



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7959/1
File Number: DER2018/000036
Duration of Permit: From 19 May 2018 to 19 May 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Marissa Ann Bennett
Nigel Garnsworthy Bennett
Kylie Leanne Hubbard
Rex Sinclair Hubbard

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 2 on Diagram 49339, Moondyne

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 37.98 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 7959/1a and Plan 7959/1b.

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. 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.
- 3. Vegetation management**
 - (a) The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 25 metres of any watercourse or breakaway within or adjacent to the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 7959/1a and Plan 7959/1b.
 - (b) The Permit Holder shall not clear native vegetation within 10 metres of any rock outcrop within or adjacent to the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 7959/1a and Plan 7959/1b.
- 4. Fauna management**

The Permit Holder shall not clear trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 30 centimetres or greater.

5. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done in pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) Actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of the Permit.
- (c) Actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2 of the Permit.

6. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 5 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 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, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 19 February 2020, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 5 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 6(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

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;

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.

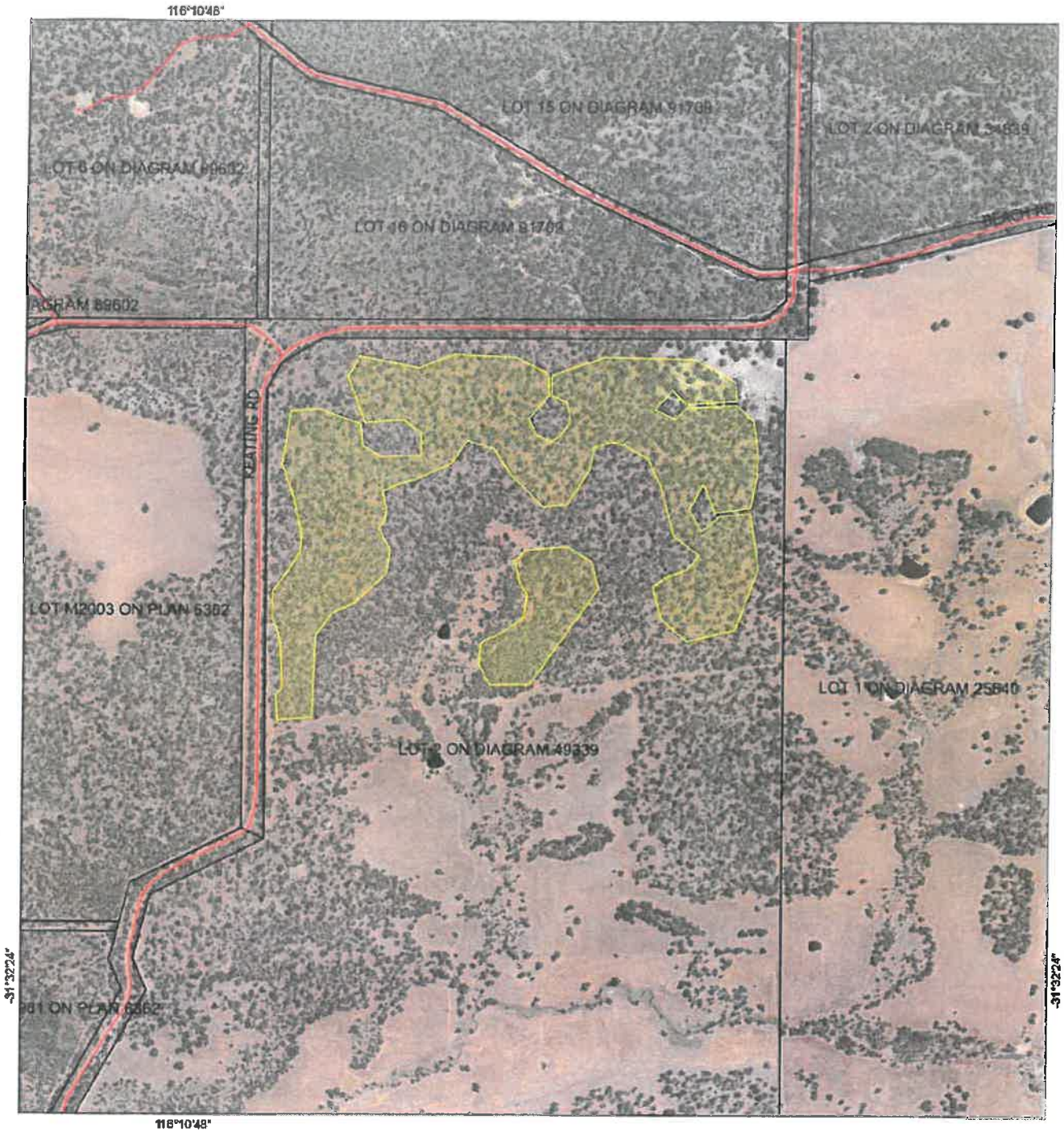


Jane Clarkson
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

19 April 2018

Plan 7959/1a



Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- roads_201501131816
- Cadastre
- WANow_Imagery

