



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 7266/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Cuballing
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	17 December 2016 – 17 December 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 road upgrades and drains.

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

Wandering-Narrogin Road reserve (PIN 11586729), Dryandra  
Wandering-Narrogin Road reserve (PINs 11586730 and 11560580), Contine

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.8 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7266/1.

**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 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. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *dieback* or *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.

**Definition**

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

*dieback* means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

*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.



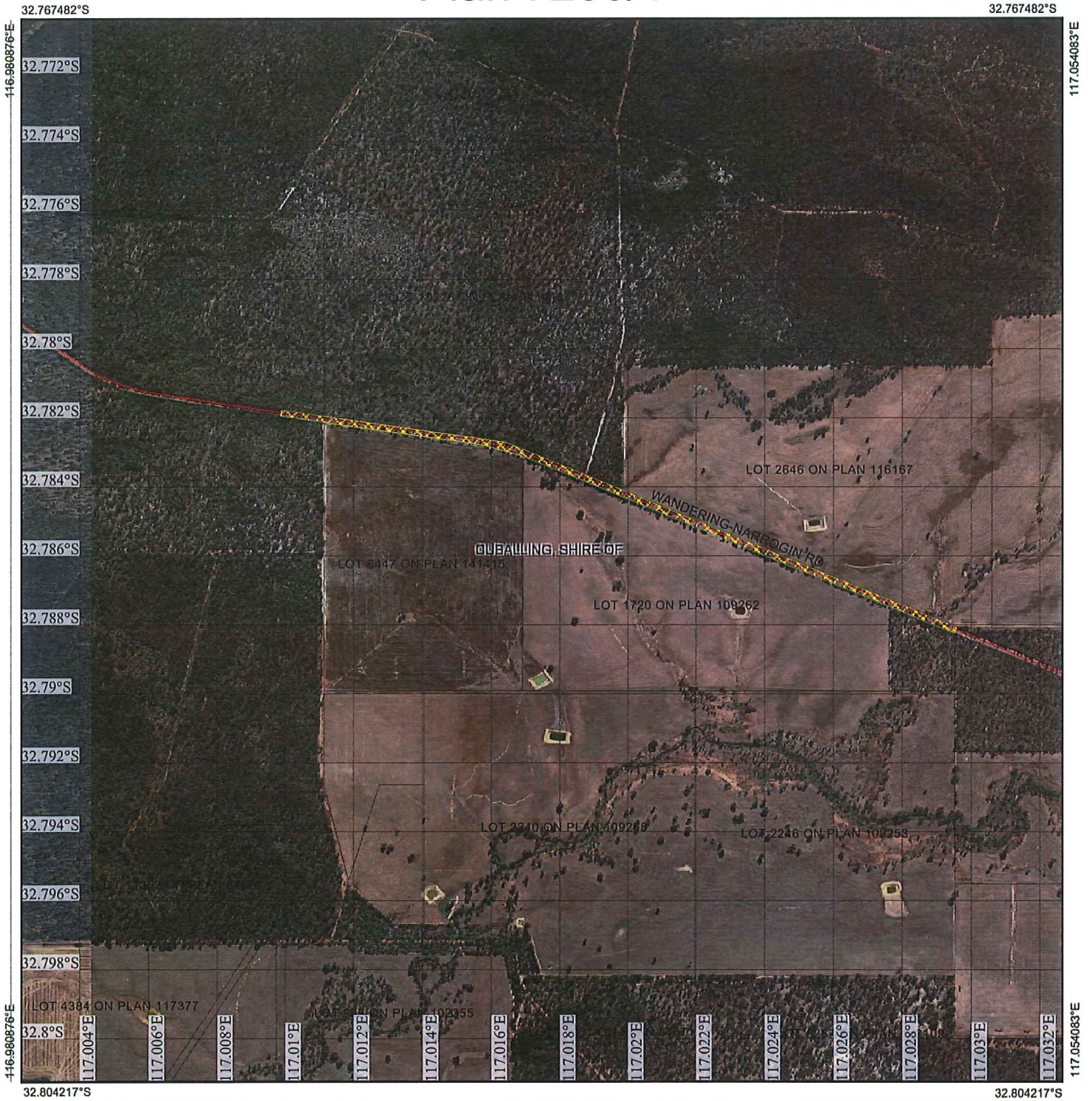
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James Widenbar  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

