



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 8140/1  
File Number: DER2018/001152  
Duration of Permit: From 12 October 2018 to 12 October 2020

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Corrigin

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Corrigin-Narembeen Road reserve (PIN: 11650204), Kurrenkutten

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than six native trees within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8140/1.

### 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. 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); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit.

**3. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 2 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

**CEO:** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*



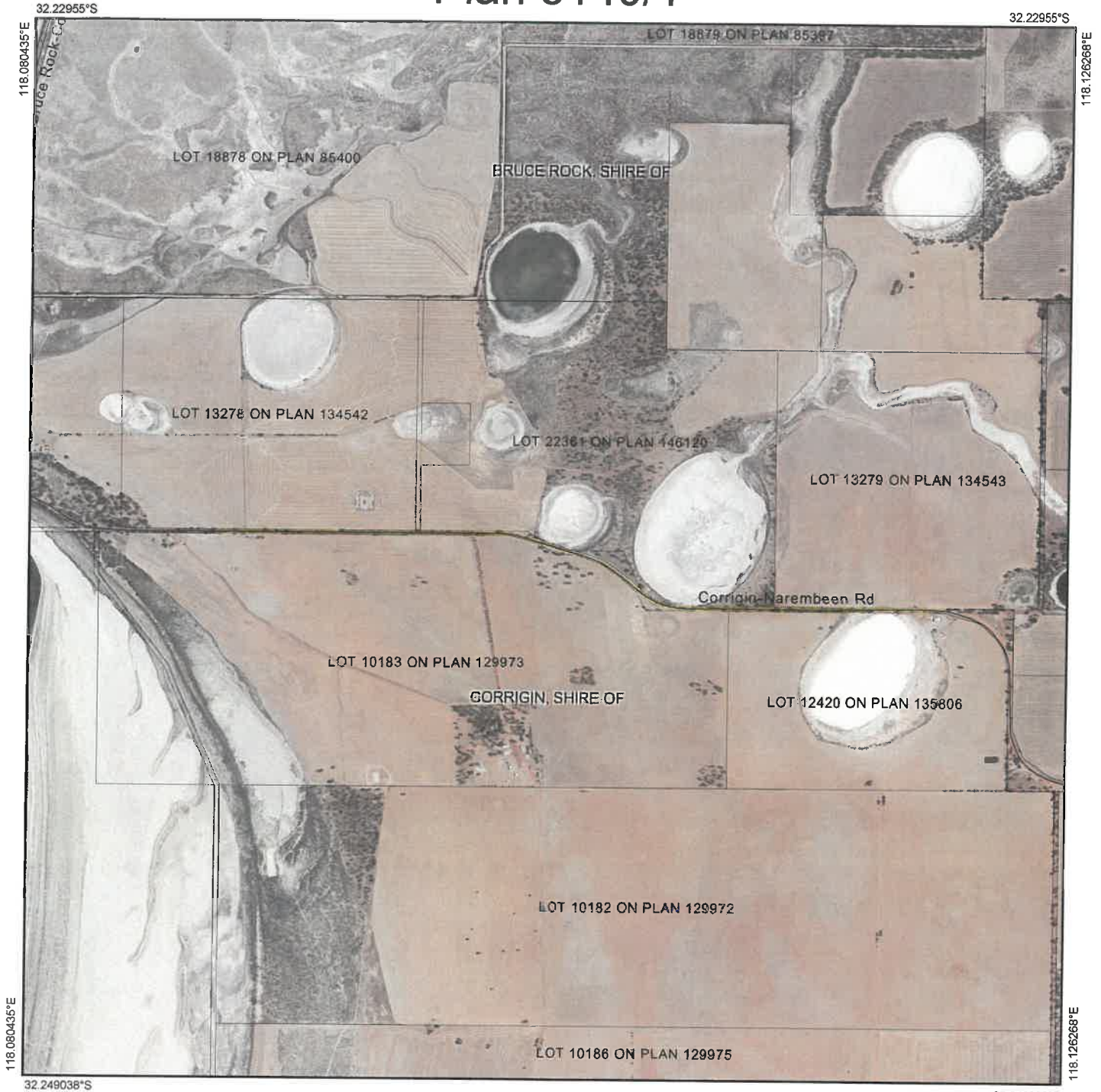
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Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION




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

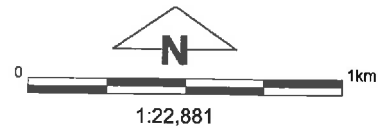
12 September 2018

# Plan 8140/1



## Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



1:22,881  
 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
 GDA 94 (Lat/Long)  
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*Mathew Gannaway* Date 12/09/2018  
 Mathew Gannaway

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 8140/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Corrigin  
Application received date: 19 July 2018

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Corrigin-Narembeen Road Reserve (PIN 11650204), Kurrenkutten  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Corrigin  
Localities: Kurrenkutten

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 12 September 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 19 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 is not at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer noted that the Completely Degraded to Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, being located within the existing road formation. It is also noted the proposed road seal widening activities will occur between the edge of the road seal to the outer edge of adjoining table drain (the road formation) which includes the 0.5 metre wide gravel shoulder. The six trees to be removed occur within a 50 metre section of the road corridor.

