



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7979/1
File Number: 2018/000253-1
Duration of Permit: 8 June 2018 to 8 June 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

PF Olsen (Aus) Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 4584 on Deposited Plan 213064, Scott River
Lot 4585 on Deposited Plan 231064, Courtenay
Lot 4265 on Deposited Plan 208480, Scott River

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.35 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7979/1.

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. 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. Flora management

When undertaking any clearing activities authorised under this Permit, a Flora Conservation Officer from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions South West region must be present to oversee the pruning of rare flora listed under the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice* and to ensure minimal clearing occurs in areas where rare flora and vegetation associated with a *threatened ecological community* occurs.

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 *weed* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit; and
- (f) actions taken in accordance with condition 3 of the 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 administering 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;

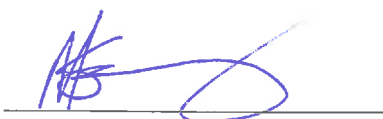
threatened ecological community means an ecological community that -

- (a) has been determined by the Minister to be a threatened ecological community; and
- (b) is referred to in the list of threatened ecological communities maintained by the chief executive officer of the department of the Public Service principally assisting in the administration of the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*.

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned; and

Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice means those plant taxa gazetted as rare flora pursuant to section 23F(2) of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

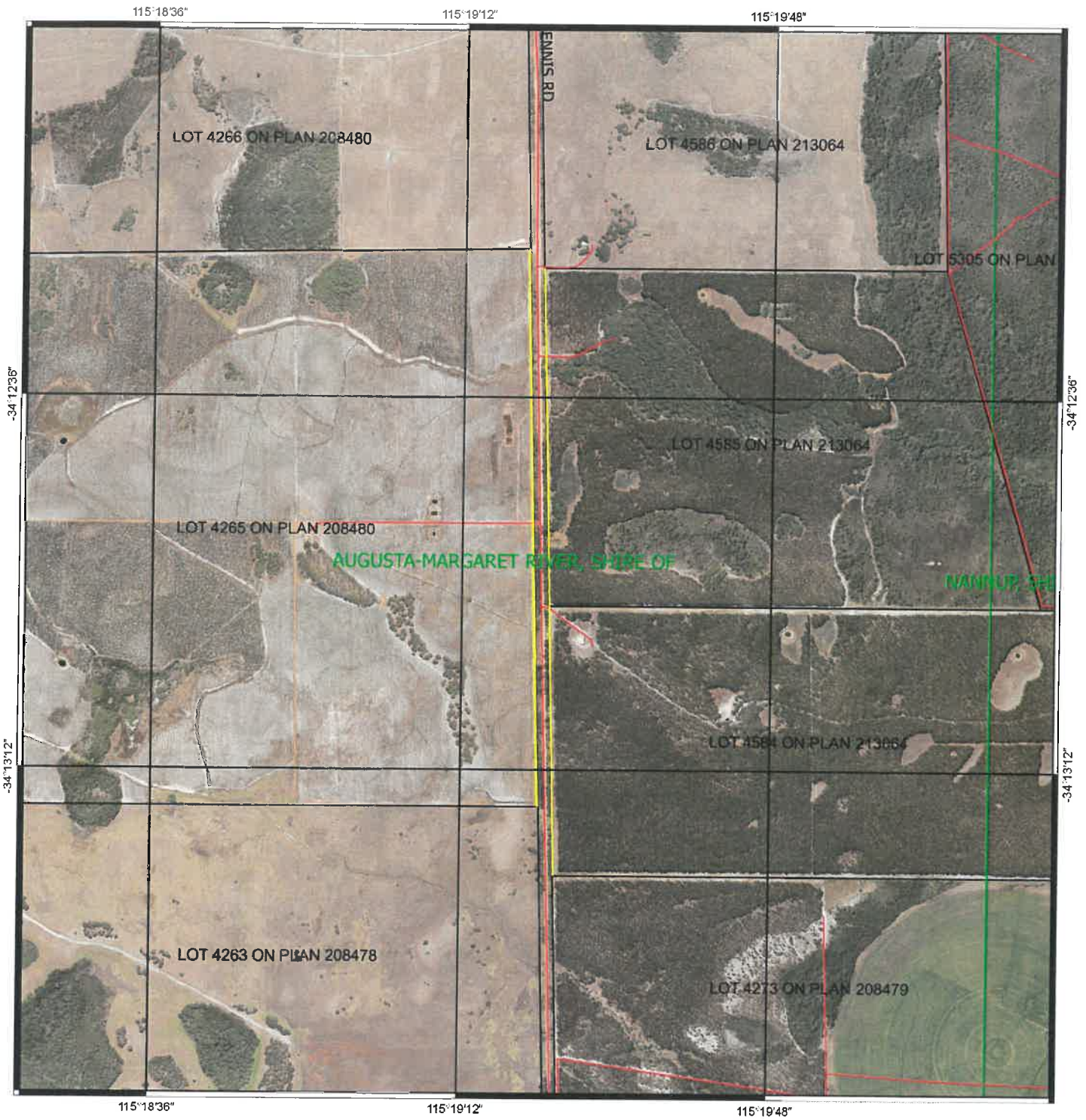


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

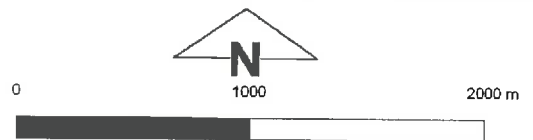
9 May 2018

Plan 7979/1



Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- Roads
- Local Government Authority cadastre
- Cadastre
- WANow_Imagery



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994
MS Date: *09/05/2018*
Mathew Gannaway

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7979/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: PF Olsen (Aus) Pty Ltd
Application received date: 08 February 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 4585 on Deposited Plan 213064, Courtenay
Lot 4584 on Deposited Plan 213064, Scott River
Lot 4265 on Deposited Plan 208480, Scott River
Local Government Authority: Augusta-Margaret River, Shire of
Localities: Courtenay and Scott River

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.35		Mechanical Removal	Fence line maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 9 May 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 is at variance to principles (c) and (f), may be at variance to (a) and (d), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

