



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

**Purpose Permit number:** CPS 6638/1  
**Permit Holder:** Geraldton Mountain Bike Club Inc.  
**Duration of Permit:** 2 January 2016 – 2 January 2021

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 constructing a mountain bike trail.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 14 on Plan 21524 (Nanson)

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.25 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6638/1.

**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.

### PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

**5. Flora management**

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the area to be cleared for the presence of rare flora listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and *priority flora* in accordance with *Guidance Statement No. 51*.
- (b) Where rare or *priority flora* are identified under condition 5(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *botanist* to map the *critical habitat* of the identified rare or *priority flora* within the Permit Area.
- (c) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the *targeted flora survey* in a report to the CEO.
- (d) If rare or *priority flora* are identified within the Permit Area, the *targeted flora survey* report must include the following:
  - (i) the location of each rare and/or *priority flora*, either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the areal extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, 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) the species name of each rare and/or *priority flora* identified
  - (iii) the methodology, used to survey the Permit Area and to establish the *critical habitat* of flora;
  - (iv) the extent of the *critical habitat* of the identified rare and/or *priority flora* shown on a map; and
  - (v) a site description of the *critical habitat* of rare and/or *priority flora* found.
- (e) Where rare and/or *priority flora* are identified under condition 5(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) no clearing of *critical habitat* of the identified rare and/or *priority flora* occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

## DEFINITIONS

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

**botanist:** means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in identification and surveys of flora native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable botanist for the bioregion;

**critical habitat:** means any part of the Permit Area comprising of the habitat of flora or fauna species and its population, that is critical for the health and long term survival of the flora or fauna species and its population;

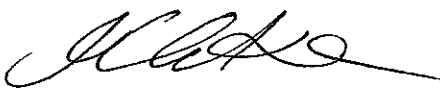
**flora and vegetation survey:** means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for priority or threatened ecological communities. The survey should include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

**Guidance Statement No. 51** means the Environmental Protection Authority Guidance Statement No 51, Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia (2004);

**priority flora** means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Parks and Wildlife's Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended);

**targeted flora survey:** means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the Permit Area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora are identified in the Permit Area, the survey should also include sufficient surrounding areas to place the Permit Area into local context;

**Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice** means those plant taxa gazetted as rare flora pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (as amended).



