



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

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

### **PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: 6406/1  
File Number: DER 2014/003197-1  
Duration of Permit: From 6 June 2015 to 6 June 2017

### **PERMIT HOLDERS**

Glen Matthew Reynolds

### **LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 77053, Eurardy.

### **AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 16.76 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6406/1.

### **CONDITIONS**

Nil.

M Warnock  
SENIOR MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

7 May 2015

# Plan 6406/1



## Legend

- Localities
-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
- Local Government Authority



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*M Warnock* Date *7/5/15*  
M Warnock

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data  
custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6406/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mr Glen Reynolds

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2 ON PLAN 77053, EURARDY  
Local Government Authority: NORTHAMPTON, SHIRE OF  
DER Region: Midwest  
Localities: EURARDY

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 7 May 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
Mapped Beard Vegetation Association 36 is described as shrublands; thicket, acacia-casuarina alliance (Shepherd et al, 2001).	This application proposes to clear 16.76 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 77053, Eurardy, for the purpose of cropping.	Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).  To  Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was determined via photographs provided by the applicant and a targeted flora assessment (Simkin, 2015).  The vegetation on site is largely comprised of regrowth Acacia and Eucalyptus species dominating open tall shrubland over medium shrubland.

## 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The clearing of 16.76 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 77053, Eurardy, is for the purpose of cropping. The vegetation under application has undergone significant historical disturbance and is in a good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Simkin, 2015). The application area is comprised of an isolated remnant of native vegetation within a largely cleared paddock.

The application area comprises 43 flora species, with the vegetation largely comprising regrowth Acacia and Eucalyptus species dominating open tall shrubland over medium shrubland on red/brown sandy loam (Simkin, 2015).

Several priority flora species have been recorded in the local area (20 kilometre radius). The closest of these (one Priority 1, one priority 2 and one Priority 4 species), have been mapped one kilometre west of the application area on the same soil and vegetation type. A targeted flora survey of the application area (Simkin, 2015) identified one priority 2 flora species on site, with less than 20 individuals scattered throughout the application area. The Department of Parks and Wildlife has advised that this species has been downgraded to Priority 3 as it is known from numerous locations and is quite common around Eurardy, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of this species (Parks and Wildlife, 2015).

The closest rare flora to the application area is a critically endangered mallee that has a preference for shallow soils over granite (Western Australian Herbarium, 2008- ). This species has been mapped approximately 5.7 kilometres south west of the application area. The current known populations for this species are highly threatened, with many growing in either road reserves or paddocks (Evans et al, 1999). A targeted flora survey of the application area did not identify this species on site (Simkin, 2015).

There are no threatened or priority ecological communities mapped within the local area of the proposed clearing (20 kilometre radius).

The application area is within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion and Shire of Northampton which retain approximately 74 and 45 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013). Kalbarri National Park, which encompasses 18,300 hectares is located approximately 3.2 kilometres west of the application area.

The application area has undergone significant historical disturbance, and given the presence of extensively vegetated areas nearby, the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise significant habitat for fauna.

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

**Methodology**

References:

- Keighery (1994)
- Parks and Wildlife (2015)
- Evans et al (1999)
- Simkin (2015)
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- )
- Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed March 2015)
- Parks and Wildlife Tenure

**(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**

There are numerous fauna species of conservation significance mapped within the local area (20 kilometre radius). Those with several recent records include, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), gilled slender blue-tongue skink (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*), shield-backed trapdoor spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), dwarf bearded dragon (*Pogona minor* subsp. *minima*), major mitchell's cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and golden gudgeon (*Hypseleotris aurea*) (DPaW, 2007- ).

The application area has been previously chained and although there is some regrowth, the area remains highly disturbed, with a lack of large habitat trees or dense native understorey.

Kalbarri National Park is located approximately 3.2 kilometres west of the application area and occupies an area of 18,300 hectares. The Shire of Northampton retains approximately 74 per cent of its native vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2013) and there are various areas of extensive remnant vegetation within the local area of the proposed clearing (20 kilometre radius).

The proposed clearing of 16.76 hectares of native vegetation within an otherwise cleared paddock in a well vegetated landscape (including extensive vegetation protected within Kalbarri National park), is not likely to impact on significant fauna habitat.

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

**Methodology**

References:

- DPaW (2007- )
- Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:

- Parks and Wildlife, Tenure

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

**Comments**

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

The closest mapped rare flora to the application area is an erect mallee, rarely a tree, four to six metres tall, and has a stocking of thin, flaky and fibrous grey bark (Evans et al, 1999). This species has been mapped approximately 5.7 kilometres south west of the application area.

