



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 6389/1

Duration of Permit: From 23 July 2016 to 23 July 2026

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Perenjori

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

North Road reserve (PIN 11431925), Bowgada

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1. Type of Clearing Authorised/Method

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.1 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6389/1.

2. Type of Clearing Authorised/Method

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

3. Management plan (offsets)

The Permit Holder must implement and adhere to the document *A Management Plan for the Rehabilitation of Lot 3638 on Plan 142121, Shire of Perenjori, May 2016*.

4. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the offset of areas pursuant to condition 3:
 - (i) the location of any area of offsets recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the offset activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) the size of the offset area (in hectares).

5. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
- (i) of records required under condition 4 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.



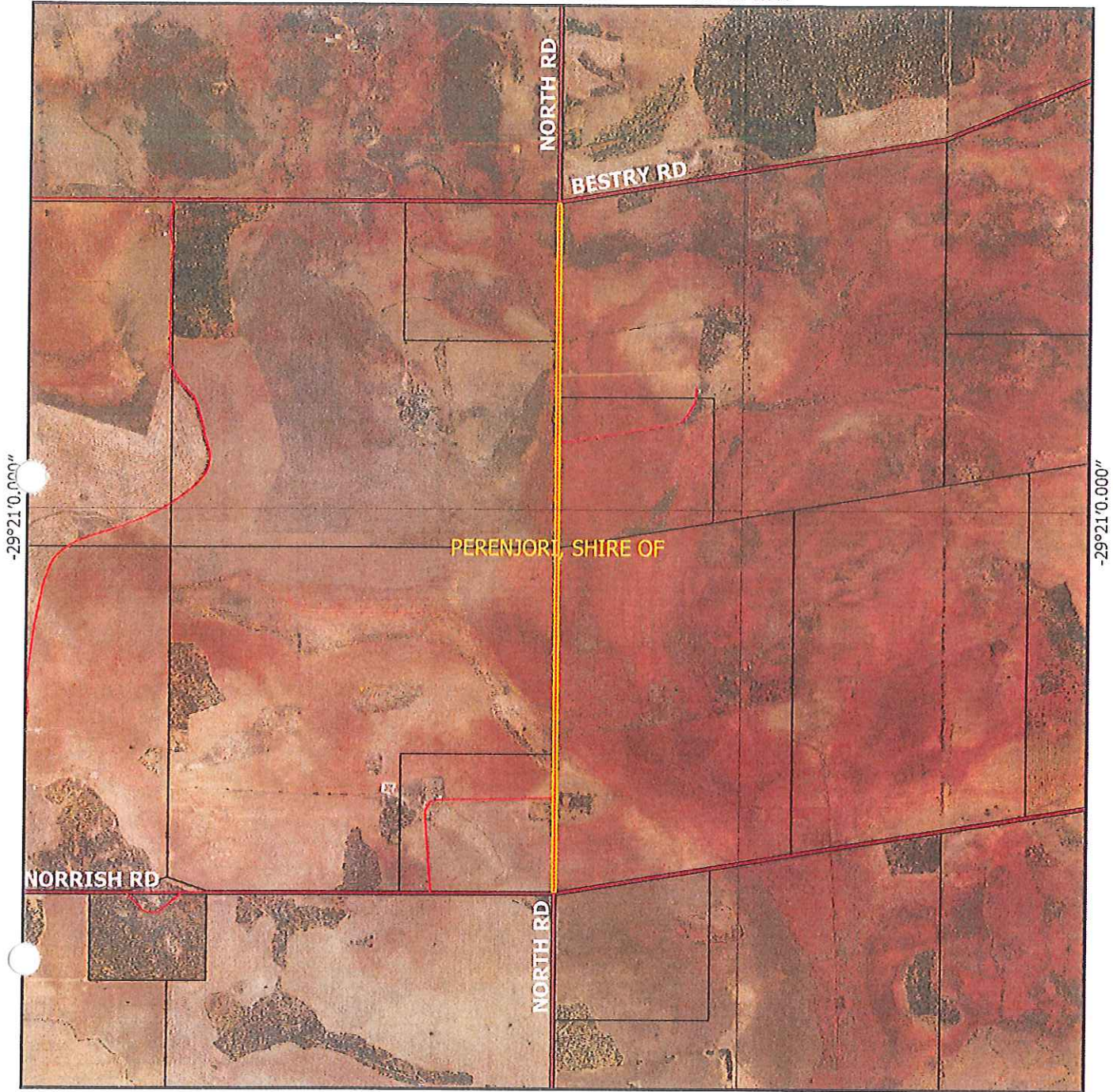
Kelly Faulkner
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LICENSING AND APPROVALS

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

23 June 2016

Plan 6389/1

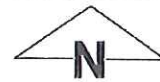
116°18'0.000"



116°18'0.000"

Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  LGA
-  Cadastre



1:22,578

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Date 23/6/16

Kelly Faulkner

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



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6389/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Perenjori

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE, BOWGADA
Colloquial name:
Local Government Authority: PERENJORI, SHIRE OF
DER Region: Midwest
DPaW District: GERALDTON
LCDC: PERENJORI
Localities: BOWGADA

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 23 June 2016
Reasons for Decision: The applicant has applied to clear 1.1 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of road construction or upgrades.