Based on the assessment, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing will impact on a population of rare flora species and on vegetation associated to a threatened ecological community (TEC).

To minimise the impact of the proposed clearing on the rare flora population and TEC vegetation, a condition has been placed on the permit that requires a Flora Conservation Officer from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions's South West Region to be present at the time of the proposed clearing to oversee rare flora pruning and identify the areas containing TEC vegetation.

The proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. A weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise this risk.

The applicant is required to adhere to the conditions as outlined in the Local Law Permit that has been issued by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and the Permit to take Declared Rare Flora issued under Section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 0.35 hectares of native vegetation within the above mentioned properties, for the purpose of fence line maintenance (Figure 1).

Vegetation Description The application has been mapped within the following South West Forest Plain (Mattiske and Havel, 1998) vegetation complexes:

- Nillup (Nw): Mixture of open woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* with some *Eucalyptus patens* and *Eucalyptus megacarpa* and tall shrubland of *Agonis* spp. with some emergent *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Banksia littoralis* on broad depressions in the perhumid zone.
- Scott (Swd): Mosaic of sedgeland of Restionaceae-Cyperaceae spp. and closed heath of Myrtaceae-Proteaceae spp. with occasional *Banksia ilicifolia* on swampy

depressions and stunted *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Banksia attenuata*-*Xylomelum occidentale* on low sandy rises in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.

- Scott (Sd): Low open forest and low woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Corymbia calophylla*-*Agonis flexuosa* with some *Eucalyptus patens* and *Banksia* spp. on low dunes to low woodland of *Melaleuca preissiana*-*Banksia littoralis* on inter-dune depressions in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.

Vegetation Condition

The condition and description of the vegetation was determined via a site inspection undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (DBCA 2018a; DBCA 2018b). The application area was determined as being in degraded to very good condition, as described below:

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

To

Very Good; Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

Soil type

Three soil and landform types have been mapped within the application area:

- Scott River deep sandy flat Phase: Flats with high winter water tables and deep bleached siliceous sands.
- Nillup flats Phase: Flats mainly with pale grey mottled (Mungite) soils.
- Scott River wet sandy depression Phase: Poorly drained flats with deep organic stained siliceous sands.