500



500 m



MGA94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

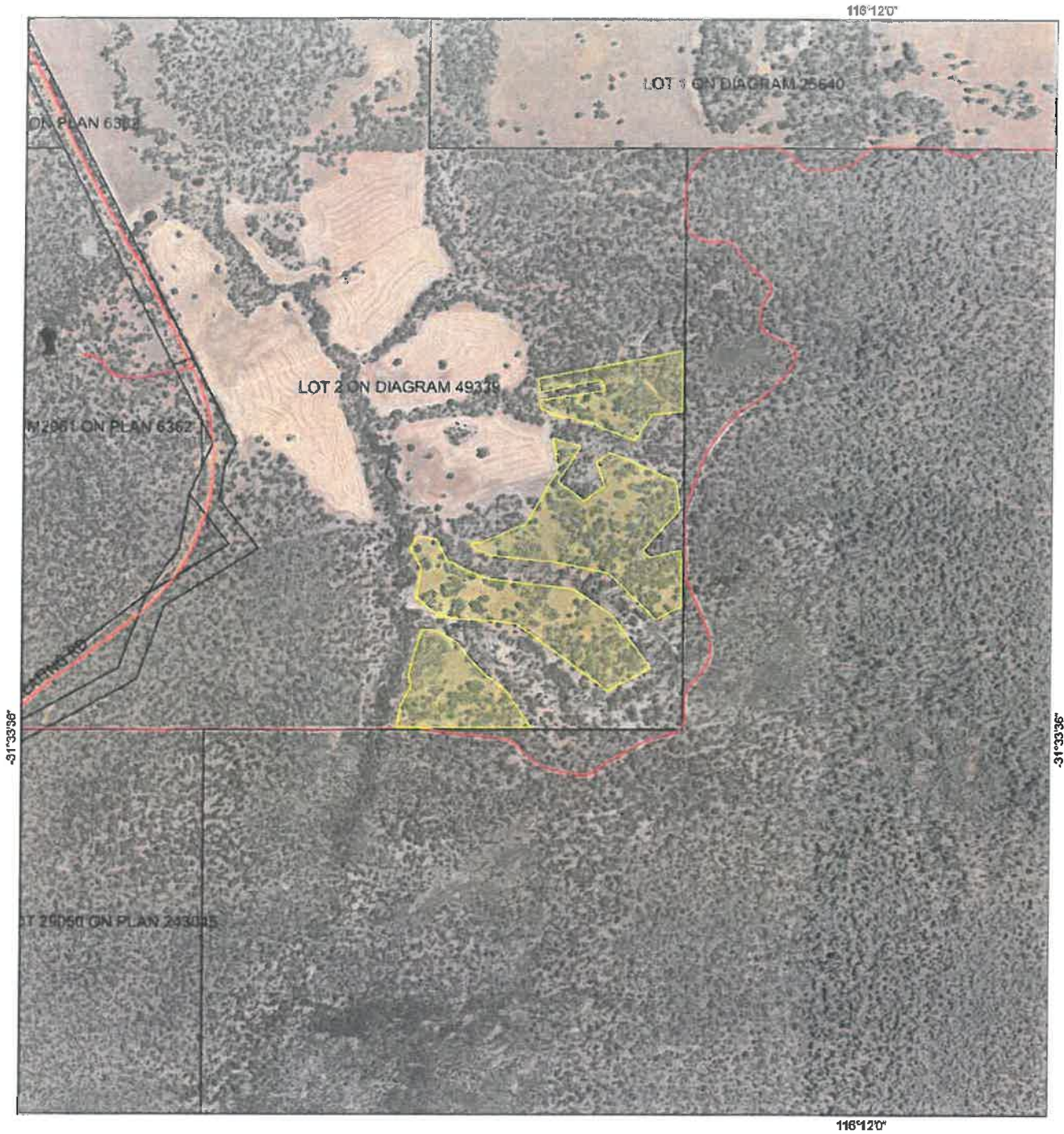
J. Clarkson Date 19.4.18
J Clarkson

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 7959/1b



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  roads_201501131816
-  Cadastre
-  WANow_Imagery

