



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 6537/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Bruce Rock
Duration of Permit:	11 July 2015 to 11 July 2017

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of upgrading roads to improve safety.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 21422 on Deposited Plan 225626 (Reserve 17420), Bruce Rock
Ardath-Yarding Road reserve (PIN 11650283), Bruce Rock
Eujinyn South Road reserve (PIN 11657846 and PIN 11652014), Ardath and Babakin

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 6537/1a and Plan 6537/1b.

4. Application

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

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- 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.

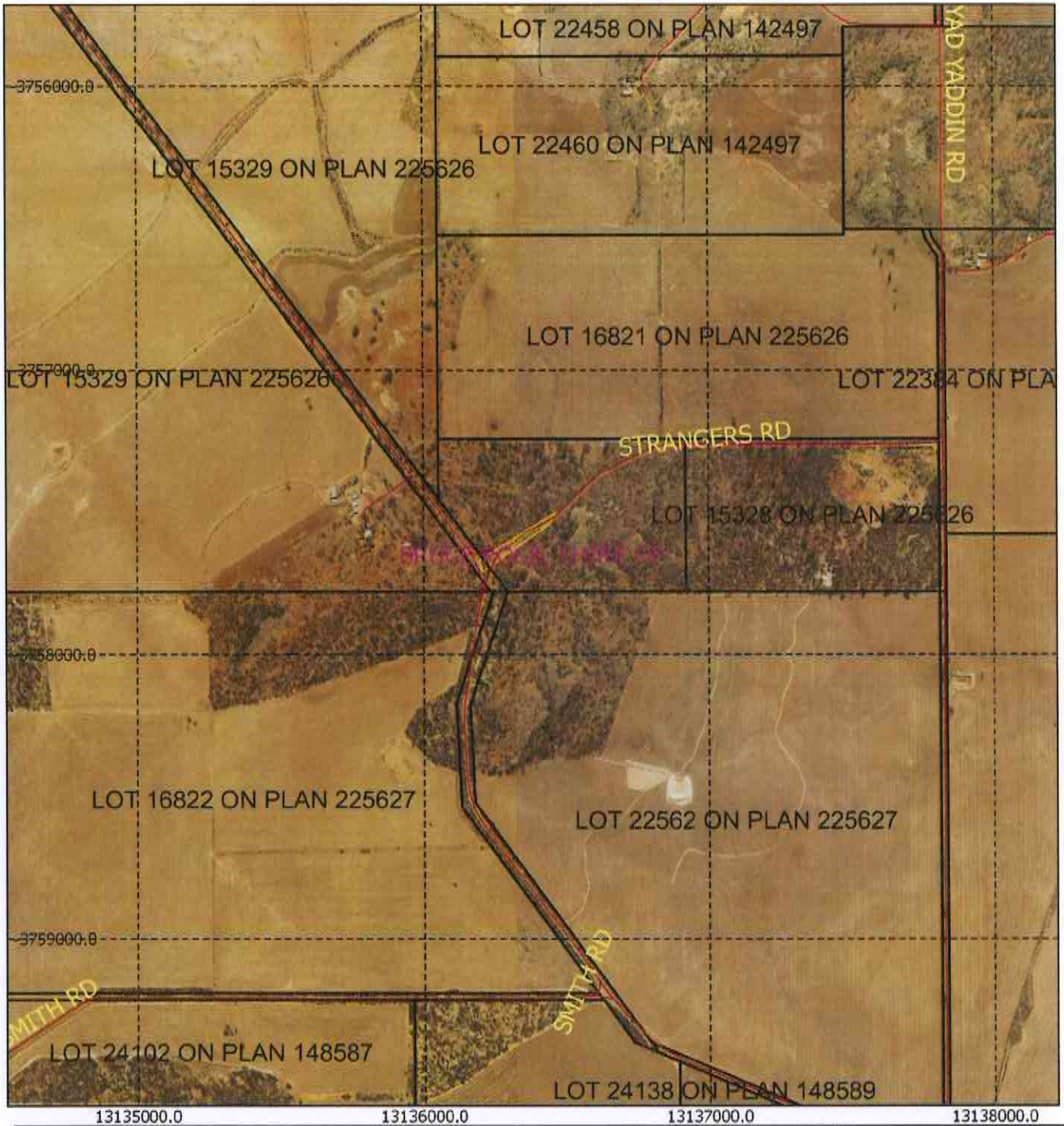


M Warnock
SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION







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

11 June 2015

Plan 6537/1a