The applicant has avoided and minimised impacts through reducing the original application area from one hectare and demarcating the six trees that only require removal; other trees and understorey vegetation that exists outside the road formation will not be removed.

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

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description** The revised application is for the proposed clearing of six native trees within a 50 meter section along a 3.5 kilometre length of the Corrigin-Narembeen Road, Kurrenkutten, for the purpose of road upgrades and re-alignment for safety reasons (Figure 1).

**Vegetation Description** The application area is mapped as Beard's vegetation complex 1023 – Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) (Shepherd et al, 2001).

Based on photographs provided by the applicant (refer Figures 2 to 9 below) (Shire of Corrigin, 2018), it is considered the road corridor is in a Completely Degraded to Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition comprising an upper-storey of scattered eucalyptus trees which occur either in small clusters or as individuals, no mid-storey and a weed impacted ground cover. There are also areas completely devoid of any vegetation.

**Vegetation Condition** Based on photographs provided by the applicant (refer Figures 2 to 9) (Shire of Corrigin, 2018) it is noted that the vegetation is considered to be 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
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance; scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching 'Good' condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).



**Soil type**

The application area occurs within the 'Kellerberrin 3 non-saline Phase' soil unit that is described as 'calcareous loamy earths and heavy red and grey calcareous soils, with few loamy duplexes, calcareous at depth' (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 11.3 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Map of application area (cross hatched blue). Corrigin-Naremben Road SLK 1.48-4.48, Shire of Corrigin.



Figure 2: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 1.61) extent of gravel shoulder within application area – large eucalyptus tree will be retained. (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 3: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 4.21) Twin truck eucalyptus tree (with dots) to be removed. Unmarked trees and understorey will remain. (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 4: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 4.21) same site as Fig. 3 - two additional eucalyptus trees (with dots) to be removed. (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 5: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 4.23) 10 metres from Fig 4 - one eucalyptus tree (with dot) to be removed.(source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 6: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 4.26) 10 metres from Fig 5 - one eucalyptus tree (with dot) to be removed. (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 7: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 4.44) Typical road reserve condition (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 8: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 3.55) Typical road reserve condition; vegetation on right hand side will remain (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)



Figure 9: Corrigin-Naremben Road (SLK 2.86) Typical road reserve condition (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)





Figure 9: Corrigin-Narembeen Road (SLK 2.77) Typical road reserve condition. (source: Shire of Corrigin, 2018)

### 3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

During the assessment of this application, the applicant (Shire of Corrigin) further clarified the proposed scope of works where by the original application to clear one hectare of native vegetation was amended to six native trees within a 50 metre section (Shire of Corrigin, 2018).

The proposed road seal widening activities will occur from between the edge of the existing road seal to the outer edge of the adjoining table drain (the road formation) being up to two meters wide and includes the 0.5 meter wide gravel shoulder. With the exception of six trees between SLK 4.21 and SLK 4.26 (a distance of approximately 50 metres), the only other native vegetation which may be cleared will involve scattered ground cover where it occurs in the road formation (Shire of Corrigin, 2018).

The Shire of Corrigin has adopted avoidance management measures, by demarcating only those trees that require removal (between 4.21 to 4.26 SLK - see Figures 3 to 6), and those that can be avoided, in particular the large eucalyptus tree at SLK 1.61 (see Figure 2).

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As noted in Section 2 above, the vegetation within the application area comprises scattered eucalyptus trees (either as individuals or in clumps), no mid-storey and only limited groundcover that consists of scattered native shrubs and weeds. Other areas are completely devoid of any vegetation, native or otherwise (Shire of Corrigin, 2018). Based upon photographs provided by the applicant, the vegetation structure and condition in the road corridor is typical of many road verges influenced by adjacent agricultural practices. The road corridor vegetation is considered to be in a Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) to Degraded condition.

