GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 7621/1
File Number: 2011/006806-1
Duration of Permit: From 30 September 2017 to 30 September 2019

PERMIT HOLDER
Shire of Beverley

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Top Beverley-York Road reserve (PINs: 11361927, 11329467 and 11361921), Beverley

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 10 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7621/1.

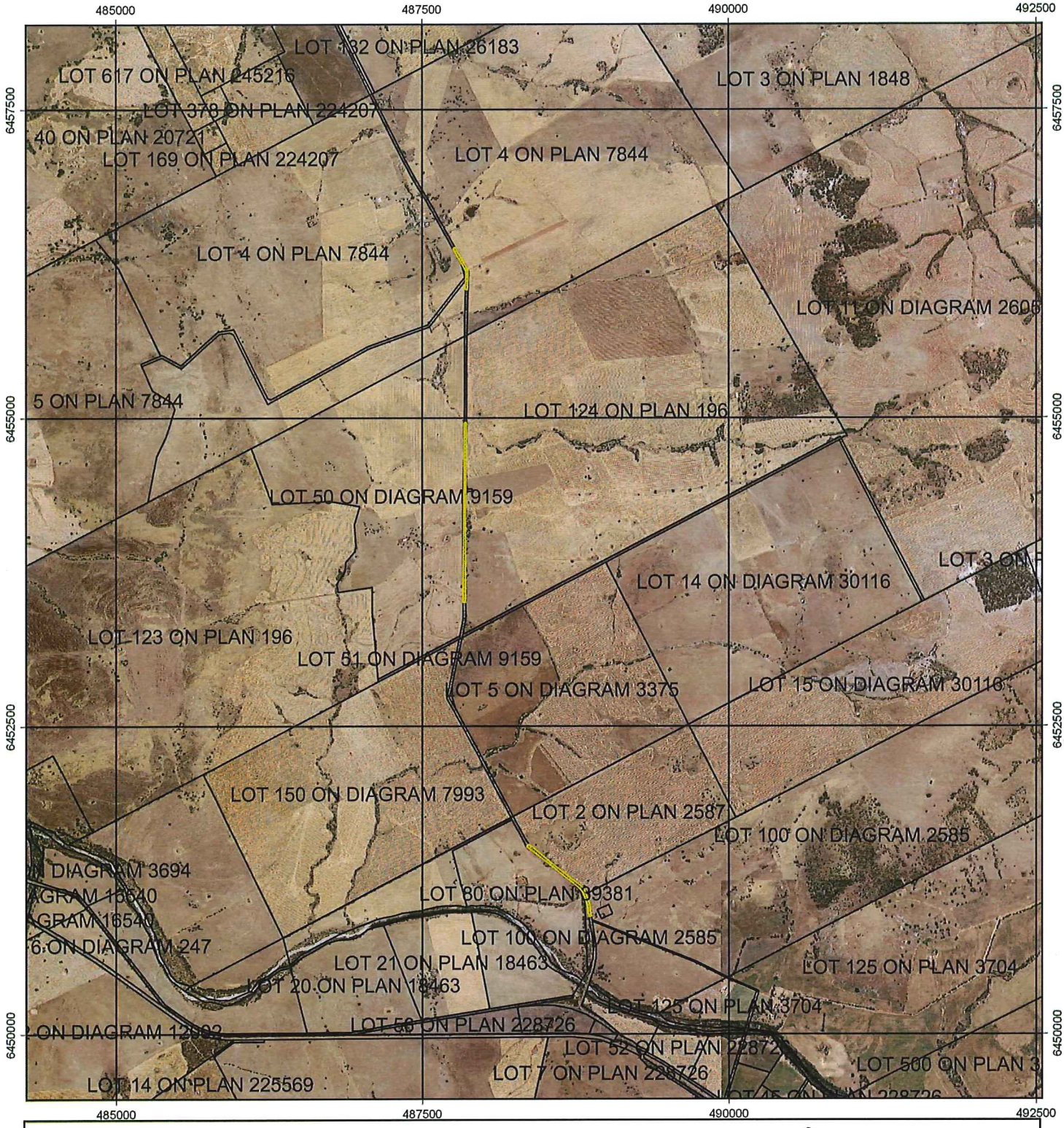
CONDITIONS
Nil.

