



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 6785/1
Permit Holder: Norman Vaughan Barndon
Duration of Permit: 7 May 2016 to 7 May 2021

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

1. **Purpose for which clearing may be done**
Clearing for the purpose of horticulture
2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
Lot 11802 on Deposited Plan 26343, Nunierra
3. **Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6785/1.
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.
5. **Type of clearing authorised**
This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the right to access land under the *Land Administration Act 1997* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. **Weed control**
 - (a) When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared; and
 - (ii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
 - (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* which are growing within 50 meters outside of the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6785/1.

DEFINITIONS

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

weed/s mean 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; and
- (d) that is a species permitted for planting under a Pastoral Diversification Permit issued by the Department of Regional Development and Lands.

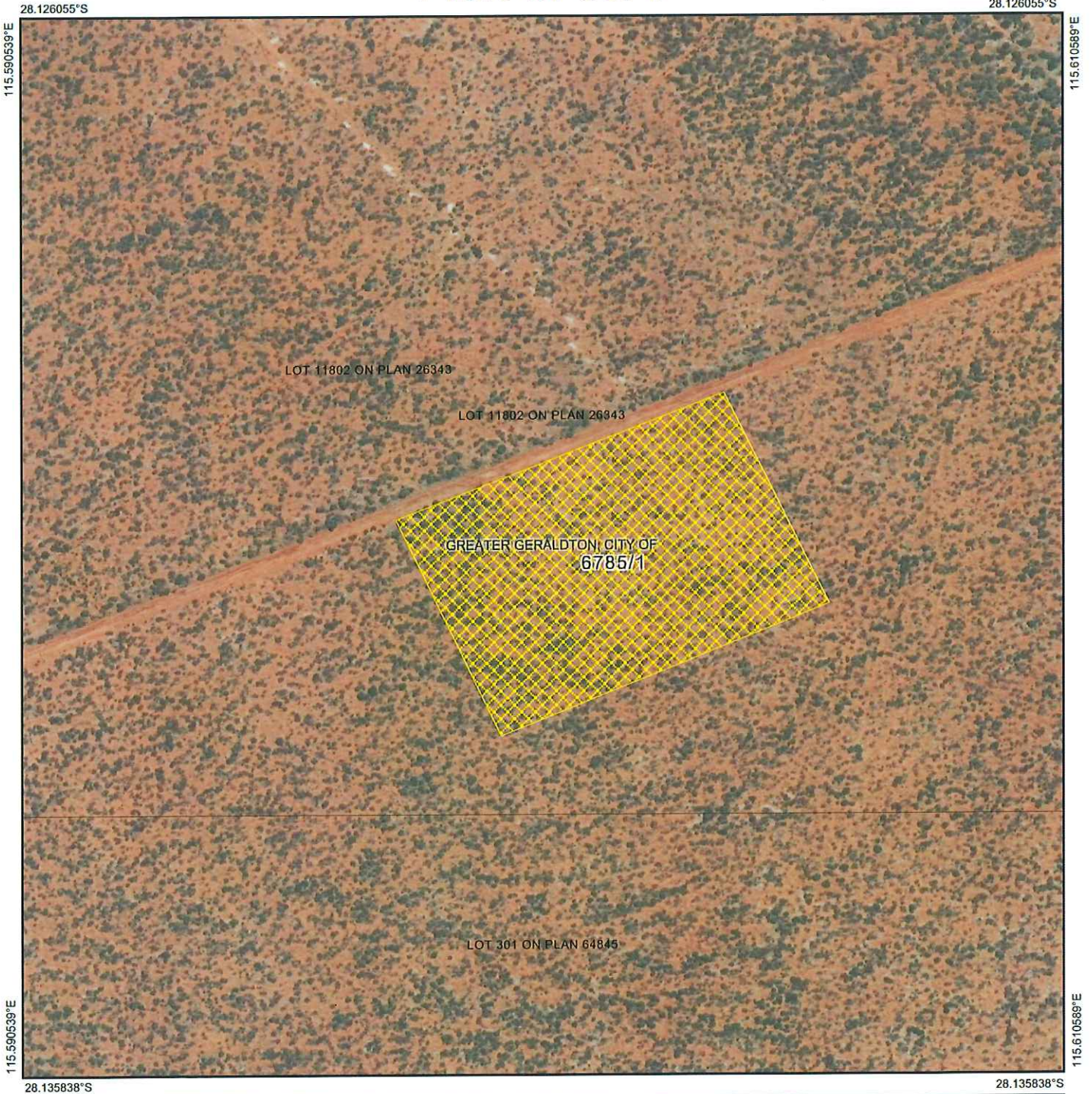


James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

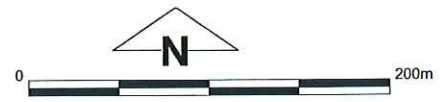
7 April 2016

Plan 6785/1



Legend

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



1:4,000
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

James Widenbar Date *2/14/2016*
James Widenbar

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6785/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mr Norman Vaughan Barndon

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11802 ON PLAN 26343, NUNIERRA
Local Government Authority: GREATER GERALDTON, CITY OF
DER Region: MIDWEST
DPaW District: GERALDTON
Localities: NUNIERRA

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 7 April 2016
Reasons for Decision: 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*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

A water licence from the Department of Water has been issued to the applicant for the proposed horticulture and the City of Greater Geraldton advised planning approval is not required. These factors have been taken into consideration 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 mapped Beard vegetation association 40 is described as shrublands; acacia scrub, various species (Shepherd et al, 2001).	The proposed clearing of five hectares within Lot 11802 on Deposited Plan 26343, Nunierra, is for the purpose of horticulture.	Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).	The condition of the vegetation was established through aerial photography and photographs provided by the applicant (Barndon, 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The application to clear is for five hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of irrigation for chia, leucaena, millet and sorghum.

A priority ecological community (PEC), Tallering Peak vegetation complexes and the associated priority flora species *Eremophila* sp. Tallering (P1), occurs two kilometres northeast and two kilometres south of the application area. Given the distance to this PEC and priority flora, it is considered that the proposed clearing will not impact this PEC.

