



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7838/1  
File Number: 2017/001793-1  
Duration of Permit: From 26 April 2018 to 26 April 2020

### PERMIT HOLDER

Pauline Jane McHenry

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 2011 on Deposited Plan 202979

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 5.7 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7838/1.

### 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.

#### 2. Fauna management

The Permit Holder shall not clear *Black Cockatoo habitat trees* found within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7838/1.

#### 3. 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.

#### 4. 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);
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit;
- (e) evidence to show that no *Black Cockatoo habitat trees* found within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7838/1 have been cleared; and
- (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 3 of this Permit.

**5. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 4 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

**DEFINITIONS**

***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;

***CEO:*** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;


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

***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; and

***weed/s*** mean 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; and
- (d) that is a species permitted for planting under a Pastoral Diversification Permit issued by the Department of Regional Development and Lands.



---

Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION



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

27 March 2018

# Plan 7838/1



## Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities



1:11,337

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 27/03/2018  
Mathew Gannaway

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
WA Crown Copyright 2018



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7838/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Ms Pauline Jane McHenry  
Application received date: 30 October 2017

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2011 on Deposited Plan 202979  
Local Government Authority: Augusta-Margaret River, Shire of  
Localities: Scotsdale

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category
6.4	-	Mechanical Removal	Grazing and pasture

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Part Grant – 5.7 hectares

Decision Date: 27 March 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 clearing Principles.

The Delegated Officer has had regard to advice received from the Shire of Denmark, a site inspection of the application area undertaken by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on 21 December 2018 and avoidance measures employed by the applicant.

As the proposed clearing has the potential to impact on black cockatoos, in line with avoidance measures provided by the applicant and conditions of the Shire approval, conditions have been added to the permit to ensure that black cockatoo habitat trees are not impacted by the clearing. Weed and dieback management measures have also been conditioned on the permit in order to limit the impact to adjoining vegetation.

6.4 hectares of vegetation was applied to clear. As development approval from the Shire of Denmark is required for the proposed clearing, the area granted has been reduced to 5.7 hectares in line with the Shire approval.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit for 5.7 hectares subject to conditions. The Delegated Officer considers that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in an unacceptable risk to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Clearing Description** The application is for the proposed clearing of 6.4 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2011 on Deposited Plan 202979, Scotsdale, for the purpose of collecting firewood and constructing/maintaining fences and buildings.

The application areas contain regrowth vegetation from clearing in 1988 and 2010, interspersed with large mature specimens that were retained during clearing events. The applicant intends to retain all large mature trees within the application area.

**Vegetation Description** The application area is mapped within South West Vegetation associations (Government of Western Australia, 2017):

- Ly: Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Corymbia calophylla*-*Banksia grandis* on milder slopes of major granite hills in perhumid and humid zones; and
- Vh2: Tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor*-*Eucalyptus patens* on slopes with *Agonis flexuosa*-*Allocasuarina decussata* -*Callistachys lanceolata* on valley floors in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.



A site inspection of the application area conducted by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (DWER site inspection) officers, described two vegetation types within the application area (DWER, 2017) (Figure 1):

- CcEm over a completely degraded understorey – Open forest of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* with no understorey.
- CcEm over a dense understorey – Closed forest of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* over *Eremophila* sp. and *Pteridium esculentum* in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition.

**Vegetation Condition** Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

To

Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment** The condition of the vegetation was determined through the DWER site inspection (DWER, 2017). The local area is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the outside of the application area.

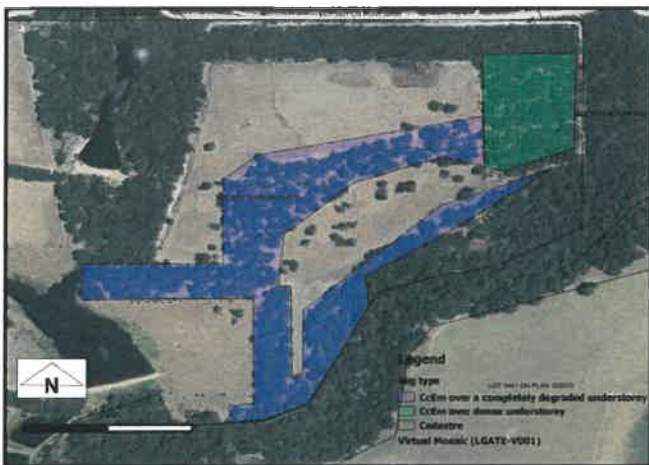


Figure 1: Vegetation types within the application area.