The Shire of Corrigin's scope of works, to widen the existing road seal on each side, to improve road safety between SLK 1.48 to 4.48, will occur between the edge of the existing road seal, to the outer edge of the adjoining table drain (the road formation). This two metre wide formation includes the 0.5 metre wide gravel shoulder. With the exception of six trees between SLK 4.21 and SLK 4.26 (a distance of approximately 50 meters), the only other native vegetation which may require clearing is confined to ground cover species where they occur within the road formation. It is noted from the photographs provided that trees will remain in the opposite road reserve to the area where the six trees are proposed to be removed and that other trees will remain in the vicinity of the proposed clearing (Figures 3, 5 and 6; Shire of Corrigin, 2018).

According to available datasets, one Priority One (P1) listed flora species, one P2, four P3 and three P4 species are mapped within the local area (DBCA, 2007-; WAH, 1998-). None of the flora species are recorded within the application area. The closest flora records are a P1 (*Acacia sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula*) and P3 (*Eucalyptus spathulata* subsp. *salina*) species approximately two kilometres from the western end of the application area. Based on the photos provided by the applicant, the trees required for removal do not resemble the two abovementioned flora species. In addition, no rare flora species have been mapped within the local area or the application area (WAH, 1998-).

According to available datasets, one threatened fauna species, the Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) is recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). From photographs provided by the applicant, it is unlikely there is any suitable habitat for the Malleefowl in the narrow road reserve area where the six trees are proposed to be cleared. In addition, as only six trees are proposed to be removed from within the existing road formation, the proposed clearing will not reduce the road reserves capacity to function as a corridor for fauna movement across the landscape.

The lack of flora (and fauna) records within the corridor is considered to be the result of the complete absence of vegetation, suitable and/or sustainable habitat, and the Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) to Degraded condition of the remaining vegetation.

According to available datasets, the corridor is surrounded (the closest occurrence is six kilometres) by many small remnants of an ecological community, the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt', listed as Priority Three by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and Critically Endangered under the Commonwealth *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The community is defined primarily by its structure as a woodland. Table 3 of the Approved Conservation Advice indicates the condition thresholds for this TEC, and describes key diagnostic factors including

structure, remnant size, composition and condition factors to determine if this TEC is present (TSSC, 2015). Given the corridor's historical and current function as a transport corridor, the Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) to Degraded condition of the vegetation and that sections of the corridor are devoid of vegetation, the corridor is unlikely to comprise suitable vegetation necessary for the existence of this ecological community or meet the key diagnostic factors.

Therefore, given the absence of vegetation in some parts and the poor condition of the remaining vegetation, it is further considered the corridor is unlikely to comprise vegetation with a high level of biodiversity, suitable habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia or is necessary for the existence of flora of conservation significance.

No watercourses intersect the application corridor, but the corridor is located adjacent to three mapped, non-perennial lakes. None of the six trees proposed to be removed occur at these locations. Given the scope of works, it is not proposed to clear any vegetation adjoining these areas (Shire of Corrigin, 2018; Figure 8 above). It is also unlikely, given the small and linear nature of the proposed clearing, that the proposed road upgrade activities 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 Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 18.5 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and the mapped Beard vegetation association 1023 retains approximately 10.8 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 11.3 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing involves just six trees within an existing road corridor, and the Completely Degraded to Degraded (Keighery, 1994) vegetation condition, the corridor is not likely to be considered significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The calcareous loamy earths and heavy red and grey calcareous soils within the application area have a nil to moderate risk of water and wind erosion and low flooding risk. Groundwater salinity is measured at 35,000 milligrams per litre, with surface salinity noted as having a four per cent risk of developing (DPIRD, 2017).

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

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to any of the clearing 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 Department of Water Environmental Regulation's website on 30 July 2018 with a 21 day submission period.

One public submission was received in relation to this application (Submission, 2018). The submission, based on the original application to clear one hectare, raised concerns in relation to the potential impacts to flora and fauna habitat and the ecological value of remnant vegetation in a highly cleared landscape. These matters have been considered through the assessment and addressed in this report. As noted above, the clearing application was amended down from one hectare to six trees, alleviating the concerns raised in the submission. The submission also made comment concerning matters including alternative road configuration designs, installation of road safety barriers, signage, and reducing speed limits justification for the proposed clearing from a safety perspective, and the road realignment design. These matters are beyond the scope of the assessment of clearing impacts and have not been addressed.

#### **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 August 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.
- 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 Corrigin (SoC) (2018) Application for clearing permit and supporting documentation CPS 8140/1 (DWER Ref: A1704482, A1711955 and A1715197)
- Submissions (2018) Public submissions received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8140/1 (DWER Ref. A1704483)
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2015) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Threatened Species Scientific Committee. 2015.
- 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)