Comment

The local area is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the outside of the application area.



Figure 1: Application area

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant met with DBCA South West Region staff on site on the 2nd February 2018. In order to reduce the impacts of the proposed clearing to the environmental values identified within the application area, the applicant has agreed to the following mitigation measures:

- The proposed clearing on the eastern side of Dennis Road reserve will be undertaken with minimal clearing in areas that support rare flora and TEC vegetation; and

- A Flora Conservation Officer from DBCA's South West Region be present on the day of the proposed clearing to oversee rare flora pruning and to ensure that machine operators are aware of the area's containing rare flora/TEC vegetation.

DBCA has recommended the applicant use a posi-track machine to limit the proposed clearing depth to approximately 0.5 metres to further minimise the impact to rare flora/TEC vegetation located on the eastern side of the Dennis Road reserve (DBCA, 2018a).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As discussed under Section 2, the application is to clear up to 0.35 hectares of native vegetation within the abovementioned Lots for the purpose of fence line maintenance.

A site inspection of the application area was conducted by DBCA South West Regional officers on the 2nd February 2018. The vegetation proposed for clearing on the western side of Dennis Road reserve (within Lot 4265) is limited regrowth vegetation on the existing firebreak. The vegetation comprises of scattered plants of *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Agonis flexuosa*, *Banksia littoralis*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, *Hakea linearis*, *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Meeboldina scariosa* and is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DBCA, 2018a; DBCA 2018b). DBCA advised that given there is already an existing firebreak adjacent to the fence line which provides room for the proposed works to occur, the proposed clearing is likely to have a minimal environmental impact provided the depth of clearing into roadside vegetation is kept at approximately 1 metre or less (DBCA, 2018a).

The vegetation on the eastern side of Dennis Road reserve (within Lots 4584 and 4585) is of a degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the majority of the area in a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DBCA, 2018b). The vegetation types within this area identified during DBCA's site inspection are listed in Table 1 (where 0 metres is the northern extent of the proposed clearing) (DBCA, 2018a).

According to available databases, there are records of nine rare flora species and 51 priority (P) flora species of extant taxa within the local area (10 kilometre radius). As indicated in Table 1, three records of the P3 species *Calothamnus lateralis* var. *crassus* (17 records), three records of the P3 species *Loxocarya magna* and two records of the P3 species *Grevillea manglesioides* subsp. *ferricola* were identified during the site inspection undertaken by DBCA South West Region (DBCA, 2018a). It is not likely the proposed clearing will impact on the conservation status of these species given there are 17, 38 and 19 records respectively known from several different localities not under imminent threat.

The proposed fence line clearing on the eastern side of Dennis Road reserve will impact upon one population of a rare flora species (DBCA, 2018a). DBCA advised that the impact of the proposed clearing to this rare flora species can be reduced by pruning only (DBCA, 2018a). Both the DBCA and the applicant have obtained approvals for a permit to take rare flora for inadvertent or incidental damage to whole plants/soil stored seed and to undertake rare flora pruning (DBCA, 2018a).

The Scott River Ironstone Association threatened ecological community (TEC) is mapped directly adjacent to the application area. The site inspection undertaken by DBCA identified vegetation representative of this TEC within two portions of the application area. Table 1 outlines where the TEC vegetation occurs along the eastern side of Dennis Road reserve. Approximately 0.053 hectares (15.1 per cent) of the application area is considered to be vegetation consistent with this TEC. Noting the extent of TEC vegetation within the application area and the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant to reduce the impact to this TEC, it is not likely the proposed clearing will significantly impact on this TEC.