Emma Bramwell
A/ MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

29 August 2017

Plan 7621/1



Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- Roads
- LGA
- Cadastre

Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)

N

1:45,014

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

E BRAMWELL ..... Date 29/08/17

E BRAMWELL

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

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7621/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Beverley

1.3. Property details

Property: BEVERLEY-YORK ROAD RESERVE - 11361921, BEVERLEY
BEVERLEY-YORK ROAD RESERVE - 11329467, BEVERLEY
BEVERLEY-YORK ROAD RESERVE - 11361927, BEVERLEY
Local Government Authority: BEVERLEY, SHIRE OF
DBCA Region/District: Greater Swan/Central Wheatbelt
Localities: BEVERLEY

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 August 2017
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 26 May 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing of 10 native trees along an existing road is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

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 association 468 is described as: medium woodland; York gum (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The applicant proposes to clear 10 native trees within Top Beverley-York Road reserve (PINs: 11361927, 11329467 and 11361921), Beverley for the purpose of upgrading an existing road.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery,1994)	The condition and description of the of the vegetation under application was determined through photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Beverley, 2017) and a site inspection undertaken by officers of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (DWER, 2017).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the clearing of 10 native trees within an approximately five kilometre stretch of the Top Beverley-York Road reserve (PINs: 11361927, 11329467 and 11361921), Beverley, for the purpose of upgrading the existing Top Beverley-York Road to a seven metre bitumen seal. The application form states that the proposed clearing is limited to 10 trees within two metres of the existing seal. The applicant advised that a portion of the proposed clearing is to be funded under the Black Spot Program for road safety.

According to available databases four rare flora species and 12 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (defined as a 10 kilometre radius around the application area). Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area and that no understorey species are proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing of 10 trees adjacent to an existing road is not likely to impact on any rare or priority flora.

Four fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within the local area, being the woylie (*Bettongia penicillata* subsp. *ogilbyi*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), shield-backed trapdoor spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) and Carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*) (DBCA, 2007-). Carnaby's cockatoo are also known to occur within the local area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). A site inspection undertaken within the application area did not identify any hollows suitable for breeding for the black cockatoo species (DWER, 2017). Four species of priority fauna have also been recorded from the local area. Given the proposed clearing is for 10 trees adjacent to an existing road and that no understorey species are proposed to be cleared, the application area is not likely to comprise of significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Aerial imagery, and photographs obtained from the applicant and during DWER's site inspection, indicate that the vegetation along the majority of the Top Beverley-York Road reserve is sparsely distributed, and that the application area has limited value as a connection between remnants. Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the long linear shape of the application area, and that trees more than two metres from the existing seal are to be retained, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact connectivity.

The nearest conservation area is a heritage site under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*, located approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the application area. Noting that agricultural land occurs between this conservation area and application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on this conservation area.

A small portion of the application area comprising one tree is within a mapped occurrence of the Commonwealth-listed threatened ecological community (TEC) 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt'. This TEC is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) and as a priority 3 ecological community by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The *Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt* states that these woodlands are dominated by a complex mosaic of eucalypt species with a tree or mallet form over an understorey that is highly variable in structure and composition (TSSC, 2015). Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the application area does not meet the condition thresholds required to be representative of this TEC.

One minor watercourse intersects the application area. Given the proposed clearing is for 10 trees adjacent to an existing road, it is not likely to impact vegetation growing in association with a watercourse.

The proposed clearing of 10 trees adjacent to an existing road is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation or deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation, the application area is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2012)
DBCA (2007-)
Keighery (1994)
TSSC (2015)

GIS Datasets:
SAC Biodata sets accessed March 2017
Hydrography linear
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
Parks and Wildlife tenure
Geomorphic Wetlands (Classification), Swan Coastal Plain
Soils, statewide

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments

One Aboriginal Site of Significance 'Swan River' is located within the application area. The applicant will be notified of their obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.*

The application was advertised on the former Department of Environment Regulation's website on 26 June 2017. No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2012). EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed August 2017

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2017) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7621, Shire of Berverley. Site inspection undertaken 18 August 201. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia (Ref. A1509534).

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status.

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, Canberra. Available from: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf.