



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7785/1

Duration of Permit: From 25 February 2018 to 25 February 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Christopher Lee Davidson

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 25 on Plan 12671, Wundowie

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.16 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7785/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, 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.

RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

2. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) the location where the clearing occurred, 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;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).; and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit.

3. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 1 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO.

James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION


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

25 January 2018

Plan 7785/1



Legend

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



1:1,106
 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)
 GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

[Signature] Date *25/11/2018*

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7785/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Christopher Lee Davidson

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 25 on Plan 12671, Wundowie
Local Government Authority: Shire of Northam
Localities: Wundowie
DBCA District: Perth Hills
DWER Region: Swan

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.16		Mechanical Removal	Connecting reverse osmosis equipment to front power box.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 25 January 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 27 September 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*.

The Delegated officer has had regard for photos of the application area supplied by the applicant and specialist advice received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservations, and Attractions (DBCA).

Through the assessment it was determined that the proposed clearing area does not contain significant environmental values.

The Delegated Officer notes advice from the Shire of Northam indicating the Shire does not support the clearing based on the location of the application area, but noted that there are no Shire planning approvals required for the proposed clearing.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment and has granted a permit subject conditions.

2. Background

2.1. Existing environment and information

Vegetation Description	The vegetation within the application area is within the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA bioregion and mapped as Yalanbee Complex (Y5): Mixture of open forest of <i>Eucalyptus marginata subsp. thalassica</i> - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> on lateritic uplands in semiarid to perarid zones (Government of Western Australia, 2017b).
Vegetation Condition	Good to Degraded; Vegetation structure significantly altered but retains basic vegetation structure, or ability to regenerate. Vegetation structure is severely impacted; weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994) as determined by site photos provided by the applicant (Davidson, 2017) and aerial imagery. The majority of the application area is of a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Figure 3) while a part of the application area is in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Figure 2).
Soil and Landform type	The application area is mapped within land subsystems Yalanbee Subsystem (Map Unit 253 WnYA) described as Residual plateau at the top of the landscape shallowly dissected by Pindalup valleys, pisolitic gravelly, yellowish brown soils that vary in texture from loamy sands to clays, with pockets of pale sands and areas of outcropping laterite (Schoknecht et al., 2004).
Comment	The local area referred to below is defined as a five kilometre radius around the clearing area.

