



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7694/1

Duration of Permit: From 19 November 2017 to 19 November 2019

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Boyup Brook

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Boyup Brook-Arthur Road Reserve (PINs: 11594233, 11594234 and 11594235), Boyup Brook.

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 34 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7694/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mathew Gannaway', written over a horizontal line.

Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION


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

18 October 2017

Plan 7694/1



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:10,801
 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)
 GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

MB
 Mathew Gannaway Date 18/10/17

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



GOVERNMENT OF
 WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7694/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Shire of Boyup Brook

1.3. Property details

Property: Boyup Brook-Arthur Road Reserve (PINs: 11594233, 11594234 and 11594235), Boyup Brook.
Local Government Authority: Shire of Boyup Brook
DPaW District: Blackwood
Localities: Boyup Brook

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
-	34	Mechanical Removal	Road widening

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 18 October 2017
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 14 July 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*, and 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 is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

2. Background

2.1. Existing environment and information

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Mapped Beard vegetation association 3: is described as Medium forest; jarrah-marri. (Shepherd et al., 2001)	The clearing of 34 trees within Boyup Brook-Arthur Road Reserve (PINs: 11594233, 11594234 and 11594235), Boyup Brook for the purpose of road widening.	Degraded: vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. (Keighery, 1994).	The condition and description of the vegetation within the application area was determined by a vegetation survey undertaken by Kristen Mappin in July 2017 (Mappin, 2017).
The application area has been mapped as the following South West vegetation complexes:			
NWf1: Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> - <i>Eucalyptus patens</i> on footslopes on valley slopes in the subhumid zone.			
NW1: Woodland of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> and <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> with some <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> on upper slopes in the subhumid zone.			
NWg1: Woodland of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> on slopes, open heath on shallow soils near granites, open forest of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> - <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> on the valley floors in the subhumid zone (Mattiske and Havel, 1980).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The application is to clear up to 34 trees of native vegetation for the purpose of road widening. The vegetation within the application area is described as a woodland consisting of *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *Eucalyptus wandoo*, and *Eucalyptus rudis* over an understorey dominated by *Cytisus proliferus* (Tagasaste) and introduced grasses. The vegetation is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Mappin, 2017).

According to available databases six rare flora of high conservation value have been recorded within the local area (defined as a 10 kilometre radius around the application area) (DBCA, 2007-). A roadside vegetation survey did not identify any flora of high conservation value within the application area (Mappin, 2017). The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions (DBCA) advised that the potential for threatened or priority flora to occur within the application area is low due to the degraded condition of the vegetation and that a targeted flora survey is not required (DBCA, 2017). Noting this, the condition of the vegetation within the application area and the absence of native understorey species, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on any rare or priority flora.

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, lack of understorey species and the long linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on a priority or threatened ecological community or conservation reserve within the local area.

A total of 17 fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). The application area may contain suitable habitat for the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*).

Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). 'Breeding habitat' for Carnaby's cockatoo is defined as trees of species known to support breeding within the range of the species which 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 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). A roadside vegetation survey did not identify any hollows suitable for breeding for the black cockatoo species, with a majority of trees having a DBH of less than 500 millimetres (Mappin, 2017).

Black cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts and flowers of a large variety of plants including Proteaceous species (*Banksia*, *Hakea* and *Grevillea*), as well as *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus* species, *Corymbia calophylla* and a range of introduced species (Valentine and Stock, 2008). The records of feeding activity for Carnaby's cockatoo on the Swan Coastal Plain reveal that *Banksia* species account for nearly 50 per cent of the diet for Carnaby's cockatoo (Shah, 2006). The application area does not contain the preferred Proteaceae foraging species and no foraging evidence was observed during the roadside vegetation survey (Mappin, 2017). In addition, as not all of the trees located within the road reserve are proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the functionality of the ecological linkage. Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia 2001). The application area is located within the Jarrah Forrest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, Shire of Boyup Brook and is mapped as Beard vegetation association 3, all of which retain greater than 30 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents (Government of Western Australia, 2017b). All of the mapped South West vegetation complexes are below the 30 percent threshold (Government of Western Australia, 2017a). The local area retains approximately 15 per cent native vegetative cover.

Noting the current vegetation extents for the local area and mapped South West vegetation complexes, which are below the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared area. As the application area is comprised of 34 trees over very little to no native understorey, the proposed clearing is not considered to be representative of the mapped South West vegetation complexes. In addition, the proposed clearing is not going to remove all trees within the road reserve, with many trees to remain. Noting the high level of disturbance, extent of clearing and absence of conservation significant flora, fauna and ecological communities, the application area is not considered to be significant as a remnant. To minimise the extent of clearing, an avoid and minimise condition has been placed on the permit.

No wetlands or watercourses are mapped within the application area and given its linear nature, and that the 34 trees are adjacent to an existing road, 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.

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

Methodology

References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Commonwealth of Australia (2012)
DBCA (2007-)
DBCA (2017)
Government of Western Australia (2017a)
Government of Western Australia (2017b)
Keighery (1994)
Mappin (2017)
Shah (2006)
Valentine and Stock (2008)

- GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear
 - Hydrography, hierarchy
 - Parks and Wildlife tenure
 - SAC bio datasets accessed August 2017
 - Virtual mosaic
 - Pre-European vegetation
 - DAFWA subsystems 5 soils
 - Local Government Areas
 - Roads linear
 - WA Herbarium
 - Threatened Priority Flora

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The applicant proposes to clear 34 trees within Boyup Brook-Arthur Road Reserve (PINs: 11594233, 11594234 and 11594235), Boyup Brook, for the purpose of road widening.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

The application area is zoned rural under the town planning scheme.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 10 August 2017 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology GIS Databases:
 - Aboriginal sites register system
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones

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. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2017), Regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7694/1 received 28 September 2017 (DWER ref: A1538494).
- 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
- Government of Western Australia. (2017a) 2016 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of September 2017. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth
- Government of Western Australia. (2017b) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of September 2017) 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.
- Mappin, K. (2017) Vegetation Assessment of Proposed Widening of Boyup Brook – Arthur River Rd. Shire of Boyup Borok, 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.
- Shah, B. (2006) Conservation of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo on the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. December 2006. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project. Birds Australia, 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.
- Valentine, L.E. and Stock, W. (2008) Food Resources of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) in the Gngangara Sustainability Strategy Study Area. Edith Cowan University and Department of Environment and Conservation. December 2008. Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed August 2017).