



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6613/1  
File Number: 2015/001391-1  
Duration of Permit: From 11 June 2016 to 11 June 2018

### PERMIT HOLDER

Burrell Nominees Pty Ltd

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 2911 on Deposited Plan 211186, West River  
Lot 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186, West River

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2.25 hectares of native vegetation within the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 6613/1.

### CONDITIONS

1. Within one month of clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall install silt traps within Lot 2911 on Deposited Plan 211186 and Lot 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186, West River, in accordance with Attachment 1.
2. Within one month of clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall construct a drain within Lot 2911 on Deposited Plan 211186 and Lot 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186, West River, in accordance with Attachment 2.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Weighell', written over a horizontal line.

Simon Weighell  
A/ MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

12 May 2016

# Plan 6613/1



## Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
  -  Roads
  -  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



1:12,083

MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*S. Weighell*

Date *12/5/16*

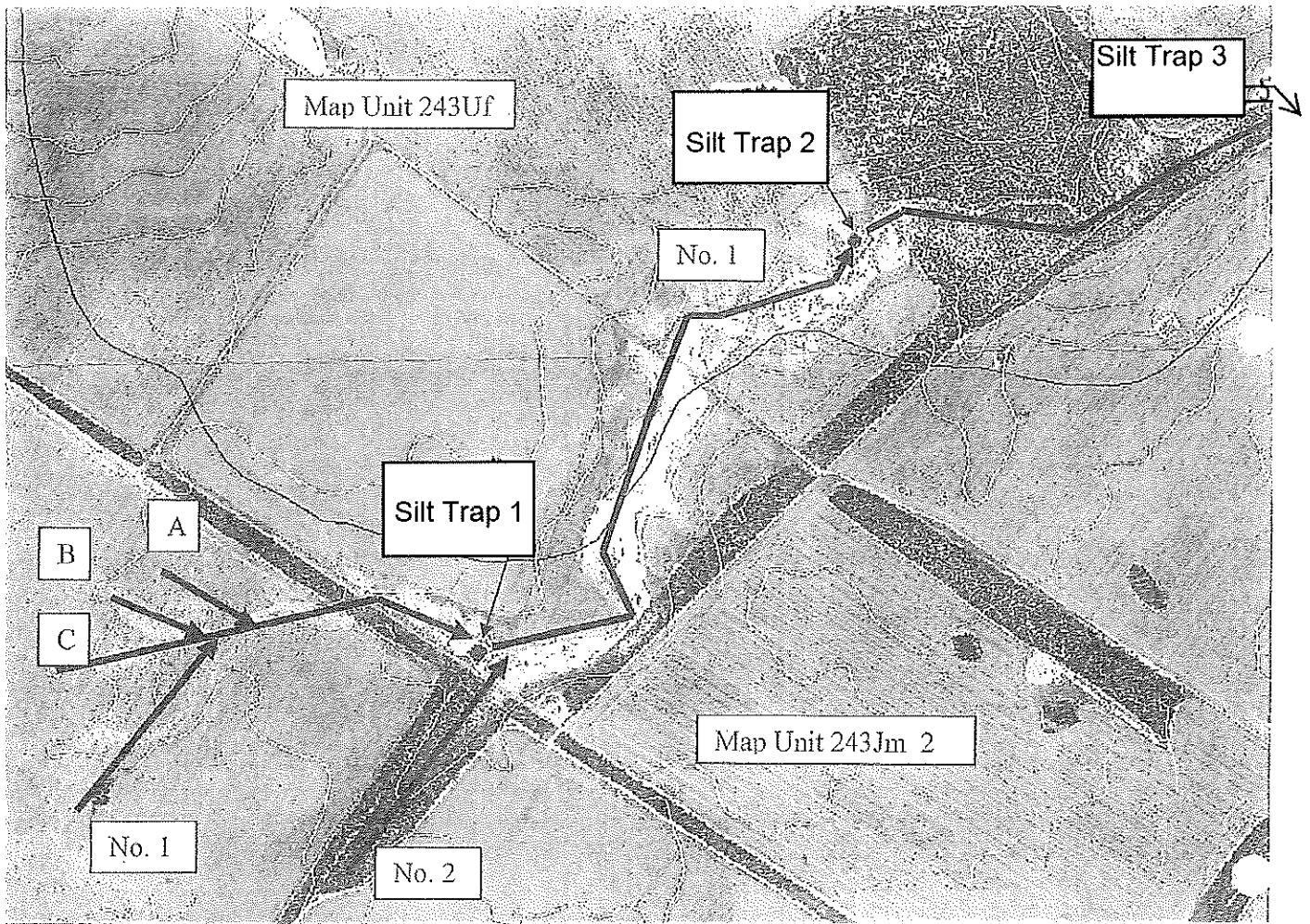
Simon Weighell

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

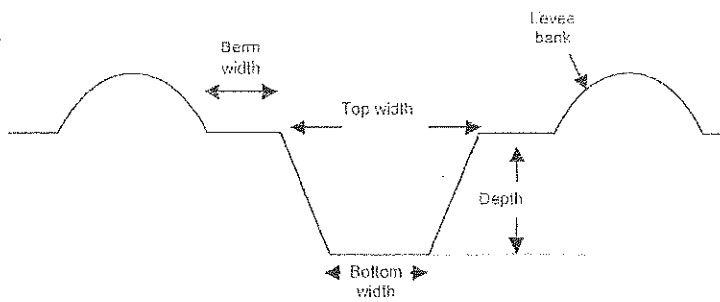


GOVERNMENT OF  
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Attachment 1



# Attachment 2



Top width of drain	<input type="text" value="2.0M"/>
Bottom width of drain	<input type="text" value="500mm"/>
Depth	<input type="text" value="3M"/>
Berm width - left hand side	<input type="text" value="1M"/>
Berm width - right hand side	<input type="text" value="1M"/>
Levee banks (tick one):	
No levee banks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Levee banks on one side only	<input type="checkbox"/>
Levee banks on both sides	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6613/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Burrell Nominees Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2911 on Plan 211186, West River  
Lot 2912 on Plan 211186, West River

Colloquial name:

Local Government Authority: Shire of Ravensthorpe

DER Region: South Coast

DPaW District: Albany

LCDC: Ravensthorpe

Localities: West River

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.25		Mechanical Removal	Surface water control and deep drainage

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 12 May 2016

Reasons for Decision: The applicant applied to clear 2.25 hectares (application area).

