CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 8145/1
File Number: 2018/001148
Duration of Permit: 16 December 2018 to 16 December 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Dr Daryl Elphick

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 199 on Deposited Plan 30053.

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than five native trees within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8145/1.

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.

RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

2. Records to 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 number of trees cleared; and
(d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the 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
The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

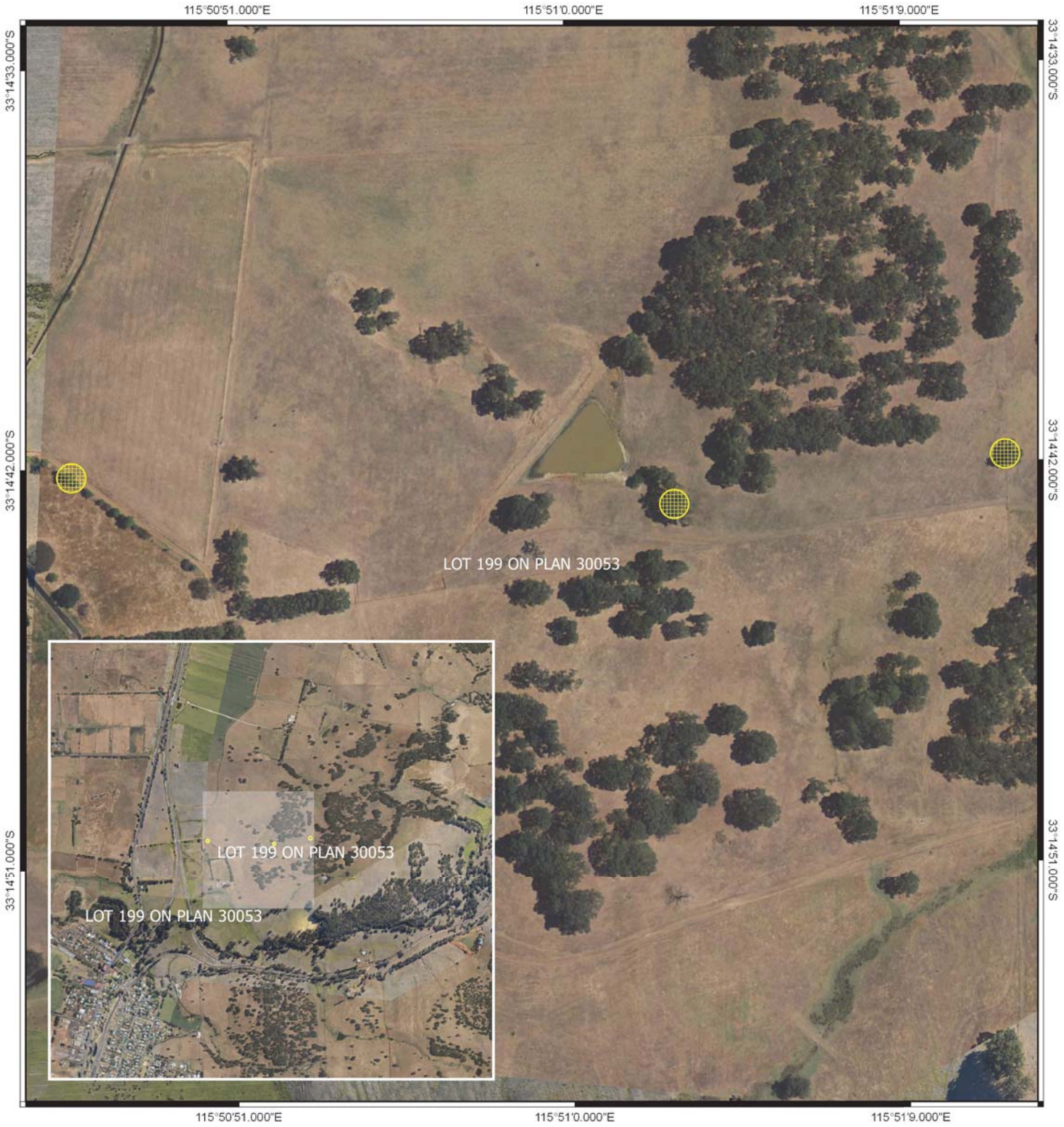
CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986.*

Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

16 November 2018

Plan 8145/1



Legend

Areas approved to clear

base layers

cadastre

N

0 50 100 150 200 m

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Date. 16/11/2018

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

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8145/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Dr Daryl Elphick
Application received date: 18 July 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 199 On Deposited Plan 30053
Local Government Authority: Shire of Harvey
Localities: Brunswick

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	5	Mechanical Removal	Powerline Construction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 16 November 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 not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description This application is for the clearing of five *Eucalyptus* sp. trees on Lot 199 On Deposited Plan 30053, to support powerline construction activities.