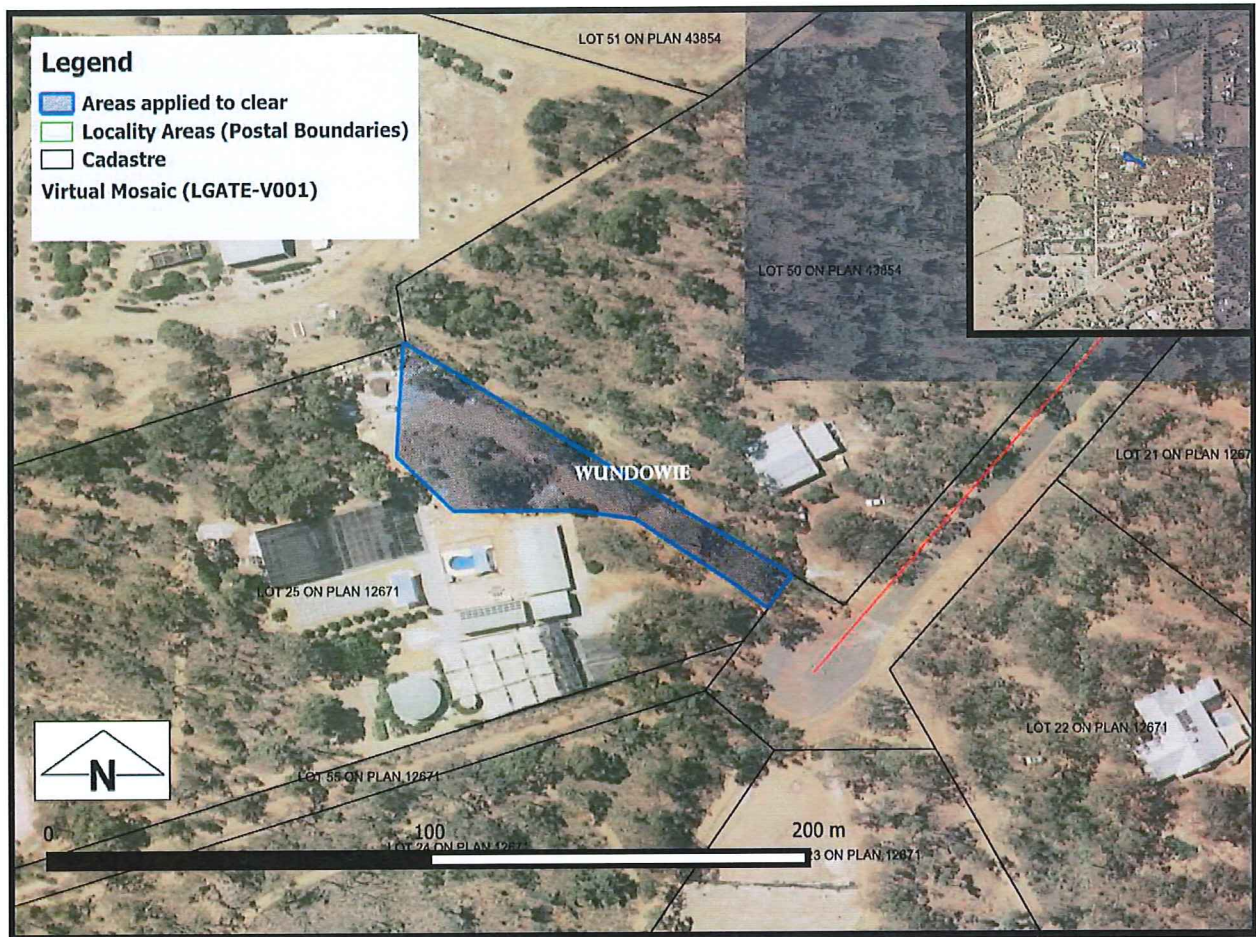


Figure 1: application area with context insert map

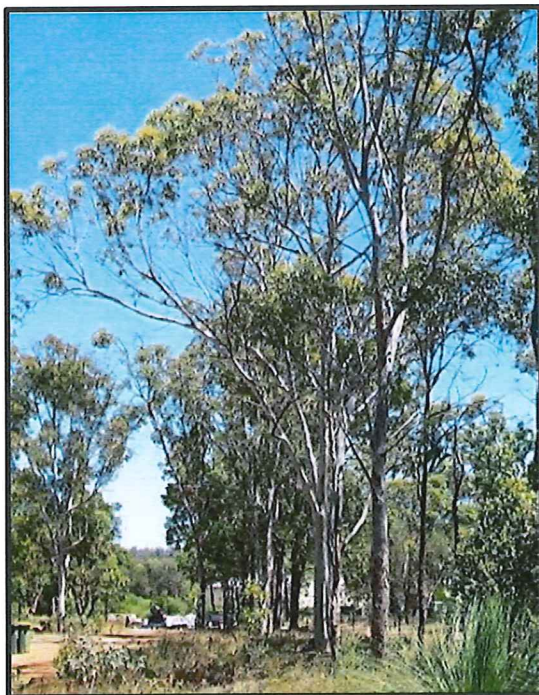


Figure 2: Closed forest of *Eucalyptus Wandoo* over *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Macrozamia* sp. and *Tetraria* sp. showing good (Keighery, 1994) condition