The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f) and may be at variance with principle (i).

Two conditions have been included on clearing permit CPS 6613/1 requiring silt traps and drains to be implemented in a specified manner in order to minimise impacts to surface water quality.

## 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 519 is described as Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus eremophila (Shepherd et al, 2001)	Burrell Nominees Pty Ltd has applied to clear up to 2.25 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of surface water control and deep drainage.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery, photographs provided by the applicant and a site inspection conducted by the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (Burrell Nominees, 2015a; CSLC, 2015).

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** The clearing of 2.25 hectares of native vegetation within Lots 2911 and 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186 is for the purpose of surface water control and deep drainage. Vegetation within the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and is surrounded by both cleared areas used for agricultural purposes and remnants of native vegetation.

A site inspection conducted for the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation described the vegetation proposed to be cleared as predominantly mallee shrub and mixed heath, with salt tolerant species in saline areas (DAFWA, 2015). Vegetation condition was described as poor to average and has been impacted by livestock access and nearby saline, waterlogged waterways. Areas that are saline and waterlogged are under considerable stress (DAFWA, 2015). Photographs supplied by the applicant confirm that a majority of vegetation is under stress, which is likely to be the result of salinity (Burrell Nominees, 2015).

Ten priority and one threatened flora species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area. Of these, one priority three flora species has the potential to occur within the vegetation and soil type mapped within the application area (Parks and Wildlife, 2015). However, given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of vegetation proposed to be cleared it is considered unlikely that this species is present within the application area. Parks and Wildlife (2015) advise that an additional rare flora species not recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area could potentially occur within vegetation proposed to be cleared, however it is noted that the species typically occurs closer to salt lakes. This rare flora species grows under various eucalypt species around the margins of salt lakes in light, slightly saline sandy loam over clay (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2008). The application area does not contain this vegetation type and exhibits signs of deteriorating health.