J Clarkson  
A/SENIOR MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

2 December 2015

CPS 6638/1, 2 December 2015

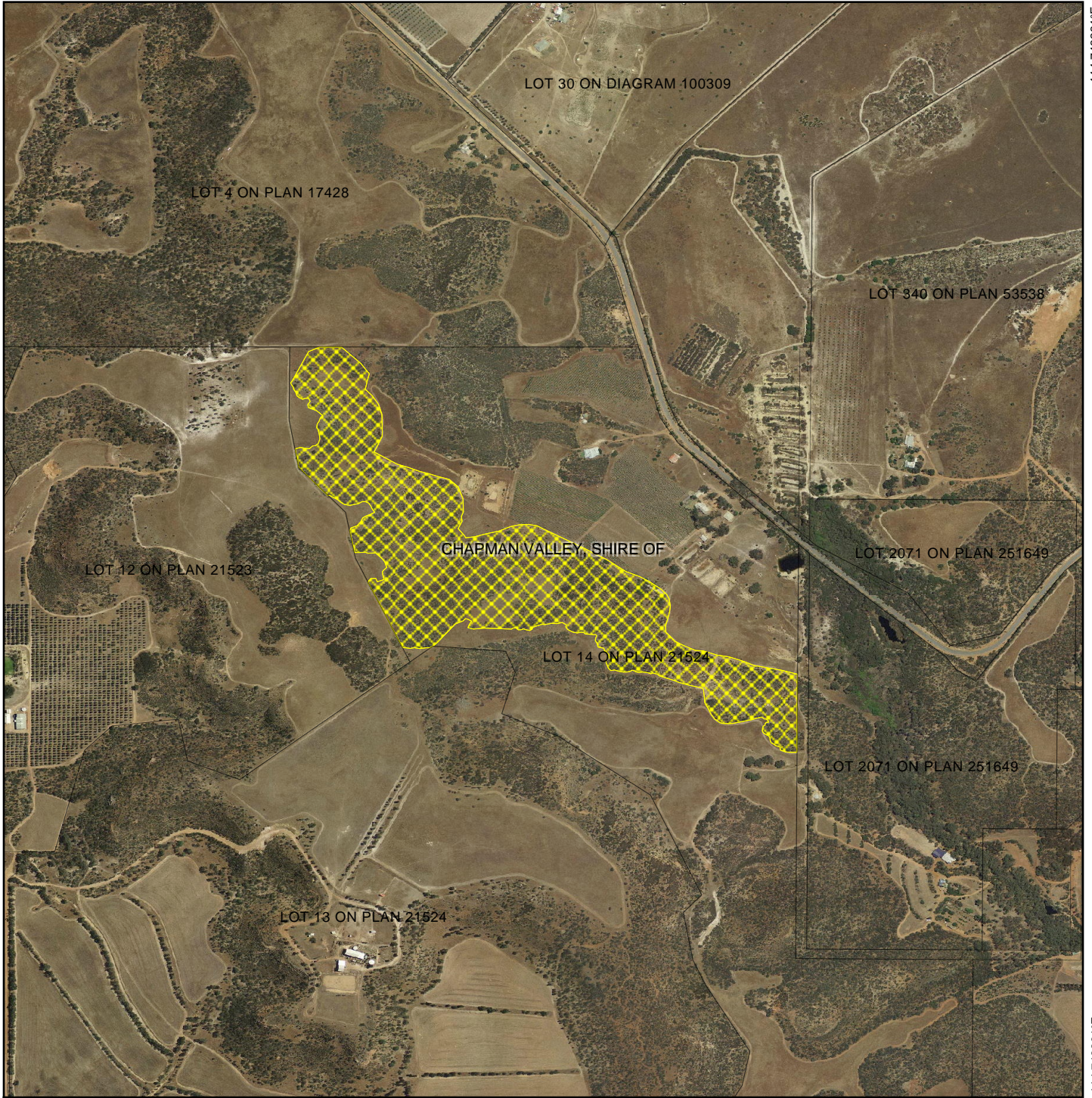
# Plan 6638/1

28.556127°S

28.556127°S

114.723043°E

114.743261°E








114.723043°E

114.743261°E

28.567405°S

28.567405°S

## Legend

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



0  500m

1:10,484

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

..... Date .....

J Clarkson

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6638/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Geraldton Mountain Bike Club Inc.

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 14 ON PLAN 21524, NANSON  
Colloquial name:  
Local Government Authority: CHAPMAN VALLEY, SHIRE OF

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 3 December 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 675 is described as Shrublands; mixed thicket (melaluca & hakea) (Shepherd et al, 2001)	The application is for the clearing of 0.25 hectares within Lot 14 on Plan 21524, Nanson, Shire of Chapman Valley, for the purpose of constructing a mountain bike trail.	Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).  To  Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation under application consists predominately of Hakea recurve, Hakea preissii and Acacia tetragonophylla (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015). Weeds are confined to cleared areas adjacent to native vegetation and there is no evidence of historical grazing (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015).  The structure and condition of the vegetation under application was obtained via a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia on the 3 August, 2015 (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015).

## 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application is to clear 0.25 hectares within a 19.7 hectare footprint within Lot 14 on Plan 21524, Nanson, for the purpose of constructing a mountain bike trail.

A total of 27 priority and five rare flora species have been mapped occurring within 10 kilometres of the clearing footprint. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) has advised that the application footprint may support potential habitat for a number of the mapped priority flora and the five mapped rare flora species (Parks and Wildlife, 2015).

There are four mapped occurrences of the Priority Ecological Community (Priority 1) referred to as Morseby Range, plant assemblages of the Morseby Range system, within 10 kilometres of the application footprint. The four occurrences of the system cover an area totalling approximately 954 hectares. Based on the location and photographs provided by the applicant, Parks and Wildlife (2015) consider that the vegetation under application appears to be the same as the Priority 1 Morseby Range system.

The proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent vegetated

areas. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating the risk of spreading weeds and dieback.

As the vegetation under application may contain rare or priority flora, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle. A condition on the permit to undertake an appropriately timed targeted flora survey over the proposed trail alignment and approval from DER's Chief Executive Officer to remove significant flora species identified as a result of the survey is required. The implementation of this condition will mitigate the risk to clearing the areas high biodiversity values.

**Methodology** References:  
Parks and Wildlife (2015)

GIS Databases:  
- SAC bio datasets (Accessed October 2015)

**(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**  
Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) is the only fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-).

Given the linear nature and relatively small amount of the vegetation proposed to be cleared within a larger footprint, the application is unlikely to significantly impact on the fauna habitat, nor impact on the conservation status of fauna.

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

**Methodology** References:  
Parks and Wildlife (2007- )

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

**Comments** **Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle**  
A total of five rare flora species have been mapped within 10 kilometres of the area under application. It is possible that the application footprint may support potential habitat for all five of the mapped rare flora species as areas of vegetation in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition or better may provide suitable habitat for the five rare flora species mapped from the local area (Parks and Wildlife, 2015).

