



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7863/1
File Number: DER2015/001263
Duration of Permit: From 25 March 2019 to 25 March 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Capel

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Hansen Road Reserve (PIN 1323232), Stirling Estate

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than four native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7863/1.

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. Weed and dieback 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 spread of *dieback* and *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *dieback* and *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.

3. Western Ringtail Possum Management

- (a) In relation to the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7863/1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect the 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 fauna referred to in condition 3(a) above are identified until either:
 - (i) the western ringtail possum(s) individual has been removed by a *fauna specialist*; or
 - (ii) the western ringtail possum(s) individual has moved on from that area to adjoining *suitable habitat*.
- (c) Any western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) individuals removed in accordance with condition 3(b)(i) of this Permit must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to *suitable habitat*.

- (d) Where fauna is identified under condition 3(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.

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) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit; and
- (f) activities in relation to 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

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

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;

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, 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;

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.



Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

28 February 2019

Plan 7863/1



Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear base layers
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastre
- Image

0 50 100 150 200 m

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994



Samara Rogers

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7863/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Capel
Application received date: 13 November 2017

1.3. Property details

Property: Hansen Road Reserve (PIN 1323232), Stirling Estate.
Local Government Authority: Capel, Shire of
Localities: Stirling Estate

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0	4	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 28 February 2019
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.

Through the assessment it was determined that Hansen Road acts as a fauna linkage between larger high value remnants and suitable habitat for western ringtail possums. The Delegated Officer noted that the applicant has reduced the application area to four native trees and notes that the majority of vegetation along Hanson Road will be retained.

To minimise direct impacts to individual western ringtail possums, a fauna management condition requiring a fauna specialist to check the trees within the application area prior to clearing, and to remove and relocate any western ringtail possum individuals identified to nearby suitable habitat.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that potential impacts to fauna species can be adequately minimised and/or avoided by imposing fauna management measures and that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear four native trees within a two hectare area along Hansen Road Reserve (PIN 1323232), Stirling Estate, (Figure 1) for the purpose of road widening (Figure 2 to 5).

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped as Swan Coastal Plain (previously Heddle) Karrakatta Complex Central and South vegetation complex and Yoongarillup vegetation complex, which are described as'

"Predominantly open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) and woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - Banksia species. *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint) is co-dominant south of the Capel Region" (Heddle et al., 1998).

And

"Woodland to tall woodland of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) with *Agonis flexuosa* in the second storey. Less consistently an open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri). South of Bunbury" (Heddle et al., 1998).

Vegetation Condition	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
Soil type	<p>The application area has been mapped as the following two soil categories;</p> <p>Ludlow wet flats Phase which is described as “Flats with poor subsoil drainage in winter. Deep yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone (i.e. Spearwood Sands)” (Schoknecht et al., 2004).</p> <p>And</p> <p>Ludlow flats Phase which is described as “Flats and very low dunes. Deep yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone (i.e. Spearwood Sands)” (Schoknecht et al., 2004).</p>
Comments	<p>The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the centre of the application area.</p> <p>The condition and description of the vegetation was determined through a site inspection undertaken by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) officers in February 2018 (DWER, 2018).</p>



Figure 1: Application area along Hansen Road. The four native trees are numbered 1-4.



Figure 2: Tree 1 *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*



Figure 3: Tree 2 *Agonis flexuosa*



Figure 4: Tree 3 *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*



Figure 5: Tree 4 *Eucalyptus gomphocephala*

3. Minimisation, mitigation measures and submission response

The Shire of Capel (the Shire) was sent a letter dated 27 February 2018 requesting for clarification of the area proposed to be cleared. The Shire responded on the 6 March 2018 providing a modified application area, decreasing the proposed clearing from 0.8 hectares to 0.5 hectares and reducing the number of tuart tress proposed to be cleared from 19 to 10.

Another letter was sent to the Shire on 2 May 2018 requesting information on how they plan to reduce the impacts of the proposed clearing and were asked to provide further justification for the proposed clearing. On 1 June 2018 a response was received from the Shire stating that Hansen Road (application area) goes to a farm that is considered a regionally significant commodity supplier and hence the road is considered a regional commodity route. The farmer has organised alternative access for the transport trucks to enter and exit his farm through adjoining farmland. This was intended to be a temporary measure pending the upgrade of Hansen Road. The Shire also advised that this alternative route may not be an option for long if the adjoining farm owner changes their mind or sell their property, hence for the need for the road upgrade and the proposed clearing.