The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principles (e) and (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining Principles. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing will impact a significant remnant of native vegetation within an extensively cleared area, and will impact two watercourses. The Delegated Officer noted that the application area is narrow and linear in shape, is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture, and contains vegetation that is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

To mitigate the impacts to a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area, the clearing permit will include conditions for offsets.

These factors were taken into consideration by the Delegated Officer in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

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 352 which is described as medium woodland; York gum (Shepherd et al., 2001).	To clear 1.1 hectares of native vegetation within North Road reserve, Bowgada, for the purpose of road construction.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined by photos submitted with the application and information provided in the applicant flora survey.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application is to clear 1.1 hectares of native vegetation within North Road reserve, Bowgada, for the purpose of road construction.

The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. According to available aerial imagery, the local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

A Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey (Borger, 2015) recorded a flora species listed as Priority 1 by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) within the application area. A total of 11 plants were recorded within one population (Borger, 2015). Parks and Wildlife (2015) advised that the identified population is the second record of the species, and that this new population is potentially highly significant with respect to the conservation status of the species. The proposed clearing would therefore reduce the number of known individuals, the number of populations, and the known range, of this species. The applicant, in consultation with Parks and Wildlife, has developed a Management Plan for this species in order to ensure that it is not significantly impacted by the works. Actions to be undertaken include (Shire of Perenjori, 2015):

- demarcation of all specimens by Parks and Wildlife staff;
- fencing of the population during site works;
- no clearing within the fenced area and no specimens to be removed; and
- dust suppression measures.

The vegetation under application is not consistent with a known threatened or priority ecological community.

The Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey (Borger, 2015) included an assessment of the likelihood of conservation significant fauna occurring within the application area. Noting the condition of the vegetation under application and the narrow, linear shape of the application area, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for conservation significant fauna (Borger, 2015).

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

Methodology

References:

Borger (2015)
DEC (2007-)
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets

(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

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. According to available aerial imagery, the local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Noting the condition of the vegetation under application and the narrow, linear shape of the application area, it is considered unlikely that the application area contains significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

According to available aerial imagery, there is limited connectivity between the application area and remnants of native vegetation within the local area. The application area does not include any large hollow-bearing trees. On this basis it is considered that the application area is unlikely to be significant in facilitating the movement of indigenous fauna through the landscape.

Eight fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius) (DEC, 2007-). A Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey (Borger, 2015) included an assessment of the likelihood of conservation significant fauna occurring within the application area. Noting the condition of the vegetation under application and the narrow, linear shape of the application area, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for conservation significant fauna (Borger, 2015).

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

Methodology

References:

Borger (2015)
DEC (2007-)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:

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

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
One rare flora species has been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). This species is listed as critically endangered under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

The Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that this species has a restricted range of approximately 50 kilometres east-west and 20 kilometres north-south, and has been recorded within Melaleuca and York gum woodland, including degraded areas with no other native vegetation present (Parks and Wildlife, 2015). Parks and Wildlife advised that this species may occur within the application area, and that all occurrences are significant to the conservation of this species.

The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 352, which is consistent with the habitat preferences of known occurrences of this species.

A Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey (Borger, 2015) did not identify any rare flora within the application area.

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

Methodology **References:**
Borger (2015)
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015)

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets

(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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The threatened ecological community (TEC) 'Plant Assemblages of the Koolanooka System' has been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). This TEC is associated with the Koolanooka and Perenjori Hills (Department of Conservation and Land Management, 2000). On this basis it is considered that this TEC is unlikely to be present within the application area.

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

Methodology **References:**
Department of Conservation and Land Management (2000)

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets

(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 **Proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle**
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 application area is located within the Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, which has approximately 18 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 352, of which there is approximately 17 per cent pre-European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The application area is located within the Shire of Perenjori, within which there is approximately 56 per cent pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

According to available aerial imagery, the local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation.

Noting that the IBRA region, mapped vegetation association and local area have less than the 30 per cent threshold remaining, it is considered that the application area may be significant as a remnant of native

vegetation and is located within an area that has been extensively cleared.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

To mitigate the impacts to a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area, the clearing permit will include conditions for offsets.