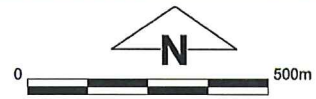
17 November 2016

# Plan 7266/1



## Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:15,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*James Widenberg*  
 Date 17/11/2016

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



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7266/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Cuballing

### 1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE - 11586729, DRYANDRA  
ROAD RESERVE - 11586730, CONTINE  
ROAD RESERVE - 11560580, CONTINE  
Colloquial name: Wandering-Narrogin Road  
Local Government Authority: CUBALLING, SHIRE OF  
DER Region: Greater Swan  
DPaW District: GREAT SOUTHERN  
Localities: DRYANDRA and CONTINE

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 17 November 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 has concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Through assessment the Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing may impact on vegetation growing in association with a watercourse. Given the small extent of clearing proposed within mapped watercourses, and degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any watercourses or riparian environments.

Given the proximity to remnant vegetation in good or better condition, the proposed clearing has the potential for the spread of weeds or dieback from the road reserve into the Lol Gray State Forest, weed and dieback management measures will assist in minimising the potential impacts.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. Relevant State policies and other relevant policies 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
Broad scale vegetation mapping conducted by Beard classifies the area as:  <b>Beard vegetation association 1023:</b> Medium woodland; york gum, wandoo and salmon gum ( <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> ) (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The application is to clear 0.8 hectares of native vegetation within Wandering-Narrogin Road reserve (PIN 11586729), Dryandra and (PINs 11586730 and 11560580), Contine, Shire of Cuballing, for the purpose of road widening and improving drainage.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition and description was determined via aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant.  The vegetation structure is limited to upper storey species and regrowth vegetation, with weeds evident.  The proposed clearing is largely limited to specific trees within the road reserve. Clearing will occur from the top of the road reserve back slope to

facilitate drainage and improve safety. A surface drain runs parallel to the road surface, between the existing road shoulder and vegetation.

### 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 this Principle**

The applicant proposes to clear 0.8 hectares of native vegetation within Wandering-Narrogin Road reserve, Dryandra (PIN 11586729) and Contine (PINs 11586730 and 11560580), for the purpose of upgrading the road surface and road drains.

Photographs provided by the applicant indicate that the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with limited vegetation structure. The northern section of the application area (approximately 85 metres of road reserve) enters into the Lol Gray State Forest. A further 860 meters of the application area is adjacent to the State Forest's southern boundary. The Lol Gray State Forest is considered regionally significant for the continued existence of the Dryandra Forest.

Broad scale vegetation mapping classifies vegetation complexes within the application area as a mixture of york gum, wandoo and salmon gum woodlands (Shepherd et al., 2001). The application area has the potential to provide suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna species, including black cockatoos, southern brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*), red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*), barking owl (*Ninox connivens subsp. connivens*), and masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae subsp. novaehollandiae*). The term Black Cockatoos collectively refers to Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*).

Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Photographs of the trees proposed for clearing indicate that none contain hollows suitable to provide breeding habitat for black cockatoos,

The local area (10 kilometre radius surrounding the application area) retains approximately 40 per cent vegetative cover. Based on the availability of similar habitat in better condition within the local area, including within the adjacent Lol Gray State Forest, the application area is not likely to constitute significant habitat for the abovementioned fauna.

No rare or priority listed flora species have been identified within the application area, however a number of conservation significant species have the potential to be found within the application area based upon preferred habitat and records within the local area. However, due to the limited understorey, weed presence and historical disturbance, the presence of rare and priority flora species within the application area is considered unlikely.

The application area is mapped within an *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) critically endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), known as Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. However, due to the limited vegetation structure and given that the application area does not meet the minimum size category for this TEC, as stated within the federal Department of Environment and Energy approved conservation advice (DoTEE, 2015), the application area is not considered to be representative of this TEC.

