



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8133/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Wandering
Duration of Permit:	5 December 2018 – 5 December 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

North Bannister-Wandering Road reserve (PIN 11350259), Wandering

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more 14 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8133/1.

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.

7. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the area(s) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify *habitat tree(s)* suitable to be utilised for nesting by Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*) or Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*).
- (b) Prior to clearing, any *habitat tree(s)* identified under condition 7(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna listed in condition 7(a).
- (c) Where fauna are identified under condition 7(b) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing of, or within 10 metres of, the identified *habitat tree(s)* occurs.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. 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 5 of the Permit.
- (c) Actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of the Permit.
- (d) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 7 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each black cockatoo 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; and
 - (ii) the species name of each black cockatoo identified.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under Condition 8 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO.

DEFINITIONS

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

black cockatoo habitat tree/s: means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 30 centimetres or greater that contain hollows suitable for nesting by Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo or forest red-tailed black cockatoo;

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, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, 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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

 Digitally signed by
Abbie Crawford
Date: 2018.11.05
13:45:49 +08'00'

Abbie Crawford
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

5 November 2018

Plan 8133/1

116°38'24"



Legend

 Area approved to clear



50 0 50 m



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date: 2018.11.05 14:27:34 +08'00'

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.: 8133/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Wandering
Application received date: 16 July 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: North Bannister-Wandering Road (PIN 11350259), Wandering
Local Government Authority: WANDERING, SHIRE OF
Localities: WANDERING

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 November 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 16 July 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 may be at variance to Principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

The application area may include suitable nesting trees for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and/or forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*). To prevent significant impacts to these fauna species a condition has been included on the permit requiring potential nesting trees to be inspected prior to clearing for evidence of use and avoiding clearing such trees if fauna is identified.

The Delegated Officer noted the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area (a road corridor). The applicant has avoided and minimised impacts through limiting tree removal to the north side of the road only. Other trees exist outside the road formation, including on the opposite side of the road, and will not be removed (Shire of Wandering, 2018).

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to avoid and minimise, weed and dieback, fauna management 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 from the Shire of Wandering (the Shire) is for the proposed clearing of 14 native trees in the vicinity of SLK 20.32 along the north side of the North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering, for the purpose of widening the road formation from seven to eleven metres for safety reasons (Figure 1).

Vegetation Description The application area covers two mapped South West Forest vegetation complexes:

- Williams (Wi) - Mixture of woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis*-*Melaleuca raphiophylla*, low forest of *Casuarina obesa* and tall shrubland of *Melaleuca* spp. on major valley systems in arid and perarid zones; and
- Michibin (Mi) - 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 (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

Vegetation Condition Based on photographs and site information provided by the Shire (refer Figures 2 to 5; Shire of Wandering, 2018) it is noted that the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. That is, the basic vegetation structure is severely impacted by disturbance; there is scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching 'Good' condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Soils Quindanning System: Brown deep loamy duplexes, yellow/brown deep sandy duplexes, grey deep sandy duplexes, red shallow loams and gravels (DPIRD,2017).

Comments The local area considered in the assessment of this application is described as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the application area. Aerial imagery indicates the local area retains approximately 50 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Map of application area (cross hatched blue). North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering SLK 20.32

Figures 2 to 5 below supplied by Shire of Wandering (Shire of Wandering, 2018)



Figure 2: North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering-tree line on left of image to be removed; those on right hand-side to be retained.



Figure 3: North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering – refer Fig 2.



Figure 4: North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering-large tree in shade beginning of tree line to be removed:

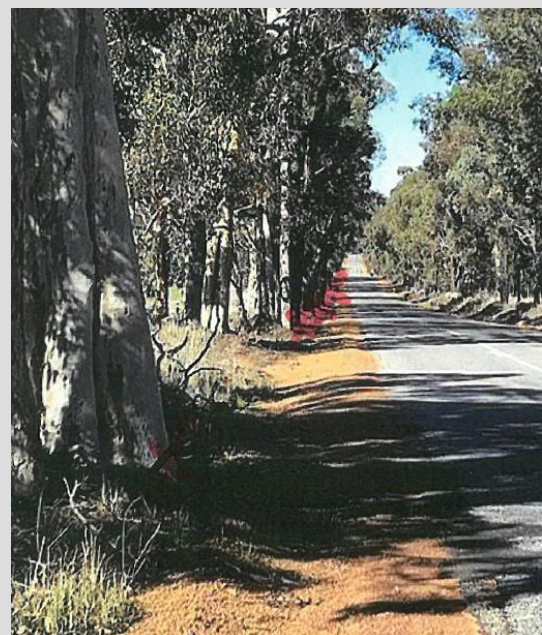


Figure 5: North Bannister-Wandering Road, Wandering-tree in shade beginning of tree line to be removed).

