



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8091/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Manjimup
Duration of Permit:	24 November 2018 – 24 November 2023

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of road widening.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Pimelea Road reserve (PIN 11243074), Channybearup

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.25 hectares of native vegetation and 26 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8091/1.

4. Application

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. 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:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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 the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under Condition 7 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;

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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

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Abbie Crawford
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION




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

26 October 2018

Plan 8091/1



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:15,016

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

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8091/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Manjimup
Application received date: 1 June 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Pimelea Road reserve (PIN 11243074), Channybearup
Local Government Authority: Shire of Manjimup
Localities: Channybearup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.25	26	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 26 October 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 1 June 2018 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing Principles.

The Delegated Officer noted that the completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area (the road corridor), and that the local area retains approximately 70 per cent remnant native vegetation, most of which is considered likely to represent similar or better habitat value to that of the application area. It is also noted the proposed road widening activities will occur between the edge of the road surface to the outer edge of adjoining table drain, which includes the combined 1.5 metre shoulder and table drain.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation, including Donnelly and Big Brook State Forests. To minimise this impact, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to avoid and minimise, weed and reporting conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable impact to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The application to clear 26 native trees, and associated 0.25 hectares of native ground cover, within a 2.5 kilometre footprint area within Pimelea Road reserve, Channybearup, is for the purpose of improving road safety, line-of-site and drainage (refer Figure 1). It is proposed to widen the road surface to six metres and create a combined 1.5 metre wide shoulder and table drain either side of the road surface. Only those trees between the edge of the road surface and within 1.5 metre wide shoulder/drainage channel will be removed if deemed necessary. The existing road surface is not sealed and will remain unsealed (Shire of Manjimup, 2018a and 2018b).

Vegetation Description

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as the following South West Forest vegetation complexes:

- Crowea - CRb: Tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla*-*Eucalyptus diversicolor* on upper slopes with *Allocasuarina decussata*-*Banksia grandis* on upper slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones;
- Crowea - CRy: Tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla* with mixture of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* and *Eucalyptus diversicolor* on uplands in hyperhumid and perhumid zones; and

- Pemberton - PM1: Tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* with mixtures of *Corymbia calophylla* on valley slopes and low forest of *Agonis juniperina*-*Banksia seminuda*-*Callistachys lanceolata* on valley floors in the perhumid zone (Mattiske, 1998).

Vegetation Condition

Based on photographs provided by the applicant (refer Figures 2 to 11) (Shire of Manjimup, 2018c and 2018d) it is noted that the vegetation is considered to vary from being in the following condition:

- completely degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost without native species; to
- good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate to it. (Keighery, 1994).

Based upon these photographs it is noted the road reserve comprises an upper-storey of eucalyptus trees with a varying age structure (juvenile to mature trees, which occur either in small clusters or as individuals), an absent or scattered mid-storey and a sparse ground cover with weeds. There are also areas completely devoid of any vegetation (Shire of Manjimup, 2018c).

Soil/Landform type

The soil types within the application area are mapped as:

- Crowea (Pimelia), brown duplex Phase: Loamy gravels and red deep loamy duplexes; karri-marri forest;
- Crowea (Pimelia): yellow duplex Phase: Loamy gravels and duplex sandy gravels; jarrah-marri forest; and
- Pemberton Subsystem (Pimelia): loamy gravels; 20 to 40 m deep. Flat to gently sloping floors. Few channels; smooth slopes. Red or yellow gradational soils, not calcareous with some red duplex soils (DPIRD, 2017).

Comments

The local area considered in the assessment of the application is described as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the application area. The local area retains approximately 70 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Map of application area (cross hatched blue). Pimelea Road, Shire of Manjimup.

Below photographs show typical vegetation type, structure and condition within the Pimelea Road application area (source: Shire of Manjimup, 2018c and 2018d)



Figure 2: SLK 0.08 - Pimelea Rd end looking west



Figure 3: SLK 0.35 – Pimelea Rd looking west



Figure 4: SLK 0.77 looking west



Figure 5: SLK 1.03 looking west



Figure 6: SLK 1.62 looking west towards brook crossing



Figure 7: SLK 1.94 looking west



Figure 8: SLK 2.25 looking west



Figure 9: SLK 2.4 looking east



Figure 10



Figure 11

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The applicant, Shire of Manjimup (the Shire), advised that the scope of works between SLK 0.08 to 2.4 involves widening the existing road surface to six metres, plus a combined 1.5 metre wide shoulder and table drain on each side of the road surface, to improve drainage and road safety. This work will occur between the edge of the existing road surface to the outer edge of the adjoining shoulder and table drain (the road formation). With the exception of 26 trees, the only other native vegetation which may require clearing is confined to ground cover species where they occur within the shoulder/table drain. The road is, and will remain, unsealed.

According to available datasets, one Priority One (P1) listed flora species (*Thomasia brachystachys*; a shrub to 1.5 metres tall) and one P2 species (*Inocybe redolens*; a mushroom) are mapped within the local area (WAH, 1998-). Neither of these flora species are have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped priority flora is the P1 species located six kilometres northeast from the eastern end of the application area. The species current distribution is confined to the slopes and peaks within the Stirling Ranges located 178 kilometres to the east. It is unlikely this species occurs within the application area. The mushroom species has a geographically wide habitat preference (on soil in Karri forest under *Eucalyptus diversicolor* and *Corymbia calophylla*). The only known recorded population (found in 2001) is 22 kilometres west of Pemberton (Nuytsia, 2012). The application area is not likely to support this species.