No rare flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the proposed clearing. Given this distance, it is not likely for the application area to contain rare flora habitat.

The proposed clearing will not impact on threatened ecological communities (TEC) as there are no TEC records within 20 kilometres of the proposed clearing.

The local area (20 kilometre radius) surrounding the application is highly vegetated, retaining approximately 99 per cent native vegetation cover. Given this and as the area is likely to be impacted by cattle grazing, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant habitat for local conservation significant fauna species.

Given that the application area does not contain significant habitat for conservation significant flora or fauna species and is surrounded by a highly vegetated area which is likely to contain higher biodiversity than the application area, it is not likely for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Pre-European vegetation
-Sac Bio datasets (27-11-2015)

(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**
The local area (20 kilometre radius) surrounding the application is highly vegetated, retaining approximately 99 per cent native vegetation cover.

Two fauna species have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius) of the area under application being the Australian peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus* subsp. *macropus*) and the rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-).

Given that these two avian species are mobile and that the application area is surrounded by a highly vegetated landscape containing similar habitat, it is not likely for the application area to contain significant fauna habitat.

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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No rare flora species have been recorded within the local area (20 kilometres) of the proposed clearing. The closest recorded rare flora occurs 35 kilometres southeast of the proposed clearing on a different Beard vegetation association and soil type.

Given the distance to the nearest recorded rare flora and the different soil and Beard vegetation association, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Soils, statewide
-Pre-European vegetation
-Sac Bio datasets (27-11-2015)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No threatened ecological community (TEC) has been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius) of the proposed clearing. The nearest recorded TEC occurs over 100 kilometres south of the proposed clearing on different soil and Beard vegetation associations to the proposed clearing area.

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

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Soils, statewide
-Pre-European vegetation
-Sac Bio datasets (27-11-2015)

(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 local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 99 per cent native vegetation. The vegetation has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 40 of which there is approximately 94 per cent pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2014).

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The mapped vegetation association within the application area retains more than 30 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent and is not considered a highly cleared vegetation community.

The application area comprises five hectares of native vegetation that is not considered an area of high biodiversity due to it being under grazing pressure and the extent of vegetation within the local area.