In response to impacts to western ringtail possums, the Shire has reduced the area further from 0.5 hectares to only include four native trees. The Shire has considered utilising the portion of Hansen Road which is absent of vegetation, in order to reduce the application area to four native trees (Shire of Capel, 2018).

The Shire was sent an email dated 30 January 2019 requesting the Shire to indicate which trees or vegetation within the application area is to be cleared and which is to be retained in order to demonstrate that the fauna linkage is being maintained. The Shire responded on 4 February 2019, providing photos and GPS coordinates of four native trees that are required to be cleared for the road widening works. The applicant informed DWER that the Shire can re-gravel the road without disturbing any flora and fauna habitat.

The Shire has advised that the following minimisation and mitigation measures are proposed:

- A significant amount of vegetation will be remain along the road reserve,
- Clearing is proposed outside of the black cockatoo breeding session, and
- A possum spotter will be on site during clearing to ensure no possums are injured during the operation.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

This application is mapped within the Karrakatta Complex Central and South vegetation complex and Yoongarillup vegetation complex.

The four native trees within the application area consists of three mature *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart trees) and one *Agonis flexuosa* (peppermint tree) (Figures 2-5).

According to available databases, 15 priority flora species have been mapped within the local area. All these species are understorey species. Given that the application area consists of four native trees, the application area is unlikely to contain habitat for priority flora (DBCA, 2018). Threatened flora are discussed in more detail under Principle (c).

Seven conservation significant fauna species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) within the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*, have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). These species are forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*), western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*) and Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The application area comprises of potential suitable breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos and suitable habitat for western ringtail possums. Fauna is discussed in more detail under Principle (b).

According to available databases, the Commonwealth-listed threatened ecological community (TEC) "Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA region" (Banksia Woodlands TEC) (listed as endangered) is mapped within the application area. Noting the vegetation type within the application area the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise of a TEC. TECs is discussed in more detail under Principle (d).

According to available databases, a priority ecological community (PEC) 'tuart and *Agonis flexuosa* woodland' (Priority 3) occurs within the application area which has been earmarked to become a federally listed TEC in the near future. Draft conservation advice states that degraded patches that contain important habitat or landscape features need to be greater than two hectares in size to be considered to represent this TEC (DotEE, 2017). The application area is a part of a larger remnant of native vegetation that has been identified as containing more than two hectares of this ecological community in degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Therefore, the vegetation within the application meets the diagnostic criteria for patch size and is therefore considered a part of a patch of this future listed federal TEC. However, given the degraded condition of the vegetation and the relatively small size of the proposed clearing of this ecological community, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to significantly impact the occurrence or conservation status of this PEC.

Given the above, the application area does not contain high biodiversity and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Proposed clearing is may be at variance to this Principle

As discussed in Principle (a) seven conservation significant fauna species listed under the BC Act within the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*, have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). These species are forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroi*), western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*) and Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). The application area comprises of potential suitable breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos and suitable habitat for western ringtail possums.

Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo are listed as endangered and forest red-tailed cockatoo is listed as vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). These species nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

A fauna survey undertaken in October 2018 (Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd, 2018) demonstrated that the application area does not contain suitable hollows for breeding black cockatoos. Therefore, the application area does not contain suitable habitat breeding habitat for black cockatoos.

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). The application area consists of three tuart and one peppermint tree, therefore provides suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoos (DWER, 2018). Noting only three fo the four trees provide suitable foraging, the vegetation within the application area is not likely to be significant.

DBCA (2018) advise that the application area is highly likely to support western ringtail possum (WRP) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (critically endangered under the commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). WRP are known to occur in coastal habitat of the southern Swan Coastal Plain and occur in peppermint forest and woodland and tuart forest with peppermint understory (DEWHA, 2009). The application area is mapped within 'core' habitat for the WRP (DEWHA, 2009). Core habitat usually have high densities of WRP and contain the principle breeding population of this species (DEWHA, 2009).