600



600 m

MGA94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 19.4.18
J Clarkson

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.: 7959/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Ms Kylie Leanne Hubbard
Mr Rex Hubbard
Ms Marissa Ann Bennett
Mr Nigel Garnsworthy Bennett

Application received date: 04 January 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 49339
Local Government Authority: TOODYAY, SHIRE OF
Localities: MOONDYNE

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
35.98		Mechanical Removal	Pasture and Grazing

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 19 April 2018

Reason for Decision: The clearing permit application received on 4 January 2018 has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

A site inspection undertaken by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation officers identified rock out crops, breakaways and watercourses in the vicinity of the application area. The permit has been conditioned to ensure that clearing does not occur within 25 metres of watercourses and breakaways, and not within 10 metres of rock outcrops.

Through assessment it was determined that the application area may contain suitable breeding trees for Carnaby's cockatoo. The applicant has made a commitment to retain trees with a diameter at breast height of 30cm or greater. To ensure this commitment is adhered to the Delegated Officer has added a fauna management condition to the permit.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation (Moondyne Nature Reserve). To minimise this impact, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The applicant proposes to clear 37.98 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2 on Diagram 49339, Moondyne, for the purpose of pasture and grazing.

Vegetation Description **Darling Plateau Michibin Mi** – (approximately 45 per cent of application area) - Open woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* over *Acacia acuminata* with some *Eucalyptus loxophleba* on valley slopes, with low woodland of *Allocasuarina huegeliana* on or near shallow granite outcrops in arid and perarid zones.

Coolakin Ck – (approximately 20 per cent of application area) - Woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* with mixtures of *Eucalyptus patens*, *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *thalassica* and *Corymbia calophylla* on the valley slopes in arid and perarid zones.

Yalanbee Y6 – (approximately 35 per cent of application area) - Woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* with mixtures of *Eucalyptus patens*, *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *thalassica* and *Corymbia calophylla* on the valley slopes in arid and perarid zones.

A site inspection undertaken by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) officers on 1 March 2016 the application area was observed to consist of open woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* and *Corymbia calophylla* (DWER, 2018). Very little understorey and ground cover species were observed throughout (DWER, 2018).

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).

Soil type

Chittering land resources survey indicates that the application area is dominated by the following Map Units (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC), 2018);

Wundowie YA3 Phase. Map Unit 253WnYA3

Very gentle to gentle upper slopes (<10%) and crests. Shallow, pisolitic clayey sands of varying depths overlying laterite. Low woodland and shrubland with scattered trees.

Bindoon 1x Phase. Map Unit 253Bn_1x

Very gentle to moderately sloping (<15%) crests and hill slopes. Light to medium textured and shallow clay soils with varying percentages of coarse fraction.

Julimar Michibin 3 Phase. Map Unit 253Ju_2c

Very gentle to moderate hill slopes (<10-15%) with some breakaways. Red and yellow duplex and some uniform fine soils which may be gravelly near crests.

Fig 1: Northern Application Area

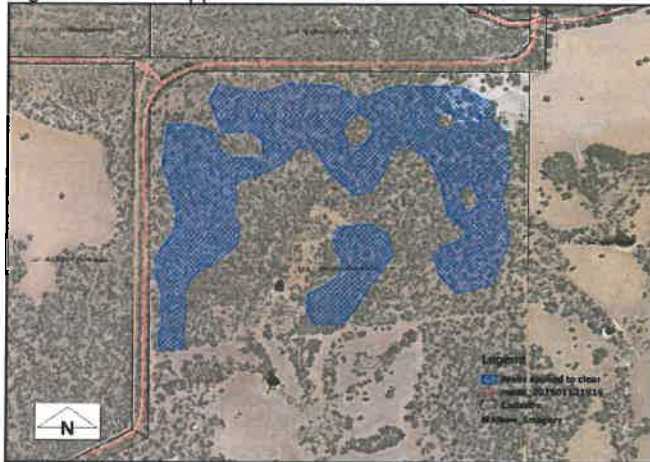
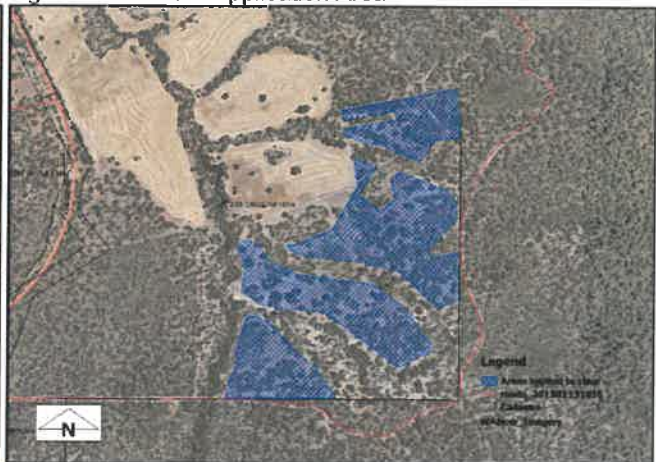