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

##### Methodology

##### References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2012)  
DoTEE (2015)  
Keighery (1994)  
Shepherd et al. (2001)

##### GIS Databases:

Parks and Wildlife Tenure  
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed October 2016)  
SWREL-AL

#### (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 this Principle**

Within the local area (surrounding 10 kilometre radius) there are records of 26 conservation significant fauna species (Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) 2007- ). Broad scale vegetation mapping classifies vegetation complexes within the application area as a mixture of york gum, wandoo and salmon gum

woodlands and is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Suitable habitat for black cockatoos, southern brush-tailed phascogale, chuditch, red-tailed phascogale, barking owl, and masked owl is found in the application area and has the potential to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Photographs provided by the applicant indicate that two trees under application may be a suitable size to provide breeding habitat (karri, marri or jarrah species with a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 50 centimetres, or salmon gum and wandoo with a DBH greater than 30 centimetres) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). However, the photographs indicate that these trees do not contain hollows, and therefore do not currently provide suitable breeding habitat for black cockatoos.

Noting the size and condition of the application area and that the local area (surrounding 10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 40 per cent vegetative cover in similar or better condition, including within the adjacent Lol Gray State Forest, the application area is not likely to constitute significant habitat for the abovementioned fauna.

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

**Methodology** References:  
Commonwealth of Australia (2012)  
Keighery (1994)  
Parks and Wildlife (2007 - )

GIS Databases:  
Parks and Wildlife Tenure  
SWREL-AL

**(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**  
According to available datasets there are no declared rare flora, or priority listed flora species recorded within the application area. There are two declared rare flora species within the local area (surrounding 10 kilometres).

One rare flora species has the potential to occur within the application area based upon preferred habitat (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998- ). However, due to the limited understorey, weed presence and historical disturbance, the presence of rare flora species within the application area is considered unlikely.

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

**Methodology** References:  
Western Australian Herbarium (1998- )  
  
GIS Databases:  
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed October 2016)

**(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**  
The application area is located within the mapped occurrence of an EPBC Act listed TEC, known as Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, classified as critically endangered.

The approved conservation advice refers to minimum vegetation condition for patches of the TEC, separated into four categories, A, B, C and D. Category D is described as vegetation patches likely to correspond to a condition of degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) or a medium to low to medium to high roadside conservation value (RCC, 2015) but retains important habitat features (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2015). In these patches exotic plant species account for more than 50 to 70 per cent of total vegetation cover in the understorey. Mature trees are present with at least five per 0.5 hectares. Within road reserves, minimum patch width is considered to be five meters or more (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2015).

Minimum patch widths are included for road reserve assessments to determine the vegetation value as a wildlife corridor and habitat for threatened species. The width is based on the native understorey component rather than width of the tree canopy (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2015).

Within the application area, vegetation structure is limited to upper storey species, located within a road reserve predominantly less than five meters in width. As the proposed clearing is largely limited to specific trees, of which a number are not considered to be mature individuals, this section of road reserve is not considered to be representative of the TEC and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this clearing Principle.

**Methodology** References:  
Threatened Species Scientific Committee (2015)  
Keighery (1994)  
RCC (2015)

GIS Databases:  
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed October 2016)

**(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**

There is approximately 40 per cent native vegetation remaining within the local area, this includes large remnants within conservation areas (21 conservation reserves (system 1 to 5 and 7 to 12)).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1023, which retains approximately 10 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion. The Avon Wheatbelt IBRA Bioregion retains approximately 18 per cent of pre-European vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2015).

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 Bioregion, Shire and mapped vegetation extents are below the 30 per cent vegetation threshold, however given that there is approximately 40 per cent native vegetation remaining in the local area, and that the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with limited fauna, flora or ecological community values, it is not considered to be a significant remnant in an extensively cleared landscape.