The vegetation under application is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation and the application is not likely to be at variance to this clearing Principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Yalgoo	5,057,326	4,923,840	97	32
Shire*				
City of Geraldton	988,399	428,564	43	16
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
40	301,713	284,657	94	4

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

GIS Databases:
-Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
-Pre-European Vegetation
-SAC Bio datasets (27/11/2015)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The proposed clearing is approximately one kilometre east of a minor non perennial watercourse and 1.8 kilometres north of the Greenough River. No wetlands occur within the local area (20 kilometres radius) of the proposed clearing.

Given the distance to the nearest watercourse, it is considered not likely for the proposed clearing to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Hydrography, linear

(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**
Chief soils recorded within the proposed clearing area are shallow earthy loams and shallow red earths both underlain by a red-brown hardpan at shallow depths (Northcote et al. 1960-68). These soils are at risk of water erosion.

Given the relatively small area proposed to be cleared (five hectares) and the highly vegetated local area (20 kilometre radius), it is not likely for the proposed clearing to cause appreciable land degradation in the form of soil erosion.

The groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is 3000 to 7000 milligrams per litre. The clearing of five hectares within a highly vegetation (99 per cent) local area (20 kilometre radius) is not likely to increase groundwater salinity.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation and is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
-Northcote et al. (1960-68)

GIS Databases
-Groundwater salinity
-Soils, 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 nearest conservation area, Urawa Nature Reserve, occurs over 3.5 kilometres from the application area.

Given the distance to this conservation area and the highly vegetated local area (20 kilometre radius), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

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

Methodology GIS Databases
-Parks and Wildlife Managed Land

(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 proposed clearing is approximately one kilometre east of a minor non perennial watercourse and 1.8 kilometres north of the Greenough River. No wetlands occur with the local area (20 kilometres radius) of the proposed clearing.

Given the distance to the nearest watercourse, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will cause the deterioration in the quality of surface water of watercourses within the local area (20 kilometre radius).

The groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is 3000 to 7000 milligrams per litre. The vegetation under application is in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition and the clearing of five hectares within a highly vegetated (99 per cent) local area (20 kilometre radius) is not likely to increase groundwater salinity and cause deterioration of underground water.

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

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear
-Groundwater salinity

(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 proposed clearing is approximately one kilometre east of a minor non perennial watercourse and 1.8 kilometres north of the Greenough River. No wetlands occur with the local area (20 kilometres radius) of the proposed clearing.

Given this and that the local area is highly vegetated, the proposed clearing of five hectares 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:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases
-Hydrography, linear
-NWLRA, extent

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

- Comments** The application to clear is for five hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of irrigation for crops of chia, leucaena, millet and sorghum.
- The applicant has submitted an application for a permit to diversify to the Department of Lands which is currently under assessment.
- The applicant holds a Pastoral Lease over the area under application granted 1 July 2015.
- Native title notification of this application was sent to the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation. On behalf of the native title holders, Wajarri Yamaatji group, the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation wishes to advise that there may be Aboriginal sites located within the proposed permit area (Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation, 2015). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* (1972) have been fulfilled.
- The application area occurs within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area and the Greenough River and Tributaries Catchment Surface Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act* 1914. Any groundwater abstraction on this area is subject to licencing by Department of Water. The applicant holds a water licence from Department of Water to abstract groundwater for the proposed horticulture.
- The City of Greater Geraldton (2015) advised that the applicant must ensure that all water and fertilisers are contained to the site and the planted species do not escape the permit area. No planning approval is required for the proposed horticulture.
- The area under application is zoned rural under the City of Greater Geraldton's town planning scheme.

- Methodology** References:
City of Greater Geraldton (2015)
Department of Water (2015)
Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015)

4. References

- Barndon (2015) Application to clear CPS 6785/1, Lot 11802 on Deposited Plan 26343, Nunierra. DER ref A982623
- City of Greater Geraldton (2015) Direct Interest advice for clearing application CPS 6785/1 – Norman Bardon. DER ref A1013255
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Water (2015) Direct Interest advice for clearing application CPS 6785/1 – Norman Bardon. DER ref A1015108
- 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.
- 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: Melbourne.
- Parks and Wildlife (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- 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.
- Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (2015) Native title notification submission for CPS 6785/1, Lot 11802 on Deposited Plan 26343, Nunierra. DER ref A1017710