Figure 2: Southern Application Area



3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The original application was for 106.35 hectares of native vegetation. During the DWER site inspection it was advised, by the applicant's father, that the applicants did not intend on clearing with in the vicinity of watercourses, breakaways or out crops. It was also advised that the area would be parkland cleared, leaving all of the larger trees.

On 20 March 2018 the applicant submitted an addendum to the application advising that they would abide by the following clearing restraints:

1. A 50 metre (m) buffer (25m either side of watercourse) would be retained for all water courses within the intended clearing zone.
2. Breakaways where the land transitions from flat to inclined would be left untouched with a minimum buffer of 50m remaining (25m either side of the breakaway).
3. Rock outcrops would remain untouched with a buffer of at least 10m remaining around the rock outcrop.
4. All trees with a diameter of greater than 30 centimetres (cm) at a height of 1.5m above the ground would be retained. Most trees with a diameter of greater than 20cm at a height of 1.5m above the ground would be retained. It is proposed to fell no more than 50 trees with a diameter in the range of 20-30 cm.
5. The primary target trees of the clearing operation will be the red gum regrowth, however smaller white-gum regrowth will also be targeted in certain areas.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles, planning instruments and other relevant matters

(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

The applicant proposes to clear 37.98 hectares of native vegetation within a footprint area of 48.8 hectares on Lot 2 on Diagram 49339, Moondyne, for the purpose of pasture and grazing. Approximately 17.5 hectares is proposed to be cleared in the southern application area and approximately 31.3 hectares within the northern application area. The application area has previously been cleared approximately 40 years ago, however the area was not maintained and the application area now contains regrowth wandoo and marri woodland. The applicant intends on clearing to the extent that was previously cleared.

Nine priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius of the application area). The majority of these species grow in steep gullies, hilltops, slopes, ridges or breakaways. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has advised that if clearing is confined to areas outlined in the addendum then it is unlikely that priority flora will be located within the application area (DBCA, 2018).

As discussed in Principle (b), six terrestrial fauna species listed as specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act) have been recorded with the local area, being; Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), black-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis subsp. Lateralis*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), and southern brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa*) (DBCA, 2007-). The application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

No priority or threatened ecological communities have been recorded within the local area.

The application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and consists primarily of wandoo and marri trees and therefore is not likely to contain a high level of biodiversity. Therefore 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Six terrestrial fauna species listed as specially protected under the WC Act have been recorded with the local area, being; Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), black-footed rock-wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis subsp. Lateralis*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), and southern brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa*) (DBCA, 2007-).

Carnaby's cockatoo is listed as endangered and Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed cockatoo are listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and 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).

Black cockatoo breeding habitat 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. For salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

As discussed in Section 3 of this report, the applicant has advised that "All trees with a diameter of greater than 30cm at a height of 1.5m above the ground would be retained. Most trees with a diameter of greater than 20cm at a height of 1.5m above the ground would be retained. We propose to fell no more than 50 trees with a diameter in the range of 20-30 cm". Given this advice the applicant will not be clearing suitable breeding trees 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 falls outside of the modelled distribution for Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoos, therefore the application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for these species. The application area falls within the know distribution range for Carnaby's cockatoo and contains favourable foraging species for this species.

Although the application area contains favourable foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, the majority of the application is in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and approximately 35,000 hectares of native is retained in nearby conservation areas (Moondyne Nature Reserve, Avon Valley National Park and Julimar State Forest) which contains better condition foraging habitat. Therefore, the application area is not likely to be significant habitat for this species.

