



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7303/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Plantagenet
Duration of Permit:	21 January 2017 – 21 January 2022

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 hazard reduction or fire control.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 406684 (Crown reserve 29547), Mount Barker.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.44 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7303/1.

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. Fauna management

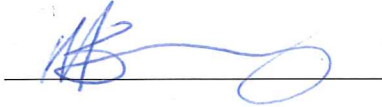
- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7303/1, shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*.
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide, to the CEO the location of each *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*, 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.
- (c) Where *black cockatoo habitat tree/s* have been identified under condition 5(a), the Permit Holder shall not clear;
 - (i) *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*; and
 - (ii) within 10 metres of *black cockatoo habitat tree/s*.

Definition

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

black cockatoo habitat tree/s: means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater;

fauna specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

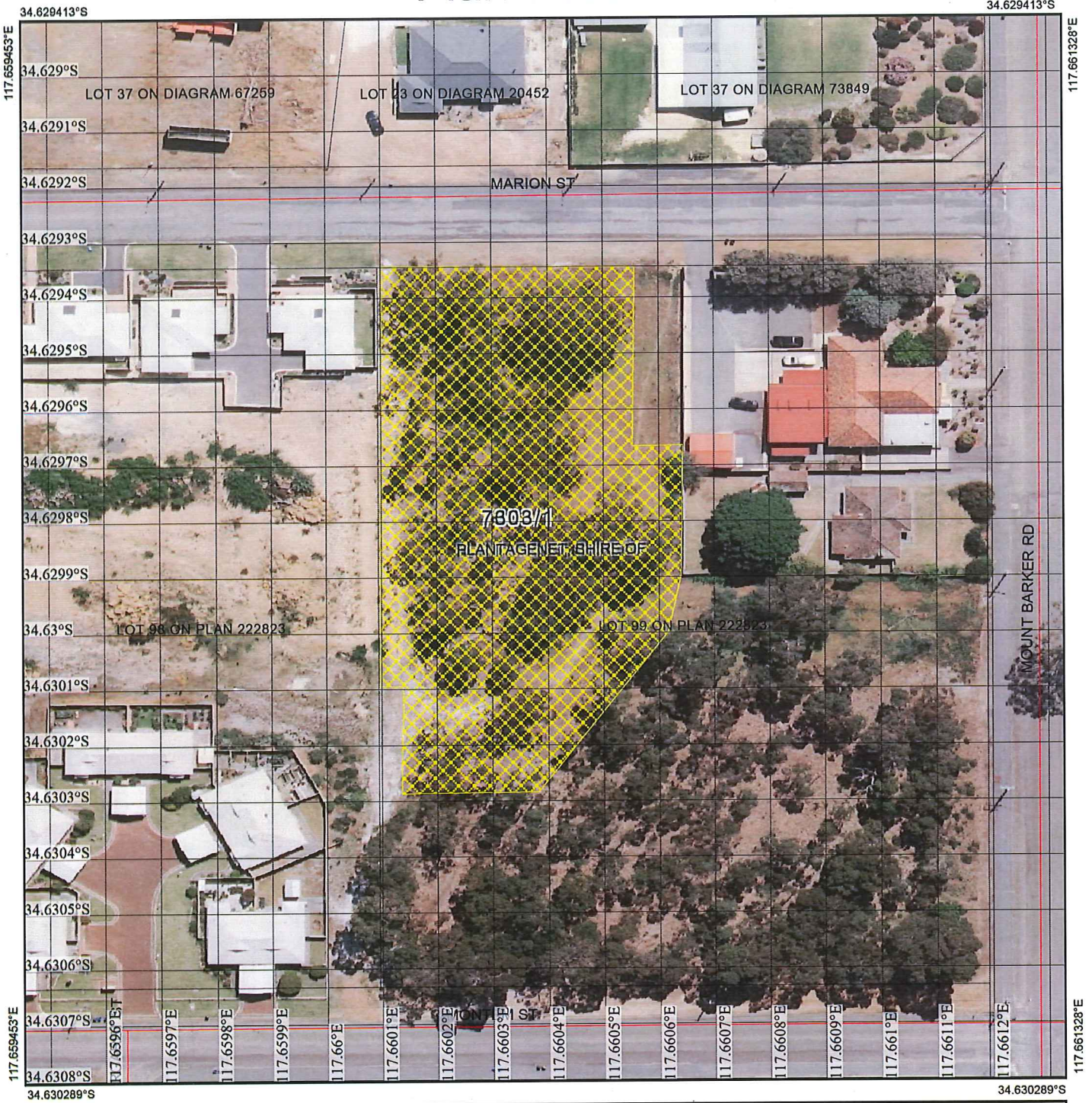


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

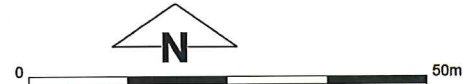
22 December 2016

Plan 7303/1



Legend

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



1:910

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 22/12/2016

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.: 7303/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Shire of Plantagenet

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 406684 (Crown reserve 29547), Mount Barker
Local Government Authority: Shire of Plantagenet
DER Region: South Coast
Localities: Mount Barker

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.44		Mechanical	Hazard reduction or fire control

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 22 December 2016
Reasons for Decision: This application was received on 3 October 2016.

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 may be at variance to principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. State policies and other relevant policies have been taken into consideration in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

2. Background

2.1. Existing environment and information

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
One Beard vegetation association and one Mattiske vegetation complex have been mapped within the application area: Beard vegetation association 3 is described as medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al., 2001). Mattiske vegetation complex Barrow is described as open forest of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> with <i>Eucalyptus cornuta</i> on slopes below granite hills in the subhumid zone (Mattiske et al., 1998).	The applicant proposes to clear 0.44 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 406684 (Crown reserve 29547), Mount Barker, for the purpose of hazard reduction or fire control.	Degraded; Vegetation severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition was determined by aerial imagery and site inspection photos provided by the Shire of Plantagenet (Shire of Plantagenet, 2016).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles, planning instruments and other relevant matters