A total of three conservation significant fauna have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). None of these species are likely to utilise habitat within the application area. Based on the limited size of the application area and degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of vegetation, the application area is not likely to represent significant habitat for fauna on a local or regional scale.

There are no threatened or priority ecological communities mapped within 10 kilometres of the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the environmental values of any conservation area, cause deterioration in the quality of groundwater, or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 519. Approximately 53 per cent of this vegetation association remains within the Esperance Plains bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2014), which is above the recommended threshold level of 30 per cent (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is therefore not considered to be a significant remnant.

The removal of native vegetation is for the purpose of surface water management and deep drainage. With consideration to the sandy and loamy soils present within the application area, the removal of native vegetation may increase erosion and sedimentation within the drainage line, causing land degradation and impacting on the quality of surface water. DAFWA (2015) recommend a number of management measures to minimise the potential for increased sedimentation within the drainage line both within the application area and downstream, including the use of a bund along the drain to prevent surface runoff entering the drainage system, the use of batters with a ratio of 1:1 - 3:1, and the placing of silt traps along the drainage line and at the discharge site (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015). The implementation of these measures is likely to minimise impacts to surface water both within and downstream of the application area. Burrell Nominees have advised that these management measures will be implemented during drain construction.

Although the application area falls within an area currently affected by salinity, given the limited size of the application area, the existence of historic livestock activity and salinity already present within the application area, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to cause further land degradation in the form of eutrophication, waterlogging or flooding and is not likely to significantly increase the level of salinity (DAFWA, 2015).

The application area occurs along a drainage line, and vegetation within the application area may be riparian in nature. However, as this vegetation has been degraded by livestock grazing pressure and salinity, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact significant riparian vegetation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principle (i), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

#### Methodology

##### References:

Burrell Nominees (2015)  
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015)  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
DAFWA (2015)  
Government of Western Australia (2014)  
Keighery (1994)  
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)  
Parks and Wildlife (2015)  
Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2008)

##### GIS Databases:

- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, linear
- Aerial Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TEC PEC) – Buffers
- Threatened and Priority Flora

## Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The applicant proposes to clear up to 2.25 hectares of native vegetation within Lots 2911 and 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186 for the purposes of surface water control and deep drainage. A drain is proposed to remediate seasonal saline waterlogging that has increased over time.

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC) considered a Notice of Intent To Drain in respect to this application, and on 29 July 2015 advised no objection to the construction of the proposed leveed drains. The CSLC recommended management practices to prevent surface water from entering the drain and to prevent soil erosion, which the applicant agreed to adopt in the drainage design. Noting that the applicant is prepared to adopt the management practices recommended by the CSLC, and has proposed to construct three silt traps, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant residual impact on the environmental values of the local area. Specifically, inclusion of a silt trap at the discharge end of the drain may reduce the risk of off-site sedimentation (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015)

There are no Sites of Aboriginal Significance mapped within the area applied to clear.

The application was advertised on 29 June 2015 by the Department of Environment Regulation for a 21 day public comment period. No submissions were received.

**Methodology** References:  
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015)  
Parks and Wildlife (2015)

GIS Database:  
Aboriginal Sites Register System

## 4. References

- Burrell Nominees Pty Ltd (2015) Further information provided by Burrell Nominees Pty Ltd to the assessing officer on 10 August 2015. DER REF: A962093.
- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015) Notice of Intent to Drain: Lot 2911 and 2912 on Deposited Plan 211186. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, South Perth. DER REF: A962501.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA (2015) Advice received on 4 August 2015, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DER REF: A945532.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007- ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Accessed July, 2015. <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2015) Advice received on 4 August 2015, Department of Parks and Wildlife. DER REF: A962006.
- Government of Western Australia (2014) 2014 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2014. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2008) Approved Conservation Advice for a rare flora species. Accessed August 2015. <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/82039-conservation-advice.pdf>.