Given the above the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle. Flora management conditions placed on a permit to undertake an appropriately timed targeted flora survey over the proposed trail alignment and approval from DER's Chief Executive Officer to remove significant flora species identified as a result of the survey will mitigate the risks to rare flora.

**Methodology** References:  
Keighery (1994)  
Parks and Wildlife (2015)

GIS Databases:  
- SAC bio datasets (Accessed October 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** **Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle**  
There are no Threatened Ecological Communities mapped within 10 kilometres of the area under application.

Given the above the clearing as proposed is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- SAC bio datasets (Accessed October 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** **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 675 which retains approximately 27 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the Geraldton Sandplains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

The IBRA Bioregion (Geraldton Sandplains) and the local government authority area (Shire of Chapman Valley) retain approximately 45 percent and 34 percent of their respective pre-European vegetation extents (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

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). Vegetation association 675 is marginally below this level, however the proposed clearing of 0.25 hectares will only reduce the amount of vegetation association 675 remaining by 0.001 per cent. The proposed clearing of 0.25 percent will not significantly impact on the extent of vegetation association 675 remaining in the Geraldton Sandplains IBRA Bioregion.

Aerial photography indicates the local area (10 kilometre radius) is approximately 40 per cent vegetated which includes large remnants in conservation areas. Considering the relatively small application area over a linear distance of approximately five kilometres, the vegetation under application is not considered to be significant as a remnant.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be 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	1,404,375	45	40
<b>Shire*</b>				
CHAPMAN VALLEY, SHIRE OF	397,929	134,454	34	42
<b>Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*</b>				
675	51,851	13,946	27	6

**Methodology** References:  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
Government of Western Australia (2014)

**(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 not at variance to this Principle**  
There are no wetlands or watercourses mapped within the application footprint. The closest watercourse to the application footprint is the Chapman River situated approximately 900 metres away.

The application does not involve the clearing of vegetation growing in, or in association with a watercourse or wetland.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Minor/Major Hydrography

**(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**  
Two land forms and soil types are mapped over the application area, Map unit 225Mo\_1 (Moresby 1) and Map unit 225Mo\_2 (Moresby 2) (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015).

The Moresby 1 unit is described as steep side slopes and isolated mesas on colluvium, sandstone and shale overlain on laterite. The Moresby 2 unit consist of gently inclined foot slopes with yellowish brown sandy duplex soils (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2015).

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015) advises that the application will not cause land degradation in the form of salinity, wind erosion, increases surface water run-off and eutrophication. The proposed mountain bike trail will be constructed and maintained in accordance with the principles of the draft copy of the Western Australian Mountain Bike Management Guidelines published by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. The principles address issues relating to soil types, slope, runoff and water erosion.

Considering the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The application area lies approximately five kilometres east from the Protheroe and Bella Vista Nature Reserves. The Nature Reserves and the application footprint are separated by numerous roads and cleared agricultural land.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is will not impact on the environment values of a conservation reserve and is not at variance to this clearing principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
- Parks and Wildlife Tenure  
- Regional Parks

**(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**

There are no wetlands or watercourses mapped within the clearing footprint. The groundwater salinity has been recorded at 1000-3000 mg/L which is considered to be a low to be moderately saline.

Considering the relatively small amount of proposed clearing within a large footprint, the application is not likely to significantly impact upon the quality of surface or underground water.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Minor/Major Hydrography  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**

No wetlands or watercourses have been identified within the clearing footprint. Considering this, along with the linear nature of the proposed clearing, the application is not likely to cause, or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding in the local area.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Minor/Major Hydrography  
- Salinity, Statewide

**Planning instruments and other relevant matters.**

**Comments** A portion of the application footprint is subject to an Agreement to Reserve (ATR) under section 30 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945. The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation received a letter from the land owner requesting a variation to the ATR to allow for the construction of a mountain bike track. The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation has annotated the ATR to allow for the construction of the mountain bike trail.

The mountain bike trail should be planned to avoid vegetation in a good or better condition and existing tracks already cleared should be used where possible.

No public submissions have been received for this application.

**Methodology**

**4. References**

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2015) Advise received in relation to Clearing Permit CPS 6638/1 – Geraldton Mountain Bike Club Inc. (DER Ref:A963021).
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- 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.
- Parks and Wildlife (2007- ) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed October 2015
- Parks and Wildlife (2015) Species and Communities. Advise received in relation to Clearing Permit CPS 6638/1 – Geraldton

Mountain Bike Club Inc. (DER Ref:A1000166).

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.