This species was ranked as Critically Endangered (CR) in November 1998 under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

It currently meets World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List category 'CR' due to limited distribution, severe fragmentation of populations and continued decline in the quality of habitat (Evans et al, 1999).

The main threats are farming activities, grazing, weeds, clearing and firebreak maintenance, insect infestation, road maintenance activities, inappropriate fire regime, lack of habitat and the lack of genetic diversity (Evans et al, 1999). The species is endemic to Western Australia where it is confined to the Northampton area.

A targeted flora survey of the application area did not identify this species on site (Simkin, 2015), therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on this species.

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

**Methodology** References:  
 -Evans et al (1999)  
 -Simkin (2015)

GIS Databases:  
 -SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed February 2015)

**(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
 There are no mapped threatened ecological communities (TECs) within 20 kilometres of the application area, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise or be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
 -SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed February 2015)

**(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 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 within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion and Shire of Northampton which retain approximately 74 and 45 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 36 which retains 70 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion (Government of Western Australia 2013).

Given the disturbance on site and vegetation extents outlined above, the vegetation under application is not considered a significant remnant and is not considered to be within an extensively cleared area.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands (%)
<b>IBRA Bioregion</b>				
Geraldton Sandplains	3,136,038	1,408,729	45	40
<b>Shire</b>				
Shire of Northampton	1,258,431	930,131	74	25
<b>Beard Vegetation Association</b>				
36	118,107	83,020	70	19

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**  
The closest watercourse to the application area is a significant stream known as Mary Springs Creek located approximately 5.7 kilometres south west.

The application area is comprised of an isolated remnant of native vegetation within a largely cleared paddock. Aerial imagery and photographs provided with the application do not indicate the presence of a wetland or watercourse, and the flora assessment did not identify the presence of any riparian vegetation (Simkin, 2015).

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

**Methodology**    References:  
-Simkin (2015)

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 soils on site have been mapped by Northcote et al (1960-1968) as gently undulating plains with a few low dunes and chief soils comprising yellow sands with siliceous sands on the dunes and some areas of red sands.

Sandy soils are light and highly susceptible to wind erosion, however the vegetation under application has been historically chained and lacks dense ground cover, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly unsettle the sandy soils under application and it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would lead to wind erosion causing appreciable land degradation.

Furthermore, the proponent has maintained thin strips of vegetation around the paddock surrounding the application area which would assist in mitigating the impact of wind erosion.

Sandy soils are highly permeable, therefore water erosion resulting from the proposed clearing is unlikely, particularly given the absence of wetlands or watercourses on site.

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:  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierachy

**(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 closest conservation area to the proposed clearing is Kalbarri National Park, located approximately 3.2 kilometres west of the application area. This national park occupies an area of 18,300 hectares.

There is no connectivity between the application area and the national park, and given that the application area has undergone historical disturbance, it is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

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

**Methodology**    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**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The closest watercourse to the application area is a significant stream known as Mary Springs Creek located approximately 5.7 kilometres south west.

Given the distance to Mary Springs Creek and lack of connectivity between the application area and the vegetation associated with this watercourse, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of surface water.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is between 1000 and 3000 milligrams per litre (brackish).

Given this relatively low salinity level it is considered that the proposed clearing will not lead to a perceptible rise in the watertable and thus an increase in groundwater salinity levels.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierarchy  
-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** **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
Given that there are no wetlands or watercourses mapped on site, and that the application area is comprised of highly permeable sandy soils (Northcote et al, 1960-1968), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

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

GIS Databases:  
-Hydrography, linear  
-Hydrography, hierachy

#### **Planning instruments and other relevant matters.**

**Comments** The clearing of 16.76 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 77053, Eurardy, is for the purpose of cropping.

The application is zoned general rural under the town planning scheme.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

There have been no submissions from the public received for the proposed clearing.

**Methodology** References:  
-EPA (2000)

GIS Databases:  
-Town Planning Scheme Zones  
-Aboriginal Sites of Significance

#### **4. References**

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DPaW (2007- ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2015.
- 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.
- Evans, R., Brown, A., and English, V. (1999) Interim Recovery Plan no.43. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australian Threatened Species and Communities Unit.
- Government of Western Australia (2013) 2013 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2013. WA Department of Environment Regulation, 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press
- Parks and Wildlife (2015) Species and Communities Flora Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6406/1. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref A904893)
- 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.
- Simkin, R. (2015) Assessment of Flora for Clearing Permit. Additional Information for Clearing Permit CPS 6406/1. DER Ref A899939.