Chuditch are now only present in approximately five per cent of their pre-European range. Most chuditch are now found in varying densities throughout the jarrah forest and south coast of Western Australia. Chuditch use a range of habitats including forest, mallee shrublands, woodland and desert. The densest populations have been found in riparian jarrah forest (DEC, 2012a). The application area does not contain suitable habitat for this species.

The southern brush-tailed phascogale is found in south west Western Australia where they have been observed in dry sclerophyll forests and open woodlands that contain hollow bearing trees. Habitat clearing, fragmentation, and alteration by logging and mining are the greatest threats to this species (DEC, 2012b). Although the application area contains suitable habitat for this species, given that the majority of the trees proposed to be cleared will have a DBH of less than 20cm it is unlikely that the trees will contain suitable hollows for this species.

Given the predominately degraded condition of the application area, the age and size of the trees proposed to be cleared and the extent of vegetation retained in nearby conservation reserves the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

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

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

Two rare flora species have been recorded within the local area.

The first species is a shrub that grows in gravelly loam on a roadside in partially cleared eucalyptus woodland (DSEWPC, 2013).

The second species is also a shrub and is found in areas of woodland on lateritic hilltops (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

DBCA has advised that if the clearing is confined to the areas outlined in the addendum then it is unlikely that the above mentioned rare flora species will occur within the application area (DBCA, 2018).

Given the above, the proposed clearing 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

No threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been recorded within the local area.

The closest mapped TEC is the 'Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain', which has been identified 12.5 kilometres west of the application area. This ecological community has a dominant *Banksia* component, which includes at least one of four key species—*Banksia attenuata* (candlestick banksia), *B. menziesii* (firewood banksia), *B. prionotes* (acorn banksia) and/or *B. ilicifolia* (holly-leaved banksia) (DotEE, 2016). The application area does not contain Banksia species and is therefore not representative of this community.

Given the above 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 application area is located within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion. This bioregion has approximately 53.4 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2018a).

The application area is also mapped as Mattiske vegetation complexes Darling Plateau Michibin, Coolakin and Yalanbee which retain approximately 25.6, 39 and 47 per cent of their pre-European extent respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018b).

The area under application is located within the Shire of Toodyay, within which there is approximately 50.4 per cent pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2018a).

The local area retains approximately 35 per cent native vegetation.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 include a target to have clearing controls in place that prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750 (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

The majority of the application area (approximately 45 per cent) is mapped as the Darling Plateau Michibin complex with retains approximately 25.6 per cent of its pre-European extent, which is below the abovementioned 30 per cent threshold. However, as the application area is predominately in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and is not likely to contain rare or priority flora, or contain significant fauna habitat, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	% Current Extent in All DBCA-Managed Land (proportion of Current Extent)	Current percentage remaining within all DBCA managed land* (%)
IBRA Bioregion*					
Jarrah Forest	4,506,660	2,406,939	53.4	69.5	39.4
Shire*					
Shire of Toodyay	169,163	85,242	50.4	46.2	23.4
Mattiske Vegetation Complex**					
Darling Plateau Michibin Mi – 45%	168,040	42,998	25.6		5
Coolakin Ck – 20%	163,992	64,206	39		20
Yalanbee Y6 – 35%	197,849	92,083	47		21

(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

The closest wetland to the application area is an unnamed multiple use wetland located approximately 5.2 kilometres west of the application area.

Numerous watercourses traverse the property, however the original application area has been amended to remove areas associated with watercourses. The applicant has also committed to retaining a 25 metre buffer to either side of all watercourses.

Given the distance to the closest wetland and the applicant's commitment to retain buffers to watercourses 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

Chittering land resources survey indicates that the application area is dominated by the following Map Units (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2018);

Wundowie YA3 Phase. Map Unit 253WnYA3

Very gentle to gentle upper slopes (<10%) and crests. Shallow, pisolitic clayey sands of varying depths overlying laterite. Low woodland and shrubland with scattered trees.

Bindoon 1x Phase. Map Unit 253Bn_1x

Very gentle to moderately sloping (<15%) crests and hill slopes. Light to medium textured and shallow clay soils with varying percentages of coarse fraction.

Julimar Michibin 3 Phase. Map Unit 253Ju_2c

Very gentle to moderate hill slopes (<10-15%) with some breakaways. Red and yellow duplex and some uniform fine soils which may be gravelly near crests.

The majority of northern area consists of the Wundowie YA3 Phase and to lesser extend Bindoon 1x Phase. The southern section consists equally of Bindoon 1x Phase and Julimar Michibin 3 Phase.