Opportunistic sightings of a WRP dreys and scats along Hansen Road were recorded during the fauna survey (Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd, 2018) and site inspection (DWER, 2018). Additional advice received from DBCA (2019) stated that the opportunistic sightings of WRP suggest that the site is being used as a connection/linkage between larger remnants classified as Class B (high value) and therefore, vegetation along the road reserve is considered significant. In response to this, the applicant reduced the application area from 0.8 hectares to 4 native trees, to retain the connection/linkage. The applicant has advised that they will ensure a fauna spotter is on site during clearing to minimise impacts to individual fauna within the application area.

No evidence of any of the conservation significant species listed above were observed during the survey (Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd, 2018).

The application area is located within an extensively cleared (local area retains approximately 20 per cent native vegetation cover) landscape. In extensively cleared areas, native vegetation occurring along road reserves provide important habitat for local fauna. The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) (2011) has identified the application area as having high fauna habitat value and it may be considered for the application area to act as a fauna corridor between local patches of neighbouring vegetation to the east and west. The applicant has advised the proposed clearing will only remove four native trees, keeping the majority of the vegetation along the road reserve intact.

Given the above, it is considered that the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, nine threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area. The closest known record of threatened flora species is located over 20 kilometres from the application area and occurs within different soil and vegetation types as the application area. DBCA (2018) has advised that the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on any threatened flora species.

Given the above, the distance to the nearest recorded threatened flora species and the small size (four trees) of the application area, the application area is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, the Commonwealth-listed TEC 'Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA region' (Banksia Woodlands TEC) (listed as endangered) is mapped within the application area. Noting the species composition of this TEC and the application area comprising of three mature *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart trees) and one *Agonis flexuosa* (peppermint trees), the application area is not representative of this TEC.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation includes a target that does not support the clearing 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 Swan Coastal Plain Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion which retains approximately 38 per cent pre-European vegetation extents (Government of Western Australia 2018).

As indicated in Table 1, the application area is mapped as the Swan Coastal Plain (previously Heddle) Karrakatta Complex central and south which has 23 per cent of its pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, it is not considered for the vegetation to represent this highly cleared vegetation complex.

The application area is also mapped as the Swan Coastal Plain (previously Heddle) Yoongarillup vegetation complex which retains 35 per cent of its pre-European extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

The local area retains approximately 20 per cent native vegetation cover and is considered to be an extensively cleared landscape. The application area is also located within a mapped ecological linkage as defined by the South West Regional Ecological Linkage (SWREL) Report (Molloy et al., 2009). Given the relatively small size (four native trees) of the proposed clearing, and that the linkage will still remain within the road reserve, it is not considered for the application area to significantly contribute to the function of this SWREL ecological linkage.

Noting the application area is located in an extensively cleared area, the 4 trees proposed to be cleared are not considered a significant as a remnant. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Table 1: Bioregion and Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex (Government of Western Australia, 2018a; Government of Western Australia, 2018b)

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Current Extent in DCBA Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Swan Coastal Plain	1,501,222	578,997	38	38
Vegetation Complex				
Karrakatta Complex Central and South	53,081	12,465	23	8
Yoongarillup Complex	27,978	9,946	35	18

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, no wetlands or watercourse have been mapped within the application area. The closest watercourse occurs approximately 14 metres from the application area.

Capel River is located 400 metres south of the application area. A floodplain associated with this river transverses the western end of the application area.

Given that the four native trees consist of mature three *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart trees) and one *Agonis flexuosa* (peppermint trees), the application area is not likely to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The soils within the application area have been mapped by the former Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) as the following land subsystems (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Ludlow wet flats Phase: Flats with poor subsoil drainage in winter. Deep yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone (i.e. Spearwood Sands).
- Ludlow flats Phase: Flats and very low dunes. Deep yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone (i.e. Spearwood Sands).

DAFWA mapping indicates that 50 to 70 per cent of the soil unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk given the siliceous sandy soils present (Schoknecht et al., 2004). Noting the small size of the application area, it is expected that this risk can be managed through appropriate land management practices such as staged clearing which do not expose the sandy soils for extended durations.

The topography of the application area is flat and the annual rainfall is 800 millimetres. Groundwater salinity within the application area has been mapped as low saline, being between 1000 and 3000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids. Noting this, the porous nature of sandy soils within the application area and the small size of the proposed clearing, the application area is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation through water erosion, waterlogging or salinity.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The nearest conservation area to the proposed clearing is Tuart Forest National Park which is separated into two areas, one located 900 metres south and the other located 3.6 kilometres north of the application area.