Legend

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



1:20,000

MSA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

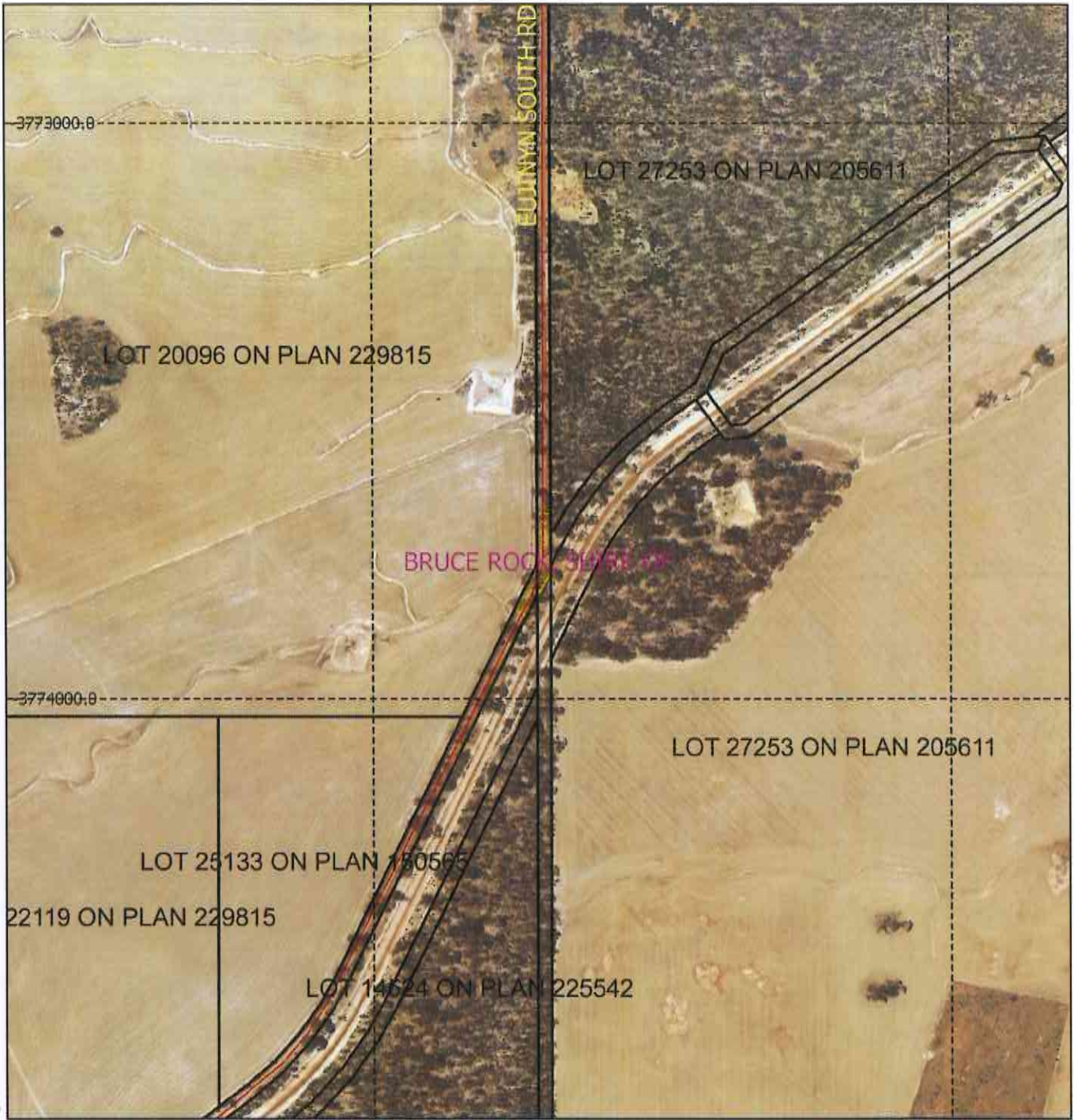
M Warnock Date *11/6/15*
M Warnock

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 6537/1b



Legend

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



1:10,000

MGA 84
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

M Warnock Date *11/6/15*
M 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.: 6537/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Bruce Rock

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 21422 ON PLAN 225626, BRUCE ROCK ROAD RESERVE - 11650283, BRUCE ROCK ROAD RESERVE - 11652014, BABAKIN ROAD RESERVE - 11657846, ARDATH

Colloquial name: Ardath-Yarding Road and Eujinyn Road
Local Government Authority: BRUCE ROCK, SHIRE OF

DER Region: Greater Swan
DPaW District: CENTRAL WHEATBELT
LCDC: BRUCE ROCK
Localities: BRUCE ROCK and BABAKIN and ARDATH