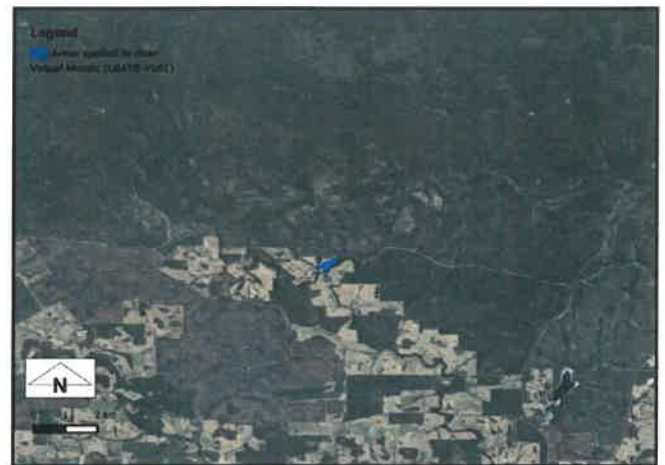


Figure 2: Position of application area within the landscape.

### 3. Avoidance and mitigation

In order to avoid and minimise the potential impact of the proposed clearing, the applicant has restricted clearing by:

- Retaining all large mature trees within the application area;
- Avoiding any clearing of vegetation on steep slopes; and
- Restricting clearing to areas that have previously been cleared (1988 and 2010).

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

A December DWER site inspection noted that (DWER, 2017):

- The application areas contain regrowth vegetation from clearing in 1988 and 2010, interspersed with large mature specimens that were retained during clearing events. The applicant intends to retain all large mature trees within the application area;
- A significant amount of native vegetation surrounds the application area. This vegetation is mature and contains a significant number of breeding hollows as well as an established understorey; and
- A large proportion of the application area contains no understorey.

The local area is highly vegetated retaining 79.6 per cent native vegetation (Figure 2).

The local area includes the Mt Lindesay National Park, which is known for its high levels of floristic biodiversity and suite of priority and threatened flora. The application area does not contain the granitic habitats found in the Mt Lindesay National Park and a site inspection has shown that given this and the vegetation type present, the application area is unlikely to be suitable habitat for any of the priority or threatened species known from the local area (DWER, 2017; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Given the vegetation type present, it is also unlikely to be representative of a threatened or priority ecological community.

As hollow bearing trees have been identified within the application area, the application area may contain nesting habitat for black cockatoos. However, the applicant has stated that no large hollow bearing trees will be removed. A fauna management condition requiring the retention of large hollow bearing trees will ensure that black cockatoos are not impacted by the proposed clearing.

Although foraging habitat for black cockatoos is present within the application area, given the extent and condition of the vegetation within the local area (figure 2), the application area is not considered significant foraging habitat for these species.

Given the application area adjoins the extensive conservation estate in the local area, clearing the application area will not impact on the movement of fauna through the landscape.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation includes 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). As the mapped vegetation associations and local area retain above 30 per cent native vegetation (84 per cent, 95 per cent and 79 per cent respectively), the application area is not considered to be within an extensively cleared area.

The application area adjoins the Mt Lindesay National Park. Given this, the proposed clearing has the potential to increase the spread of weeds and dieback into the National Park. Weed and dieback management measures are likely to minimise this risk.

As a 50 metre buffer to all wetlands or watercourses has been retained and given the amount of vegetation within the local 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. Although steep slopes were identified adjacent to the application area, the applicant has avoided any clearing of vegetation with a steep gradient.

Given the above, clearing the application area may be at variance to Principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

## **5. Planning instruments and other relevant matters.**

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 28 November 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

On 21 January 2010, the applicant was granted clearing permit CPS 3479/1 to clear three hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2011 on Deposited Plan 202979. This permit was granted with no conditions and has since expired. On 3 October 2008, the applicant was granted clearing permit CPS 3479/1 to clear 0.73 hectares of native vegetation for dam construction. This permit was granted with no conditions and has since expired.

The Shire of Denmark has granted development approval for 5.7 hectares of the initial 6.2 hectare application area (Shire of Denmark, 2017). This is to ensure that an adequate buffer to watercourses has been retained. Given this, the area granted has been amended to align with the area approved by the Development approval.

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

## **6. References**

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2017) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 7838/1, undertaken 21 December 2017 (DWER ref: A1587820).
- Government of Western Australia (2017) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 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.
- Shire of Denmark (2018) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7838/1, received 06 March 2018. (DWER ref: A1629371).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998- ) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> Accessed January 2018.