Comments The application to clear up to 0.44 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of hazard reduction or fire control is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation within the application area is predominantly open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* - *Corymbia calophylla* with *Eucalyptus cornuta* on slopes below granite hills in the subhumid zone and is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within the local area (ten kilometre radius). The application area may contain suitable habitat for the

following species; Baudin's black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*).

These species are all listed as threatened under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and collectively are referred to as Black cockatoos.

Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Black cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts and flowers of a large variety of plants including Proteaceous species (*Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea*), as well as *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus* species, marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) and a range of introduced species, especially seeds from cones of *Pinus* species (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

The recovery plan for Forest red-tailed black cockatoo states that critical habitat for the survival of Baudin's black cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo comprises all marri, karri and jarrah forests, woodlands and remnants in the south-west of Western Australia receiving more than 600 millimetres of annual average rainfall (Chapman, 2008).

'Breeding habitat' is defined as trees of species known to support breeding within the range of the species that either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, suitable DBH is 500 millimetres. For salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

A site inspection conducted by the Shire of Plantagenet identified 11 marri trees above 500 millimetres DBH. Of the 11 trees observed, two contained hollows of a suitable size for Black cockatoo species, however the hollows were not inspected for any nesting evidence (Shire of Plantagenet, 2016).

The application area is adjacent to approximately 0.8 hectares of vegetation in similar or better condition that may provide suitable habitat for Black cockatoo species.

Given the potential for suitable breeding habitat to occur within the application area, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b). Impacts to Black cockatoo species may be minimised by ensuring suitable habitat trees are checked prior to the implementation of clearing activities, with any habitat trees being used by Black cockatoo species avoided.

Consideration has been given to impacts to biodiversity, rare flora, threatened ecological communities, remnant vegetation values, wetlands, watercourses, land degradation, impacts to conservation areas, surface water quality, groundwater quality, and flooding. The assessment has found that the clearing under application is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The application was advertised in *The West Australian* on 14 November 2016 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public within a seven day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia. (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo (endangered) *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* Baudin's cockatoo (vulnerable) *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* Forest red tailed black cockatoo (vulnerable) *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*. Canberra, ACT.
- Chapman, T. (2008) Forest Black Cockatoo (Baudin's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* and Forest Redtailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) Recovery Plan. Western Australia: Department of Environment and Conservation.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.
- Shire of Plantagenet (2016) Clearing Permit Application CPS 7303/1 - Site survey.