



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7651/1

File Number: 2017/001052-1

Duration of Permit: From 4 February 2018 to 4 February 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

George Dronow

June Patricia Dronow

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 299 on Plan 103662, East Augusta

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7651/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

2. Direction of clearing

The Permit Holder shall conduct clearing in a progressive manner from one direction to the other (e.g. west to east) to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

3. Clearing not authorised

This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation between the months of November and May.

4. Western Ringtail Possum Management

- (a) In relation to the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7651/1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect that area immediately prior to, and for the duration of, clearing, for the presence of western ringtail possum(s) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).
- (b) Clearing must cease in any area where a western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is identified until either:
 - (i) the individual has been removed by a *fauna specialist*; or
 - (ii) the individual has moved on from that area to adjoining *suitable habitat*.

- (c) Any western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) individuals removed in accordance with condition 4(b)(i) of this Permit must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to *suitable habitat*.
- (d) Where a western ringtail possum(s) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is identified under condition 4(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must provide the following records to the *CEO* as soon as practicable:
 - (i) the number of individuals identified;
 - (ii) the date each individual was identified;
 - (iii) the location where each individual was identified 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;
 - (iv) the number of individuals removed and relocated;
 - (v) the date each individual was removed;
 - (vi) the date each individual was relocated;
 - (vii) the location where each individual was relocated to, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
 - (viii) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, an individual.

5. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 31 January of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 4 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 31 January of each year.

DEFINITIONS

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

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

dry conditions means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

CEO: means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Western Australia);

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*;

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;

soil disease status means soil types either infested, not infested, uninterpretable or not interpreted with a pathogen;

suitable habitat: means habitat known to support western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) within the known current distribution of the species. This often includes stands of myrtaceous trees (usually Peppermint Tree (*Agonis flexuosa*)) growing near swamps, watercourses or floodplains, and at topographic low points which provide cooler, often more fertile, conditions;

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

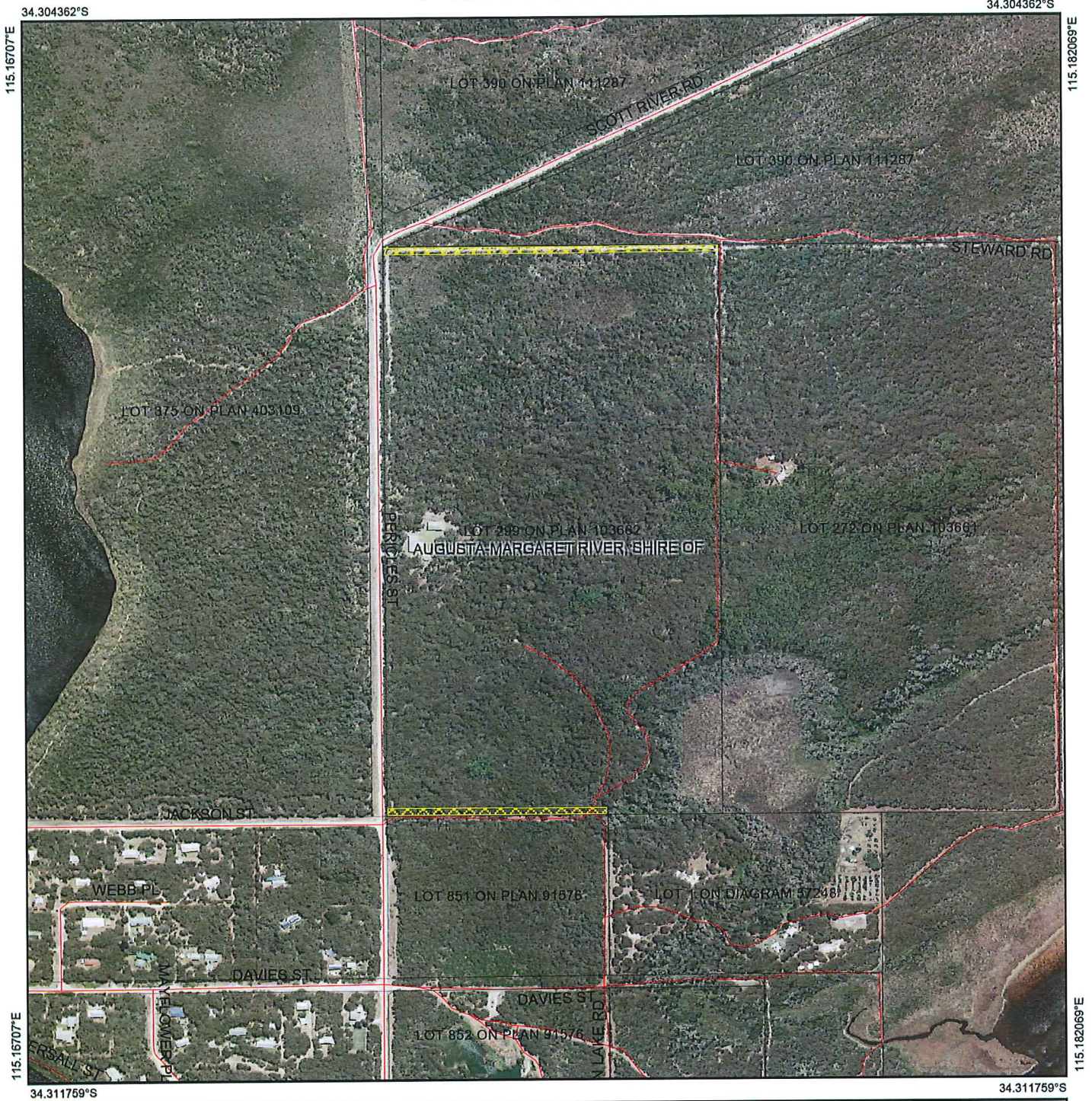


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

5 January 2018

Plan 7651/1



Legend

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




1:7,314

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994



Date 5/1/2018

M. Gannaway

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.: 7651/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: George Dronow
June Dronow
Application received date: 22 June 2017

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 299 on Plan 103662, East Augusta
Local Government Authority: Augusta-Margaret River, Shire of
Localities: East Augusta

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.5	0	Mechanical Removal	Fence construction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 January 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). 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 principles.