Given the above, 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>				
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109.90	1,763,063.03	18	9
<b>Shire</b>				
Caballing	119,533.02	26,511.48	22	35
<b>Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*</b>				
1023	1,522,676.20	165,813.73	10	10

**Methodology** References:  
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)  
Government of Western Australia (2015)\*  
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:  
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

**(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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The application area is located within the proclaimed Murray River System Surface Water Area and dissects a number of non-perennial minor watercourses, including the regionally important Fourteen Mile Brook (Department of Water (DoW), 2016). As the application area is within these watercourses the clearing of riparian vegetation may occur and therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Given the limited number of trees, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in significant impacts to watercourse values.

**Methodology** References:  
DoW (2016)

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear  
Hydrography, hierarchy

**(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 Principle**

Based on land system mapping by the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) the application area occurs within the Noombling and Biberkine subsystems, with soils comprising deep sandy duplexes. This subsystem is not classified as having a high risk of wind or water erosion.

Non-perennial watercourses are mapped within the application area, however as clearing is largely limited to specific trees within the road reserve, it is not considered likely to result in appreciable land degradation via water erosion.

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

**Methodology**

References:  
Hydrography, linear  
SAC Biodatasets

**(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 northern section of the application area (approximately 85 metres of road reserve) enters into the Lol Gray State Forest. A further 860 meters of application area is located adjacent to the State Forests southern boundary. The Lol Gray State Forest is considered regionally significant for the continued existence of the Dryandra Forest. The Dryandra Forest marks the vegetation transition from the dry sclerophyll forest to the west and the vegetation communities of the Avon Wheatbelt to the east. The Dryandra Forest vegetation community has been extensively cleared.

Given the proximity to remnant vegetation in good or better condition, the proposed clearing has the potential for the spread of weeds or dieback from the road reserve into the Lol Gray State Forest, weed and dieback management measures will assist in minimising the potential impacts.

The proposed clearing is limited to specific trees within the road reserve, and vegetation within the application area is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, given this, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon the environmental values of the adjacent conservation area and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this clearing Principle.

**Methodology**

References:  
Keighery (1994)

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**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing is limited to individual trees within the road reserve. Tributaries that cross the application area are classified as minor and non-perennial. Groundwater salinity is mapped as 7,000 – 14,000 milligrams per litre. As clearing is limited to individual trees and degraded (Keighery, 1994) understorey vegetation, it is not likely to impact upon ground or surface water quality. Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this clearing Principle.

**Methodology**

References:  
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear

**(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 soils within the application area are mapped as deep sandy duplexes. These soil types are typified by high permeability. As such the removal of specific trees within the road reserve is not considered to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding. Given the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this clearing Principle.

**Methodology**

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear



### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 3 October 2016 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

DoW advise the application area is within the Murray River System Surface Water Area any activities that involve the disturbance of water courses will require a permit to interfere with bed and banks under Section 11, 17 and 21A of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*. Furthermore if activities take place within these water courses which require the removal of surface water (i.e. dust suppression) then both a 5c licence to take surface water and a permit to interfere with bed and banks will be required (DoW, 2016). As tributary banks will not be impacted by the proposed clearing, a Bed and Banks permit is not likely to be required. The applicant will be advised to liaise with DoW regarding their obligations.

The subject area is located within the Karri Groundwater Area. This area is not proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, thereby any groundwater abstraction is not required to be licenced by DoW (DoW, 2016).

**Methodology** References:  
DoW (2016)

### 4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species, Canberra.
- Department of Environment and Energy (DotEE) (2015) Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2015). *Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt*. Department of the Environment.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed October 2016.
- Department of Water (DoW) (2016) RE: Application to clear native vegetation CPS 7266/1. (DER Ref: A1174291).
- Government of Western Australia (2015) 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.
- RCC (2015). Roadside conservation mapping program. Data from surveyed shires. [Links to technical reports and maps completed for individual shires.] Available on the Internet at: <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/off-reserve-conservation/roadside-conservation/132-roadside-conservation-value-mapping-program?showall=&start=2> Accessed from October 2016.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- ) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed October 2016).