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The Shire assessed both sides of the road reserve and determined that the northern road reserve contained the least amount of vegetation. In addition to the 14 trees, this area comprises a weedy ground cover and no mid-storey; only the trees within the new drainage line require removal. It is noted from the photographs provided by the Shire (refer Figures 2 and 4) that trees will remain on the opposite side of the road (Shire of Wandering, 2018).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The road widening project, to address heavy haulage, line-of sight and road safety issues, involves expanding the road seal from seven to eleven metres. The Shire advised that the scope of works, the road seal widening activities, will occur between the edge of the existing road seal and the outer edge of the adjoining table drain (the road formation) being up to 2.5 metres wide and includes the 0.5 metre wide gravel shoulder on each side of the road. These works will require the construction of a new table drain and removal of 14 eucalyptus trees. Trees close to the adjoining fence line will not be removed. It is also noted from the photographs and advice provided by the Shire (refer Figures 2 and 4) that the opposite, southern road reserve will remain vegetated, including a mature eucalyptus tree-line (Shire of Wandering, 2018).

As observed in the photographs and from site information provided by the Shire, the 14 eucalyptus trees occur in close proximity to each other, there is no mid-storey and the groundcover comprises of weeds (Shire of Wandering, 2018). The vegetation is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

According to available datasets, two Priority 2 (P2) listed flora species, three P3 and four P4 species are mapped within the local area. The closest priority flora species (*Eucalyptus exilis* P4) is recorded approximately five kilometres southwest of the application area (WAH, 1998-). Although the soil and/or vegetation habitat requirements of some of these species may be similar to that of the application area, given the areas degraded condition, and that the proposed clearing is limited to 14 Eucalyptus trees, it is unlikely these species occur within the application area.

No rare flora species have been mapped within the local area (WAH, 1998-).

Six threatened fauna species, *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo), *Bettongia penicillata* subsp. *ogilbyi* (Woylie), *Dasyurus geoffroyi* (Chuditch) and *Myrmecobius fasciatus* (Numbat) have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-).

Only the 14 Eucalyptus trees along the north side of the North Bannister-Wandering Road are proposed to be cleared. It is noted that trees nearer to the fence-line and outside the application area will remain. It is also noted that no clearing of trees on the opposite side to the road will occur and that this area appears to be in a better condition (Figures 2-5). It is unlikely there is any suitable habitat in the narrow, degraded road reserve for ground dwelling fauna to use. The proposed clearing of 14 trees will not reduce the road reserves capacity to function as a corridor for fauna movement across the landscape, given the opposite road reserve will remain vegetated.

The Shire advised that one of the proposed trees in the application area may be of a suitable diameter at breast height to develop a nest hollow (Shire of Wandering, 2018). The local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 50 per cent remnant native vegetation, most of which is considered likely to represent similar/better nesting habitat value than that of the application area. Several timber reserves totalling more than 2,300 hectares in size occur within four kilometres of the application area. Therefore, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to have significant impacts on the three black cockatoo species unless clearing of trees, actively being utilised for nesting, occurs. Such impacts can be managed through pre-clearing inspections of potential nesting trees and avoidance of trees actively being utilised.

According to available datasets, no priority or threatened ecological communities are mapped within the application area.

No watercourses intersect the application area. A minor non-perennial watercourse, the Wandering Brook, is located approximately 170 metres east of the application area. The application area does not contain vegetation growing in association with this watercourse.

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 Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 53 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and the mapped South West Forest vegetation association's Wi and Mi each retain approximately 25 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 50 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the proposed clearing involves 14 trees, that there is no mid-storey and a weed impacted groundcover in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant in an area that is extensively cleared.

The brown deep loamy duplexes, yellow/brown deep sandy duplexes, grey deep sandy duplexes, red shallow loams and gravels mapped within the application area have a 'nil to moderate risk' of water and wind erosion and low flooding risk. Groundwater salinity is measured at 3,000-7,000 milligrams per litre, and is considered moderate, whilst surface salinity is mapped as having a nil risk (DPIRD, 2017).

Given the small size and linear nature of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be of a scale that would result in appreciable land degradation in the form of wind or water erosion, cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding or deteriorate the quality of surface or underground water.

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 26 July 2018 with a 21 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/>.
- 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 October 2018).
- Government of Western Australia (2018). *2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017*. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shire of Wandering (2018) Application for clearing permit and supporting documentation CPS 8133/1 (DWER Ref: A1703305 and A1719670)
- 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 October 2018)