The applicant has avoided and minimised impacts through avoiding clearing within a wetland area occurring in the south east corner of Lot 299.

The Delegated Officer has granted the clearing subject to conditions requiring:

- weed and dieback management measures to mitigate potential impacts to the surrounding native vegetation;
- clearing is restricted to occur outside of the expected Black Cockatoo breeding periods, between the months of November and May;
- one directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent habitat; and
- pre-clearance surveys for Western Ringtail Possum within the application area, and the relocation of any Western Ringtail Possum recorded during pre-clearance surveys.

The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that planning approval has been granted by the Shire of Augusta – Margaret River for the proposed clearing.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The clearing of 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 299 on Plan 103662, East Augusta for the purpose of fence construction.

Vegetation Description

Two Mattiske vegetation complexes are mapped within the application area (Mattiske and Havel, 1998):

- Darradup: -- Low open woodland of *Banksia attenuata*-*Nuytsia floribunda*-*Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* on low dunes in the perhumid zone; and
- D'Entrecasteaux: - Woodland of *Agonis flexuosa* and closed heath of *Olearia axillaris*-*Spyridium globulosum* on coastal low dunes in the perhumid zone.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

Comments

The condition and description of the vegetation was determined by a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Water and Environment Regulation officers (DWER, 2017) in August 2017.

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has avoided the clearing of wetland dependent vegetation occurring within south-east portion of Lot 299.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The vegetation within the application area is considered to be in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition and consists of a low open Jarrah-Marri forest with a diverse shrub layer on white sands in the northern portion of the application area and tall *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint) forest over *Lepidosperma* sedges in the southern portion (DWER, 2017). The applicant has amended the application to avoid wetland dependent vegetation occurring within the south east corner of the property. The local area is well vegetated with approximately 70 per cent of vegetation remaining in the local area (10 kilometre radius).

Given the relatively small size of the proposed clearing and the highly vegetated local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on priority or threatened ecological community and conservation reserves within the local area and is not likely to be classified as clearing a significant remnant within a highly cleared landscape.

A sumpland wetland occurs adjacent to the southern portion of the proposed clearing, however given its linear nature, and that there will be vegetation remaining adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on riparian vegetation, contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

The application area falls within an area that contains a diverse range of vegetation communities in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. The northern portion of the application area may support priority four and three listed flora species of the Scott Coastal Plain and the southern portion of the application area may support habitat for a priority three orchid species (DBCA, 2017). Priority three and four species are considered to have been adequately surveyed, and are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of these species and given the small and linear area it is not considered likely for the proposed clearing to significantly impact priority flora populations. Clearing the vegetation under application has the potential to increase the spread of weeds and dieback into the surrounding vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices are likely to mitigate this risk.

A site inspection conducted by DWER officers (DWER, 2017) identified foraging and nesting habitat suitable for Quenda (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*) (Priority 4), Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)), Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*) (vulnerable under EPBC Act) and Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) (Endangered under EPBC Act) within the application area (DWER, 2017; DBCA, 2017). The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) advised that the tall Peppermint forest is habitat utilised by Western Ringtail Possums and the East Augusta location is recognised by DBCA as a significant population for the species (DBCA, 2017). While no Western Ringtail Possum dreys were observed during the site inspection, there was a ready supply of potential tree hollows in the scattered eucalypts through the Peppermint community providing alternative shelter sites (DBCA, 2017). Similarly, while no foraging evidence of Black Cockatoo species were observed during the site inspection, Black Cockatoo species are known to occur within the local area. A number of large, old senescent and dead tree stags were observed with hollows of a dimension suitable for cockatoo breeding (DBCA, 2017).

Given the above, the proposed clearing may impact on significant habitat for conservation significant fauna. Fauna management practices including directional clearing, clearing outside of the breeding periods for black cockatoo species and ensuring a fauna spotter is present during clearing are likely to mitigate this risk.

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The applicant proposes to clear 0.5 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of fence construction around the four boundaries of Lot 299 on Deposited Plan 103662, East Augusta. On 21 December 2017, the application area was amended to only include the northern and southern boundaries of Lot 299 to avoid the wetland occurring within the south eastern corner.

A DWER reference bore exists in close proximity to the southern boundary of Lot 299. Any clearing along the southern boundary of Lot 299 should ensure that the bore is not impacted or damaged. The bore can be located at Northings: 6201751, Easting: 332090.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The application area is zoned as conservation and natural environments under the town planning scheme.

Planning approval from the Shire of Augusta – Margaret River for the purpose of land clearing for fence construction was received on 21 December 2017 (Shire of Augusta Margaret River, 2017).

The clearing permit application was advertised on 18 July 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- DBCA (2017) Regional advice for CPS 7651/1 - Mr George and Mrs June Dronow – Lot 299 on Plan 103662 East Augusta. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, Western Australia. DWER ref A1500727
- DWER (2017) Site inspection Report for CPS 7651/1 – Mr George and Mrs June Dronow – Lot 299 on Plan 103662 East Augusta -Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Perth Western Australia. DWER ref A1500728
- 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, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (2017) Planning approval for land clearing- Lot 299 on Plan 103662, East Augusta. DWER ref A1586252.