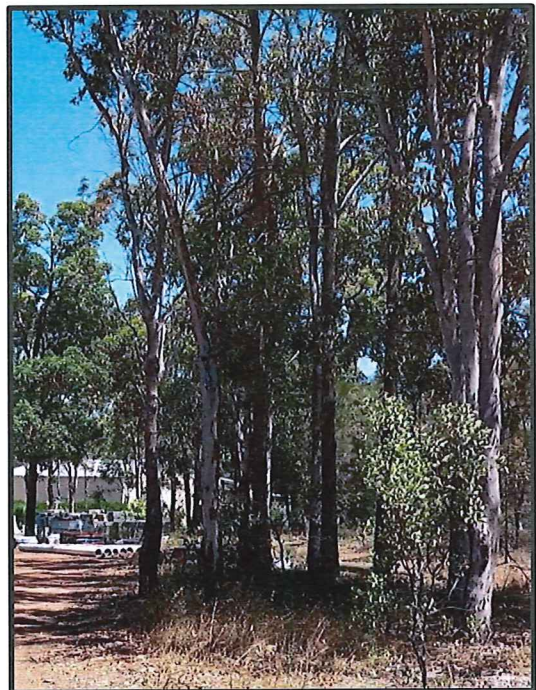


Figure 3: Application area showing degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases three priority flora species and no rare flora species have been recorded within the local area. Two of the priority flora species are Priority 4 species and the other is a Priority 3 species. Priority 4 species are considered to have been adequately surveyed, and are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection and Priority 3 flora species (being species that are known from several locations and do not appear to be under imminent threat (Jones, 2015).

The site photos indicate the degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, that previous clearing was likely approximately 30 years ago based on the age of the Eucalyptus Wandoo, and that the majority of the application area is in a degraded condition.

According to available databases, ten fauna specially protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). A confirmed roost site for Carnaby's cockatoo is located approximately 480 metres east of the application area.

Black cockatoos have a preference for foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands and forest heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species such as Banksia sp., Hakea sp. and Grevillea sp. (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). 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).

While the application area mapping includes jarrah and marri woodland (Government of Western Australia, 2017b), the site photos show the trees in the application area are not a suitable diameter for habitat for black cockatoos. DBCA advised the proposed clearing would be unlikely to have any significant impact on local conservation values (DBCA, 2017). Further, noting the small size of the proposed clearing and the presence of higher quality vegetation within the nearby Woondowing Nature Reserve (13,786 hectares), and Kwolyinin Nature reserve (1630 hectares) located within five kilometres, the application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for black cockatoos.

According to available databases, there have been no threatened ecological communities (TEC) or priority ecological communities (PEC) recorded within the local area. Noting this, it is unlikely the vegetation under application is a representation of a TEC or a PEC.

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 remaining extents of native vegetation within the bioregion and mapped vegetation complex are above the 30 per cent threshold (Government of Western Australia, 2017a).

Aerial imagery indicates that the local area retains approximately 60 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting this, the application does not occur in an extensively cleared landscape. Noting that the application area does not contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna or flora, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant.

According to available databases, and aerial imagery no wetlands or watercourse intersect with the application area. Noting this, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in association with this watercourse or wetland.

According to available databases, there are two nature reserves and two privately-managed conservation areas within the local area. None of these conservation areas are directly adjacent to the application area. Noting this and the vegetation extent remaining in the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Noting the soil type, the extent of the proposed clearing and that there are no wetlands or watercourses within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation or deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, and is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing Principles.

GIS Databases:

- SAC bio datasets accessed December 2017
- Aerial Imagery
- DBCA Tenure
- Hydrography , Linear
- Topographic contours

References

- DBCA (2007-)
- DBCA (2017)
- Government of Western Australia (2017a)
- Government of Western Australia (2017b)
- Keighery (1994)
- Davidson (2017)

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) website on 3 November 2017 for a 14 day public submission period. No submissions were received in relation to this application. The clearing permit purpose was changed on the 8 January 2018 and readvertised for seven days. No submissions were received in relation to this amendment.

The Shire of Northam advised that they do not support of the clearing based on the location of the clearing. The Shire's objection to the clearing is based on the location and their preferences for the existing driveway to be used to connect the reverse osmosis equipment rather than the application area. The Shire did not identify any planning approvals required for the proposed clearing.

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: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Commonwealth of Australia.
- Davidson, Christopher Lee (2017) Site photos (DWER Ref A1587113)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2017), Regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7785/1 received 19 October 2017 (DWER Ref: A1576935).
- 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 December 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.
- Jones, A. (2015) Threatened and Priority Flora List, 11 November 2015. Department of Parks and Wildlife: Kensington, WA.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed November 2017).