Table 1: Vegetation description and environmental values that will be impacted on the eastern side of Dennis Road (DBCA, 2018a)

Start (metres)	End (metres)	Species/Vegetation
0	280	<i>Calothamnus lateralis</i> var. <i>crassus</i> (P3), <i>Loxocarya magna</i> (P3), <i>Chordifex isomorphus</i> , Scott River Ironstone TEC vegetation
280	300	Seasonal creekline crossing (weed infested)
300	550	<i>Calothamnus lateralis</i> var. <i>crassus</i> (P3), <i>Loxocarya magna</i> (P3), <i>Grevillea manglesioides</i> subsp. <i>ferricola</i> (P3), <i>Chordifex isomorphus</i> , Scott River Ironstone TEC vegetation
550	630	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i> , <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> , <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> low forest vegetation
630	680	<i>Calothamnus lateralis</i> var. <i>crassus</i> (P3)
680	1400	<i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> , <i>Taxandria parviceps</i> , <i>C.calophylla</i> , <i>A.flexuosa</i> , <i>Anarthria scabra</i> , <i>Anigozanthus flavidus</i> , <i>Petrophile serruriae</i> , <i>Baumea juncea</i> , <i>Acacia myrtifolia</i>
1400	1500	Scattered plants of <i>Loxocarya magna</i> (P3), <i>Grevillea manglesioides</i> subsp. <i>ferricola</i> (P3)
1500	1800	Scattered plants of <i>A.flexuosa</i> , <i>X.preissii</i> , <i>Stenotalis ramosissima</i> , <i>Meeboldina scariosa</i> , <i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i> *

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 mapped Nillup (Nw), Scott (Swd) and Scott (Sd) South West vegetation association complexes retain approximately 71.4, 68 and 45 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area surrounding the application area retains approximately 51.2 per cent (18,017.20 hectares) native vegetation cover. As the mapped vegetation associations and local area retain above the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is not considered to represent a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area.

According to available databases, a total of eleven fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Noting the *Eucalyptus marginata* and *Corymbia calophylla* low forest vegetation present within the application area, suitable foraging habitat for the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*) and Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) may be present within the application area. However, noting the small size of the clearing, well represented vegetation extents within the local area outlined above, and the extensive higher quality vegetation located adjacent to the west of the application area, it is not likely the proposed clearing will provide significant habitat for both species of black cockatoo.

The entire application area is mapped within a Palusplain (seasonally waterlogged flat). A seasonal creekline also crosses the application area (DBCA, 2018a). Noting the Restionaceae and Cyperaceae species identified during the site inspection undertaken by DBCA which are usually associated with damp habitats, and the seasonal creekline that intersects the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact upon wetland vegetation associated to these hydrological features. However, impacts to wetland vegetation are likely to be minimal given the extent of the proposed clearing and the minimisation/mitigation measures proposed to be implemented by the applicant.

Noting the small size of the application area and the depth of the fence line clearing will be kept at a depth of one metre or less, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding, or impact upon water quality.

According to available databases, the closest conservation area is Pagett Nature Reserve (A class) located 750 metres north of the application area. Given the distance between the application area and this reserve, it is not likely the proposed clearing would impact on the environmental values of this conservation area. However it is considered that the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent remnant vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principles (c) and (f), may be at variance to principle (a) and (d), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (the Shire) provided advice regarding the clearing permit application advising that a Local Law Permit would be required for the proposed fence line clearing. Following liaison between DBCA and the applicant due to the environmental values identified within the application area, a Local Law Permit was issued to the applicant with the inclusion of a number of conditions. These conditions included the need for a clearing permit from the DWER, a permit to take rare flora and to comply with previous advice provided by the DBCA (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2018). The Shire advised that they support the clearing permit application, provided the proposed clearing is done in accordance with the conditions included in the Local Law Permit (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2018).

On 27 March 2018, DBCA granted a Permit to take Declared Rare Flora issued under Section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* to the applicant (DBCA, 2018a). The applicant is required to adhere to the conditions imposed on the permit.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 13 March 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, 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 May 2018.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2018a) Regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7979/1. Received on 3 April 2018 (DWER Ref: A1665339).
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2018b) Additional regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7979/1. Received 2 May 2018 (DWER Ref: A1666385).
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of April 2018. 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.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (2018) Advice received for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7979/1. Received 15 March 2018 (DWER Ref: A1666385).