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit: Grant
Application:
Decision Date: 11 June 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
Area 1) Beard Vegetation Association 551: Shrublands; Allocasuarina campestris thicket (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 21422 on Deposited Plan 225626 (Reserve 17420), Ardath-Yarding Road reserve, Bruce Rock and Eujinyn South Road reserve, Ardath and Babakin, is for the purpose of upgrading roads to improve safety.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994). To	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined by photographs provided by the applicant. The proposed clearing within Lot 21422 on Plan 225626, Bruce Rock and Ardath-Yarding Road reserve, Bruce Rock (Area 1, as depicted on Plan 6537/1a) contains species including; Eucalyptus loxophleba Benth. subsp. loxophleba, Acacia acuminata, Hakea preissii, Keraudrinia integrifolia, Atriplex vesicaria, Waitzia acuminata and Enchylaena tomentosa (Shire of Bruce Rock, 2015).
Area 2) Beard Vegetation Association 131: Mosaic: Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet / Shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood & black marlock (Shepherd et al, 2001)		Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)	The proposed clearing within Eujinyn South Road reserve, Ardath and Babakin (Area 2, as depicted on Plan 6537/1b) contains species including; Eucalyptus salmonophloia, Eucalyptus loxophleba Benth. subsp. loxophleba and Acacia acuminata (Shire of Bruce Rock, 2015).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 21422 on Deposited Plan 225626 (Reserve 17420), Ardath-Yarding road reserve, Bruce Rock and Eujiny South Road reserve, Ardath and Babakin, for the purpose of upgrading roads to improve safety. Both application areas are State funded black spot locations.

The vegetation under application ranges from degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the vegetation proposed for clearing in Area 1 considered to be in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and the vegetation proposed for clearing in Area 2, in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The understorey vegetation within both application areas is dominated by a variety of grass weeds.

Several priority flora species have been recorded within ten kilometres of the application areas. Area 1 may provide suitable habitat for a priority one and priority two species recorded one kilometre south west and 1.5 kilometres south east of the site respectively. However, the Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015) Central Wheatbelt District has advised that both application areas were thoroughly inspected last year as part of an ongoing survey, and no significant flora was observed at the sites.

The vegetation under application at Area 2 may provide suitable habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. However, given the small size of the application area, exposure to disturbance from the road reserve and the site being in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, the vegetation is not significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoos.

The vegetation and soil type under application at Area 2 may provide suitable habitat for one rare flora species located 8.7 kilometres north east of the site. This species is only known in the Bruce Rock area, where a single population of two plants was recorded in mallee woodland below a small breakaway (Brown et al, 1998-). However, both areas were searched thoroughly by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015) Central Wheatbelt District last year as part of an ongoing survey looking for wild populations of this species, and no new records were found during the survey.

The closest priority ecological community (PEC) to the application areas is known as 'Banksia prionotes and Xylomelum angustifolium low woodlands on transported yellow sands' (priority 1), and is located approximately six kilometres north west of Area 1. The vegetation under application is not representative of this community.

There are no threatened ecological communities (TEC) mapped within a 10 kilometre radius of either application area.

The vegetation surrounding the application area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation. The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 551 at Area 1 and Beard vegetation association 131 at Area 2 which have approximately 20 and 7 per cent of their pre-European extent remaining within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion respectively (Government of Western Australia 2013). The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Mapped Beard vegetation associations 551 and 131 retain less than the 30 per cent threshold and therefore the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared area. However, given the small area under application in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition, that does not contain a high level of biological diversity or contain significant habitat for fauna, the vegetation under application is not considered to be a significant remnant.

A minor non-perennial watercourse runs through both application areas. A wetland described as a granite outcrop borders the eastern edge of Area 1. Given this, the application area may contain vegetation that is growing in association with this watercourse. However, given the small size of the area proposed for clearing, impacts to the watercourse and wetland are likely to be minimal.

The closest conservation reserve to the application area is the Yarding Nature Reserve (Class A) located approximately three kilometres north west of application Area 1. Given the distance and lack of connectivity to this reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

The clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of groundwater, cause appreciable land degradation or exacerbate flooding.

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

Methodology

References:

- Keighery (1994)
- Brown et al (1998-)
- Parks and Wildlife (2015)

- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

GIS Databases:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, linear
- Hydrography, hierachy
- NLWRA, Extent of Native Vegetation
- Wheatbelt Wetlands
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- SAC Bio datasets accessed June 2015

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The area under application is located within the Avon River Surface Water Area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (DoW, 2015) has advised that the issue of a permit is not guaranteed but if issued will contain a number of conditions. DoW has advised that the applicant should contact the DoW's Swan Avon Region office to discuss water management options.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped over the application areas.

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

Methodology

References:

- DoW (2015)

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Brown A., Thomson-Dans C. and Marchant N.(1998). Western Australia's Threatened Flora, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015) Species and Communities advice for CPS 6537/1. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Western Australia. DER Ref: A915160
- DoW (2015) Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 6537/1. Department of Water. Western Australia. DER Ref: A906590
- 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 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.