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC) has advised that the risk of salinity and waterlogging causing land degradation are low. The risk of eutrophication causing significant change and land degradation is also low, especially if the waterways (and suitable buffers) remain uncleared (CSLC, 2018).

The extreme north east corner of the property is the most prone to wind erosion because of the soil types present. The majority of this area has now been removed from the application area. No significant change is expected if sufficient pasture cover is maintained (CSLC, 2018).

Land degradation by water erosion of the waterways, and the land adjacent to them is highly likely, especially in the southern area proposed to be cleared (CSLC, 2018). This area has a number of deeply incised waterways associated with erodible soils types. Clearing native vegetation from these areas (without suitable buffers) would most likely result in water erosion to the side of the waterway and the waterway (CSLC, 2018). The risk of water erosion causing land degradation is very high (CSLC, 2018). The applicant has amended the application to remove watercourses and has committed to retaining a 25 metre buffer to either side of identified watercourses.

Clearing in the vicinity of waterways has the potential to cause appreciable land degradation, however given the applicants commitment to retain buffers to the waterways, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. Therefore 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The eastern and southern boundaries of the southern application area are adjacent to Moondyne Nature Reserve. Moondyne Nature Reserve is contiguous to Avon Valley National Park.

Julimar State Forest is located approximately two kilometres north of the northern application area.

The application area supports an ecological corridor which links the above mentioned conservation areas. Although the application area supports this linkage, the linkage will not be severed as large tracts of vegetation will be retained on the property and the applicant intends on parkland clearing the application area and therefore larger trees will be retained to support the linkage.

The proposed clearing of the southern application area will increase the risk of weeds and/or dieback being spread or introduced into Moondyne Nature Reserve. The implementation of the weed and dieback management practices will minimise this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may 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

Numerous watercourses are located within Lot 2 however the applicant has amended the application area to avoid watercourses. The applicant has also committed to retaining a 25 metre buffer either side of all watercourses. Given the proposed buffer to all watercourses the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of surface water.

Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at less than 1,000-3,000 total dissolved solids, milligrams per litre. This level of groundwater salinity is classified as 'brackish to saline'. The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation has advised that salinity was not observed on the property or offsite and that no significant change is expected if the native vegetation is removed (CSLC, 2018).

Given the above, 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

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation has advised that the removal of remnant vegetation is not expected to contribute to flooding (CSLC, 2018).

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The Shire of Toodyay (2018) has advised that the subject land is zoned rural and the proposed use of grazing is consistent with this zoning. The Shire acknowledges that it contains a high proportion of remnant vegetation and fauna habitat compared to surrounding Wheatbelt shires. However notes that the Shire does not have a management responsibility for a significant portion of these areas and that it seems that very little effort has been put into offsetting the ongoing loss of the potential habitats (Shire of Toodyay, 2018). The shire further notes that application area appears to have regenerated well and has the potential to host habitat for local flora and fauna (Shire of Toodyay, 2018).

The Shire makes the following recommendations:

- The application area be assessed for the vegetation condition and tree hollows. The trees or vegetation complexes that represent the original remnants, mature trees with a potential to host biodiversity values, hollow trees or trees with a potential Carnaby's habitat to be protected. If future stock grazing is assessed to degrade the condition of the area, a condition to apply specific vegetation protection measures for these trees be considered.
- That the site be assessed for *phytophthora* dieback disease and if required an appropriate dieback management hygiene procedure be put in place before any ground works are carried out.
- A requirement to compensate for the proposed partial clearing of vegetation through an appropriate vegetation offset measure be considered.

(Shire of Toodyay, 2018).

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 08 February 2018 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC) (2018) Land Degradation Assessment Report for clearing permit application CPS 7959/1 (DWER Ref: A1648315).
- 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-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed June 2017.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DCBA) (2018) Species and Communities Flora Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7959/1. Received on 23 March 2018 (DWER Ref: A1601256).
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (2012a). Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) Recovery Plan. Wildlife Management Program No. 54. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, Western Australia.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (2012b) Fauna profiles, Brush-tailed Phascogale, *Phascogale tapoatafa*. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- Department of the Environment and Energy (DotEE) (2016) *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (s 266B). Approved Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the *Banksia* Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community.
- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (2013). *Approved Conservation Advice for Grevillea corrugata (a shrub)*. Canberra, ACT: Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/65445-conservation-advice.pdf>. In effect under the EPBC Act from 26-Feb-2013.
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