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

(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 **Proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle**
The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Two minor non perennial watercourses traverse the application area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

Noting the minor non-perennial nature of these watercourses, the surrounding landuse, the condition of the vegetation under application and the narrow, linear shape of the application area, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the environmental values of these watercourses.

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets

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

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The application area does not include any large hollow-bearing trees.

Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as 7,000-14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.

On the basis of the above, and noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the absence of deep-rooted vegetation within the application area, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation in the forms of salinity, wind erosion or water erosion.

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

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
- Soils, statewide
- Groundwater Salinity, 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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. According to available aerial imagery, the local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The closest nature reserve is located approximately 10 kilometres from the application area. According to available aerial imagery, there is limited connectivity between the application area and remnants of native vegetation within the local area.

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

Methodology References:

Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
- Parks and Wildlife, 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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The application area does not include any large hollow-bearing trees.

Two minor non perennial watercourses traverse the application area.

Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as 7,000-14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.

On the basis of the above, and noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the absence of deep-rooted vegetation within the application area, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Given the above, the application is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology **References:**
Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets:
- Hydrography linear
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide

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

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application area is narrow and linear in shape, and is surrounded by land that has been cleared for agriculture. The vegetation under application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Two minor non perennial watercourses traverse the application area.

On the basis of the above, and noting the extent of the proposed clearing, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

Methodology **References:**
Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets:
- Hydrography linear

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The original application area was for 1.7 hectares of clearing. The applicant reduced the area to 1.1 hectares to avoid and minimise the environmental impacts of the proposal. The residual environmental impacts are to be offset in accordance with the WA Environmental Offsets Policy (2011) and WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (2014).

On 22 December 2014 the application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper for a 21-day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

No aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

On 12 March 2015 a Delegated Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) wrote to the applicant (DER ref. A878825), advising that the preliminary assessment identified that the proposed clearing may impact flora and fauna of conservation significance and a significant remnant in an extensively-cleared landscape, and recommending that a targeted flora survey is undertaken.

In a letter dated 23 March 2015 the applicant advised that a targeted flora survey would be undertaken, which would include an inspection of the application area for fauna of conservation significance and their habitat (DER ref. A887352). With a letter dated 13 May 2015 the applicant provided a report of a Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey (Borger, 2015), which identified a population of priority flora *Eremophila* sp. Rothsay (P1) (DER ref. A909630).

On 28 May 2015 a DER Delegated Officer wrote to the applicant (DER ref. A913496), requesting advice in respect to the management of the priority flora identified in the survey, and advising that an offset would be required against the clearing of a significant remnant. The requirement for an offset proposal was reiterated in correspondence of 22 September 2015 (DER ref. A975806) and 20 November 2015 (DER ref. A1009127).

In response the applicant:

- advised that the priority flora would be demarcated and monitored, and that the population is located outside the application area (DER ref. A928853);
- provided a management plan for the population of priority flora (DER ref. A940825);
- advised that the extent of clearing could be reduced to 1.1 hectares (DER ref. A993759); and
- proposed an offset of 1.5 hectares which involves a change in the Management Order, fencing, revegetation and ongoing management (DER ref. A1117305).

The Department of Parks and Wildlife advised that it does not support the clearing of the priority flora identified (DER ref. A912139), and officer-level advice indicating that the applicant's management plan was considered to be acceptable (DER ref. A950022).

On 28 April 2016 a DER Delegated Officer wrote to the applicant (DER ref. A1089649), advising support of the offset proposal, and requesting the development of revegetation completion criteria and approval from the Department of Lands for the proposed change in the Management Order.

In response the applicant provided:

- a management plan for the rehabilitation of the proposed offset site, prepared by botanical consultant Jennifer Borger and entitled *A Management Plan for the Rehabilitation of Lot 3638 on Plan 142121, Shire of Perenjori, May 2016* (DER ref. A1113043); and
- officer-level email correspondence from the Department of Lands indicating no objection to the proposed change in the Management Order and that the required documents will be lodged with Landgate to action this (DER ref. A1104771 and A1113043).

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites Register System

4. References

- Borger, J. (2015) Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey of North Road, Shire of Perenjori, 31st March 2014, For the application to clear native vegetation under the Environmental Protection Act 1986: CPS 6389/1. (DER ref. A909630)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra. Department of Conservation and Land Management (2000) Plant assemblages of the Koolanooka System Interim Recovery Plan 2000-2003. December 2000.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed June 2016
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6389/1. Received 22 January 2015. (DER ref. A 872014)
- 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, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.