Vegetation Description The application area is situated within mapped vegetation complex 104, defined as: Mosaic of open forest of Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*) - Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), with some admixtures with Darling Range Ghost Gum (*Eucalyptus laeliae*) in the north (subhumid zone), with occasional *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *elegantella* (mainly in subhumid zone) and Mountain Marri (*Corymbia haematoxylon*) in the south (humid zone) on deeper soils adjacent to outcrops, woodland of Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) (subhumid and semiarid zones), low woodland of Rock Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) on shallow soils over granite outcrops, closed heath of *Myrtaceae - Proteaceae* species and lithic complex on or near granite outcrops in all climate zones (Mattiske et al 1998).

Vegetation Condition The vegetation community depicted in photographs provided by the applicant of the application area was assigned a condition ranking of Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994). This condition ranking is defined as: the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994).

Soil type The application area is mapped as occurring within the following land systems, as mapped by the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (2017):

- Dickson footslopes phase: Relief 5-20 m, slopes 2-10%. Soils are loams with some shallow loamy duplex soils and loamy gravels;
- Dickson low slopes phase: Relief 20-80 m, slopes 5-15%. Soils are loamy earths with scattered rock outcrop (gneiss); and
- Lowden valley Hester Subsystem: Ridges and hill crests on laterite and gneiss, relief 5-40 m, slopes 5-15%. Soils are sandy gravels, loamy gravels and loamy earths.

Comments The local area referred to in the below assessment is defined as the area within a 10 kilometre radius of the application area.

