



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8154/1
File Number: 2018/001197
Duration of Permit: 5 January 2019 to 5 January 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Beverley.

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307112), Beverley.
Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307114), Beverley.
Bethany Road reserve (PIN: 11307115), Beverley.

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 22 native trees within the areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 8154/1.

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*

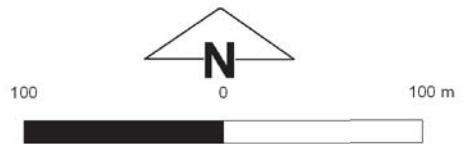
6 December 2018

Plan 8154/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  cadastre
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
- Image



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Mathew Gannaway
Mathew Gannaway 6/12/2018
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8154/1
Permit type: Area Permit

Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Beverley
Application received date: 30 July 2018

Property details

Property: Bethany Road reserve (PINs 11307112, 11307115 and 11307114)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Beverley
Localities: Beverley

Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	22	Mechanical Removal	Road widening and upgrade works.

Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 6 December 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 up to 22 trees within Bethany Road reserve (PINs: 11307115, 11307112 and 11307114) to facilitate road widening and upgrade works.

Vegetation Description This application area is situated within mapped Beard vegetation association 352, defined as: Wheatbelt; York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*) and Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Vegetation Condition A review of photographs of the application area provided by the applicant has determined that the vegetation in the application area is in Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) condition. 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 Jelcobine York Subsystem, defined as areas of soils derived from freshly exposed rock (Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development 2017). This unit is typified by the red soils of the Avon Valley but also includes areas of similar, but often greyer and lighter textured soils to the east of the valley (Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development 2017).

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

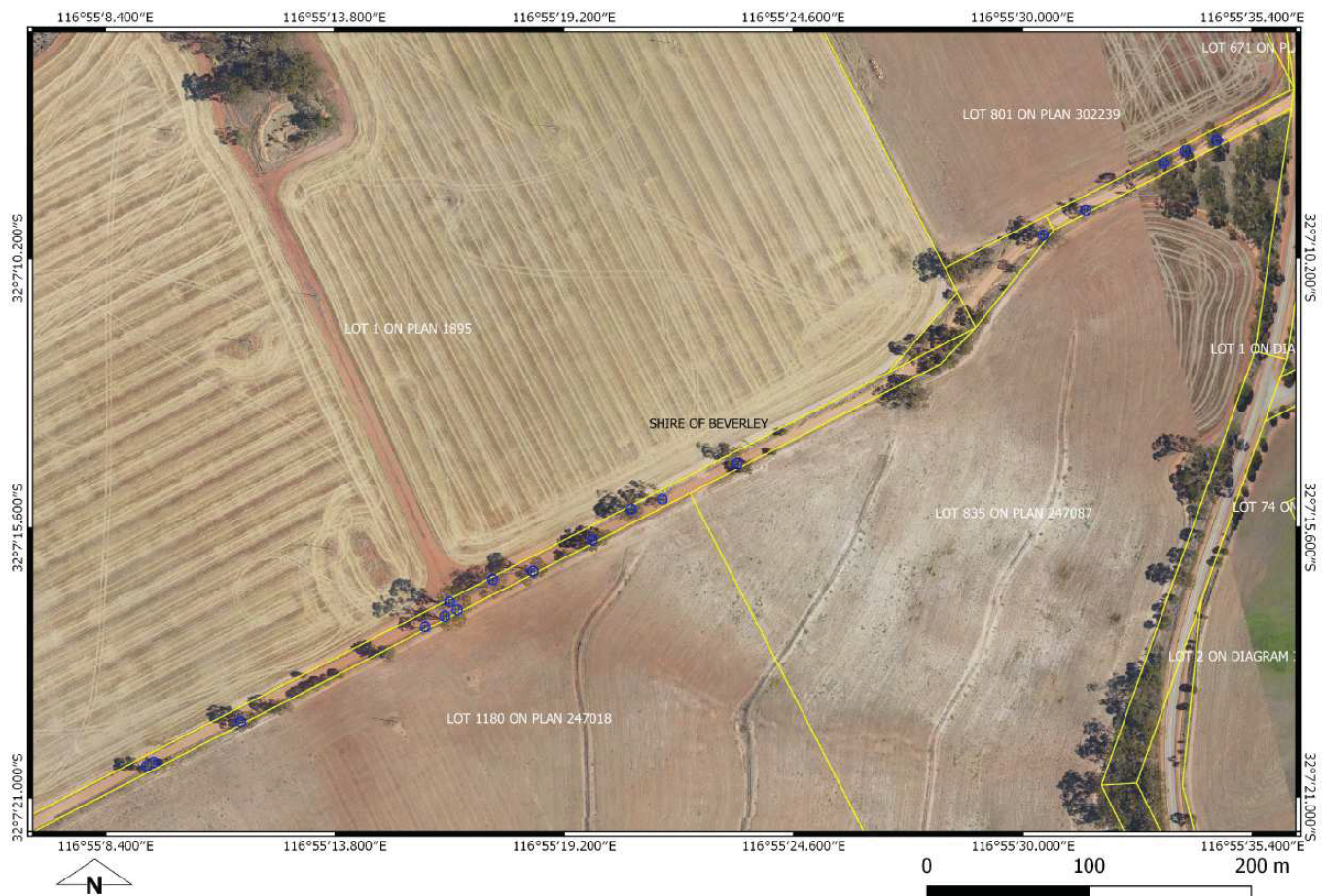


Figure 1: The application area (shown in blue), in the context of the local cadastral boundaries (shown in yellow).