The application area has been identified as being a part of a mapped ecological linkage as defined by the South West Regional Ecological Linkage (SWREL) Report (Molloy et al., 2009) which includes the Tuart Forest National Park. Given the relatively small size (four native trees) of the proposed clearing, the application area is not considered to contribute significantly to the function of this SWREL ecological linkage. In addition, the applicant has advised the proposed clearing will not remove all of the vegetation along the road reserve and will only involve four native trees.

Therefore, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to impact on the capacity of this ecological linkage to allow movement of fauna through the landscape between conservation areas. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

As mentioned in Principle (f), there is a floodplain that transverses the application area.

Given the sandy soils present within the application area, the proposed clearing may cause minor, short term sedimentation of any surface water that may be present within this floodplain during clearing. This risk is considered minor and short term due to the relatively small size (4 native trees). Appropriate management measures such as conducting clearing when no surface water is present within the floodplain will reduce this risk.

Groundwater salinity within the application area has been mapped as low saline, being between 1000 and 3000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids. Noting this and the small area proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of underground water through an increase in salinity.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

DAFWA mapping indicates that less than three per cent of the map unit within which the application area is located has a moderate to high flood risk (the lowest risk category) (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Noting this, the relatively small application area (four native trees) and the sandy soils present, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

DBCA (2018) advises that Hansen Road is a no-through road and receives little traffic and that a proposal to widening Hansen Road appears to be excessive and recommends that further justification for this application is provided. Additionally, they advise that the application area does not support any black cockatoo breeding hollows and that the application area contains significant western ringtail possum habitat and fauna linkage connecting larger remnants, classified as Call B suitability (high value) to the east. DBCA advises that if the vegetated linkage along the road is maintained and fauna spotters are present at the time of clearing, that any resident WRPs should naturally disperse (DBCA, 2019).

The Capel LCDC (2018) notes that the road under application (Hansen road) is used to service local traffic to one farm located to the east and south and this farm also has an additional access way that is in safe and good condition. The Shire advised that Hansen Road (application area) goes to a farm that is considered a regionally significant commodity supplier and hence the road is considered a regional commodity route.

The application area is zoned 'road reserve' under the Local Town Planning Scheme Zones.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 19 December 2017 with a 21 day submission period. Two public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Submission one objects to the proposed clearing for the following reasons (summarised):

- Raised their concerns that the road under application received little traffic and that further justification for the need of the application area is required from the applicant;
- Hansen Road contains significant habitat trees such as tuart, peppermint and melaleuca trees that are hundreds of years old;
- The Tuarts of Swan Coastal Plain PEC is in the processes of being declared TEC and that this factor should be considered with this application; and
- The area has been extensively cleared and remnant Capel bushland must be kept.

Submission two objects to the proposed clearing for the following reasons (summarised):

- There is no information in the application about the vegetation or ecosystem to be impacted by the proposed clearing
- There does not appear to have been a flora and vegetation assessment of the area proposed to be cleared; a flora and vegetation assessment is essential to ascertain whether the area contains flora, vegetation and fauna conservation significance;
- Hansen Road is an important vegetated corridor in the area;
- Raised their concerns that the road under application received little traffic and that further justification for the need of the application area is required from the applicant;
- The area is regarded as medium to high conservation value and contains a watercourse;
- The application area directly impacts the Banksia Woodland TEC and Tuart Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain PEC;
- The application area directly impacts Carnaby's cockatoo breeding habitat, potential foraging areas, and within 20km buffer of a confirmed roosting area;
- The application area directly impacts vegetation within a 10km buffer of the DoE Important Wetlands, SCP Geomorphic Wetlands of conservation value, internationally-significant RAMSAR wetlands, Bush Forever and Environmentally Sensitive Area and DAA Aboriginal Sites and other heritage places of significance; and

- The local area contains 899 native plant species and conservation significant fauna species.

The submitter's concerns have been addressed through avoidance and minimations measures and under principles (a), (b), (d) (e) and (h).

5. References

- Capel LCDC (2018) Direct Interest letter response for CPS 7863/1 - Shire of Capel - Hansen Rd reserve, Capel.
- 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) (2007 -) Nature Map: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> . Assessed December 2018.
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