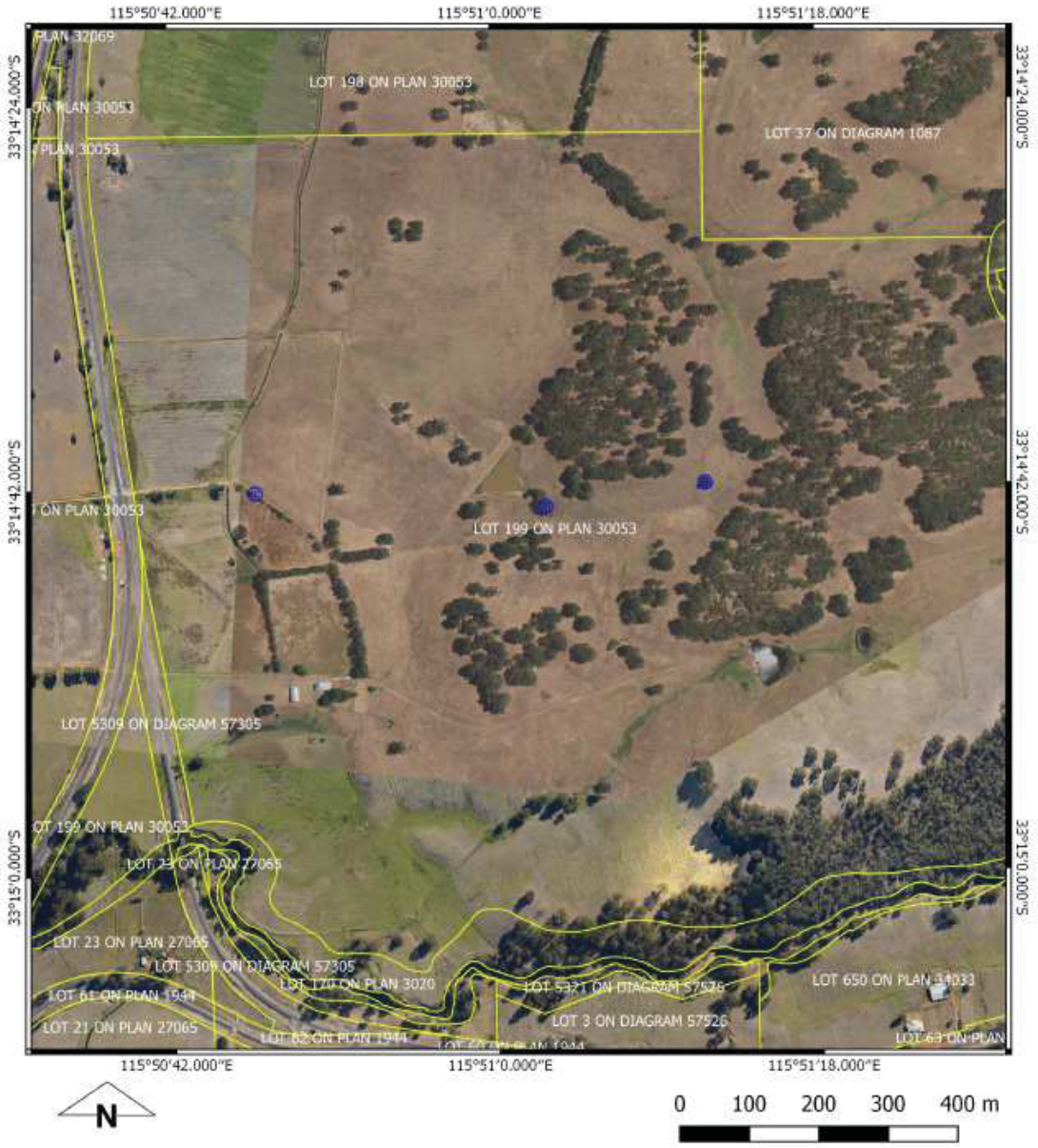


Figure 1: The application area (shown in blue), in the context of the local lot boundaries (shown in yellow).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application area is situated within a rural property which has undergone historical clearing to facilitate agricultural development. The proposed clearing comprises the removal of five *Eucalyptus* sp. trees to support powerline construction on the property. An analysis of aerial photography of the application area has determined that the targeted trees exist either as part of the vegetation fringing an access track on the property, or as isolated trees detached from other fragments of remnant vegetation on the property.

A review of available databases determined that 14 flora species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area, comprising two Priority 2 flora species, three Priority 3 flora species, five Priority 4 flora species and four threatened flora species (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). No occurrences of the above species have been recorded within the application area. Given the degraded condition of the vegetation present within the application area, it is not anticipated that the application area comprises suitable habitat for flora species of conservation significance.

A review of available databases determined that 23 fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2007-). When migratory species and species whose habitat requirements are not met by the habitats present in the application area are accounted for, the application area may comprise suitable habitat for the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (listed as 'other specially protected fauna' under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*). Whilst the local area retains only approximately 23 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent, the removal of the targeted trees is not anticipated to impact the available fauna habitat in the local area. Therefore, while the application area may comprise suitable habitat for fauna species of conservation significance, it is unlikely to comprise significant habitat. No hollows suitable for breeding for conservation significant fauna are identified within the proposed clearing area.

A review of available databases determined that the application area is situated approximately 6.5 kilometres east of a recorded occurrence of the Priority 3 '*Banksia* Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of

Australia (IBRA) Region' priority ecological community (PEC). This PEC is also listed as an 'Endangered' threatened ecological community under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. When the separation distance between the application area and the above ecological community is considered, it is not anticipated that the proposed clearing will adversely impact the ecological values of the above community, or any ecological linkages promoting biodiversity or species recruitment within this community. The proposed clearing area does not represent this PEC.

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 forms part of the 'Swan Coastal Plain' IBRA region. This IBRA region retains over 38 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia 2017a). Vegetation complex 104 currently retains over 41 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia 2017b). A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 23 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent. While the local area retains less than 30 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent, the targeted trees are situated within land previously disturbed to undertake agricultural development and exist outside of fragments of remnant vegetation which remain on the property. When the above is considered, it is not anticipated that the targeted trees represent a significant remnant of native vegetation.

A review of available databases and aerial photography of the application area has determined that no watercourses or wetlands occur within the application area. No impacts to riparian vegetation communities will result from the clearing activities.

A review of aerial photography of the application area and its surrounds has not identified any existing land degradation impacts from past clearing campaigns to support agricultural development. When consideration is given to the proposed clearing extent, no land degradation impacts are expected to result from the proposed clearing. No impacts to the quality of local surface water or ground water resources, or the incidence or intensity of flooding, are expected to result from the clearing activities.

The local area contains several managed conservation reserves, the nearest of which is the Benger Swamp Nature Reserve, situated approximately 6.6 kilometres north of the application area. When the separation distances between the application area and managed conservation reserves are considered, it is not anticipated that the proposed clearing will adversely impact the ecological values of any conservation reserve, or any ecological linkages promoting biodiversity or species recruitment within conservation reserves.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

In correspondence dated 29 August 2018, the Department of Water and Environment Regulation's (DWER) Water Team advised that the proposed clearing will pose a low risk to water resources. The Water Team determined that there will be a minimum impact to the legislative requirements under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* and had no comment regarding this proposal.

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

This clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 21 August 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed November 2018.

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary industry and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/. Accessed November 2018.

Government of Western Australia (2017a) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics (formerly the CAR Reserve Analysis) – Full Report. Current as of December 2017 (based on most recent date of input datasets). Prepared by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), Perth. Published February 2018.

Government of Western Australia (2017b) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics Report, Current as of October 2017.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (accessed November 2018).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands Management Category
- Hydrography Linear - Linear
- Hydrography WA 250K - Surface Water Lines (GA 2015) Hydrography, SLIP Hydro
- SAC bio datasets
- South Coast Significant Wetlands
- TPFL Data October 2018
- Vegetation Complexes – South West Forests
- WAHerb Data October 2018
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries October 2018
- WA TEC PEC Buffers October 2018