The rare flora species, *Commersonia paella* (a tall shrub) and *Caladenia harringtoniae* (an orchid), occur approximately three kilometres to the east of and approximately five kilometres west of the application area respectively (WAH, 1998-). The shrub's preferred habitat is associated with jarrah and wandoo forest and grey sands. The orchid's preferred habitat is *Melaleuca* (paperbark) and *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) swamps and flats, or along creeklines in jarrah (*E. marginata*) and karri (*E. diversicolor*) forests. From the photographs provided by the Shire (Shire of Manjimup, 2018c), it is unlikely the application area would support these habitat requirements.

According to available datasets, seven threatened fauna species are recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-): the Woylie (*Bettongia penicillata* subsp. *ogilbyi*), Numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) and Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*), Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudini*) and Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*).

From photographs provided by the Shire, and as noted in section 2 above, the scope of works will be restricted to the existing road formation (including the combined 1.5 metre wide shoulder and table drain on either side) where the vegetation varies from being in a completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Shire of Manjimup, 2018c and 2018d). It is unlikely there is any significant or suitable habitat for ground dwelling mammals in this narrow road reserve, should they exist in the immediate area. Aerial imagery indicates there is vegetation in a similar or better condition in some of the adjoining land parcels that could comprise habitat for these mammals.

From photographs provided by the applicant of the trees proposed to be removed, and given the mapped vegetation associations listed in section 2 above, none are considered suitable foraging habitat for the three black cockatoo species and none contain breeding hollows or show evidence of developing hollows (Shire of Manjimup, 2018d). The local area retains approximately 70 per cent remnant native vegetation, most of which is considered likely to represent similar or better habitat value to that of the application area, particularly that vegetation within conservation estate which exists within two kilometres of the application area. It is also noted in the photographs that other trees outside the road formation will remain. Given the size of the application area in the context and extent of native vegetation remaining within the local area, the application area is not likely to contain significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

No priority or threatened ecological communities are mapped within the application area or the local area.

Two minor, non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area – Treen and Fly Brook. Given the scope of the road works noted above, that culverts and drainage infrastructure is already in place, the applicant has advised it is not proposed to clear any additional vegetation adjoining these areas (Shire of Manjimup, 2018d). It is also unlikely, given the small and linear nature of the proposed road works, that the proposed road works will cause any un-acceptable environmental impacts to these water bodies. Potential impacts, if any, would be localised and short term.

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 application area is located within the Warren Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 79 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and the mapped South West vegetation associations Crowea (CRb and Cry) and Pemberton (PM1) retain approximately 85, 72 and 64 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 70 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the completely degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) vegetation condition, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The loamy gravel and duplex sandy gravel soils within the application area have a moderate risk of water and wind erosion (DPIRD, 2017). Groundwater salinity is low, measured at 500-1000 milligrams per litre, whilst no surface salinity is recorded (DPIRD, 2017).

The eastern end of the application area is located adjacent to Big Brook State Forest (North) and Donnelly State Forest (South). Given the relative small area under application, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of these State Forests. Appropriate management practices will ensure that weeds and dieback are not spread into adjacent areas of native vegetation.

Given the small size and location along an existing road corridor, it is not likely the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation in the form of wind or water erosion, cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding or cause any unacceptable environmental harm to surface or underground water quality.

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The application area is located within the *Country Area Water Supply Act 1947*, Warren River Water Reserve catchment. The proposed clearing is located within Zone D of the catchment. This is a low salinity risk area where Department of Water Environmental Regulation (DWER) Policy and Guidelines for the "Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation" recommends that licences would normally be granted subject to compensation payment and at least the statutory amount of 10 per cent native vegetation remains on the owner's holdings. The application area is not subject to compensation and the removal of road side vegetation will not affect the statutory 10 per cent amount (DWER, 2018).

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER's website on 30 July 2018 with a 21 day submission period. No submissions were received.

4. 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/>
- Department of Water Environmental Regulation (DWER, 2018) Landuse Planning Advice (A1720762)
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed April 2018).
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 State-wide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Nuytsia (2012) Vol. 22(2) The Journal of the Western Australian Herbarium published 28 May 2012 (<https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/science/nuytsia/630.pdf>)
- 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 Manjimup (2018a) Application for clearing permit and supporting documentation CPS 8091/1 (DWER Ref: A1685587)
- Shire of Manjimup (2018b and 2018c) Supporting documentation and photographs for application for clearing permit CPS 8091/1 (DWER Ref: A1719071 and A1719076)
- Shire of Manjimup (2018d) Site photographs for application for clearing permit CPS 8091/1 (DWER Ref: A1719078)
- Shire of Manjimup (2018e) Supporting documentation for clearing permit application CPS 8091/1 (DWER Ref: A1719078)
- Western Australian Herbarium (WAH, 1998-) FloraBase-the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, General Hydro
- Hydrography, Wetlands
- SAC bio datasets
- TPFL Data
- WAHerb Data
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries
- Virtual Mosaic WA Now / Aerial imagery (accessed August 2018)