable for Carnaby's cockatoo nesting are now largely restricted to remnant patches of woodland and individual trees within cleared sites (DEC, 2012). Studies have reported that it takes 100-200 years for trees to develop suitable hollows (DEC, 2012).

Given the extensive suitable habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo in the adjacent Wandoo National Park, the nearby Mundaring State Forest and many other remnant vegetation patches in the vicinity of the application, it is unlikely the removal of the trees will significantly impact on the cockatoos on a local, regional or species level (Parks and Wildlife, 2015). Fauna management conditions permitting the clearing of trees to occur only outside of the cockatoo breeding season will ensure breeding birds are not impacted. The applicant has committed to plant one wandoo tree within the subject land for every wandoo tree cleared.

The area under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 4 which has 28 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining in the Jarrah Forest bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

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). The mapped vegetation association falls below this level however, the vegetation under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2015), comprising of scattered paddock trees with no understorey and is not a true representation of the mapped vegetation association.

A minor non-perennial watercourse runs through the centre of the property. A site inspection of the area under application identified no water within the watercourse (DER, 2015). Eucalyptus rudis growing on the edge of the watercourse have not been included in the application footprint.

The Wandoo National Park adjoins the northern and eastern boundaries of the proposed clearing footprint. The subject property is currently used for cropping and does not contain vegetation that is contiguous with the Wandoo National Park. Considering this, it is unlikely that the removal of scattered paddock trees will impact on the conservation values of the National Park.

Given that the application is to remove 190 trees within a footprint of 132 hectares, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate land degradation, flooding or impact upon water quality.

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

Methodology

References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DPaW (2007-)
DEC (2012)
DER (2015)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2015)
SEWPaC (2012)

GIS Datasets:

- Hydrography linear
- DPaW Tenure
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed January 2015

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2012). Carnabys cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) Recovery Plan. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, Western Australia.
- DER (2015) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6370/1, Lot 21 on Diagram 114679, Edison Mill Road, Dale. Site inspection undertaken 3 February 2015. Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (DER Ref:A864085).
- DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2015
- 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.
- SEWPaC (2012) Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo.
- 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.