3. Assessment of application against the clearing principles

The proposed clearing activities are required to allow the existing Bethany Road to be upgraded to bitumen. The removal of the 22 trees under application will allow road drainage infrastructure to be accommodated within the narrow road reserve the existing road is situated within. Photographs provided by the applicant show that the vegetation within the road reserve is comprised of scattered Eucalypts over introduced pasture species within minimal understorey. The proposed clearing will not remove all of the vegetation located within the road reserve.

A review of available databases determined that 18 flora species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area, comprising two Priority 1 flora species, one Priority 2 flora species, eight Priority 3 flora species, four priority 4 flora species and three Threatened flora species (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). No recorded occurrences of these flora species are derived from within the application area (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). Given the completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area, alongside the knowledge that the clearing is limited to 22 native trees, the application area is unlikely to comprise suitable habitat for any flora species of conservation significance.

A review of available databases has determined that nine extant fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 2007-). A review of photographs of the targeted trees provided by the applicant determined that no hollows suitable to provide habitat for conservation significant fauna species will be removed by the proposed clearing. Noting the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) vegetation found in the application area, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for any fauna species of conservation significance.

A review of available databases has found that three of the trees proposed for clearing, located in the application area's north-eastern extent, are situated within a mapped occurrence of the 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Priority 3 priority ecological community (PEC). This ecological community is also listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* as a Critically Endangered threatened ecological community (TEC). The approved conservation advice for this TEC specifies a number of criteria for vegetation to be considered representative of this TEC (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015). These criteria include a woodland structure where the trees are typically spaced and the canopy is open, the canopy is dominated by eucalypt species (those with a tree or mallet growth form), the minimum crown cover of the tree canopy in a mature woodland is 10% and understoreys which are highly variable in structure and composition (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015). These criteria also specify minimum patch sizes and condition ratings, which include a requirement that a patch should meet at least a 'Degraded' to 'Good' (Keighery 1994) condition rating, and minimum patch sizes of two hectares for vegetation in 'Good' (Keighery 1994) or better condition (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015). Patches in 'Good' (Keighery 1994) to 'Degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition must have a minimum patch size of five or more hectares (Threatened Species Scientific Committee 2015).

The mapped TEC occurrence encompassing three of the trees under application has an area of 10.62 hectares. However the three trees are separated from the adjacent native vegetation by Bethany Road.

Noting this and the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the area surrounding these trees, the application area is not considered to be representative of this TEC as it does not meet a number of the criteria. Furthermore, noting the limited extent of clearing and separation of these trees to the existing remnant vegetation that may be representative of the TEC, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the maintenance of this TEC.

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 Avon Wheatbelt IBRA region. This IBRA region retains approximately 18.5 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia 2018). Vegetation association 352 currently retains approximately 19.6 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 10.3 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent. Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation in the application area, it is not considered to be representative of vegetation association 352. In addition, the application area comprises roadside trees with no associated understorey, and does not contain habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna. Given the above, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant.

A review of available databases and aerial photography of the application area has determined that no watercourses or wetlands exist within the application area. Therefore, no vegetation growing in association with watercourses or wetlands will be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Given the extent of the proposed clearing and completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, no land degradation impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed clearing. Noting this, and the absence of nearby watercourses or wetlands, 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 proposed clearing.

There is one unnamed conservation reserve located within the local area. This conservation reserve is situated approximately nine kilometres east north-east of the application area. When consideration is given to the separation distance between the application area and the above conservation reserve, no impacts to the ecological values of this conservation reserve, or any ecological linkages promoting species diversity and recruitment within this conservation reserve are anticipated to result from the proposed clearing.

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.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 4 September 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were 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 December 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 December 2018.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 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, Perth. Published February 2018.
- 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.
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (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. Conservation advice approved 26 November 2015. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf>.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed December 2018).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- CPS Desktop Search
- DAFWA_Subsystems_V5
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands Management Category
- Hydrography Linear – Linear

- Hydrography WA 250K – Surface Water Lines
- Pre-European vegetation complexes
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets
- TPFL Data October 2018
- WAHerb Data October 2018
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries
- Wheatbelt Wetlands