



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8158/1

File Number: DER2018/001229

Duration of Permit: From 7 February 2019 to 7 February 2021

### PERMIT HOLDER

Peter Raymond Bloxsome

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 8749 on Deposited Plan 153461, Yornup

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.51 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8158/1.

### 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. 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*:

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

#### 3. 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 extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit.

#### 4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



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Samara Rogers  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

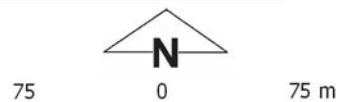
9 January 2019

# Plan 8158/1



## Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Cadastre
- Image



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8158/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Peter Raymond Bloxsome  
Application received date: 7 August 2018

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 8749 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 153461, YORNUP  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes  
DBCA Region: Warren  
Localities: YORNUP

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.51	0	Mechanical Removal	Constructing a strategic fire break and access of agricultural machinery

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 9 January 2019

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*. 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 considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The application is for the proposed clearing of 1.51 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 8749 on Deposited Plan 153461, Yornup for the purpose of constructing a strategic firebreak and access of agricultural machinery.

**Vegetation Description:** The vegetation within the application area is mapped as the following South West Forest vegetation complex's: Yornup (YR), described as mosaic of open woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla*, open woodland of *Melaleuca cuticularis*, open woodland of *Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis-Banksia seminuda*, tall shrubland of *Myrtaceae* spp. and sedgeland on broad depressions in humid and subhumid zones; Catterick (CC1), described as open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla* mixed with *Eucalyptus patens* on slopes, *Eucalyptus rudis* and *Banksia littoralis* on valley floors in the humid zone; and as Collis 1 (CO1), described as open forest to tall open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* with some *Corymbia calophylla* on low undulating hills in perhumid and humid zones (Government of Western Australia, 2018).

**Vegetation Condition:** Degraded; Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance, scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

The condition of the vegetation within the application was determined through a site inspection undertaken by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) officers (DWER, 2018).

**Soil/Landform Type:** A majority of the application area is mapped as Collis Subsystem (Manjimup), described as Low hills and low hilly terrain; 20 m relief, with some parts mapped as Catterick Subsystem (Manjimup), described as Shallow minor valleys (5-40 m relief) with gentle to low slopes (3-20%), soils are loamy gravels and loams, swampy valley floors (DPIRD, 2017).

**Comments:** The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area contains approximately 40 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Application area

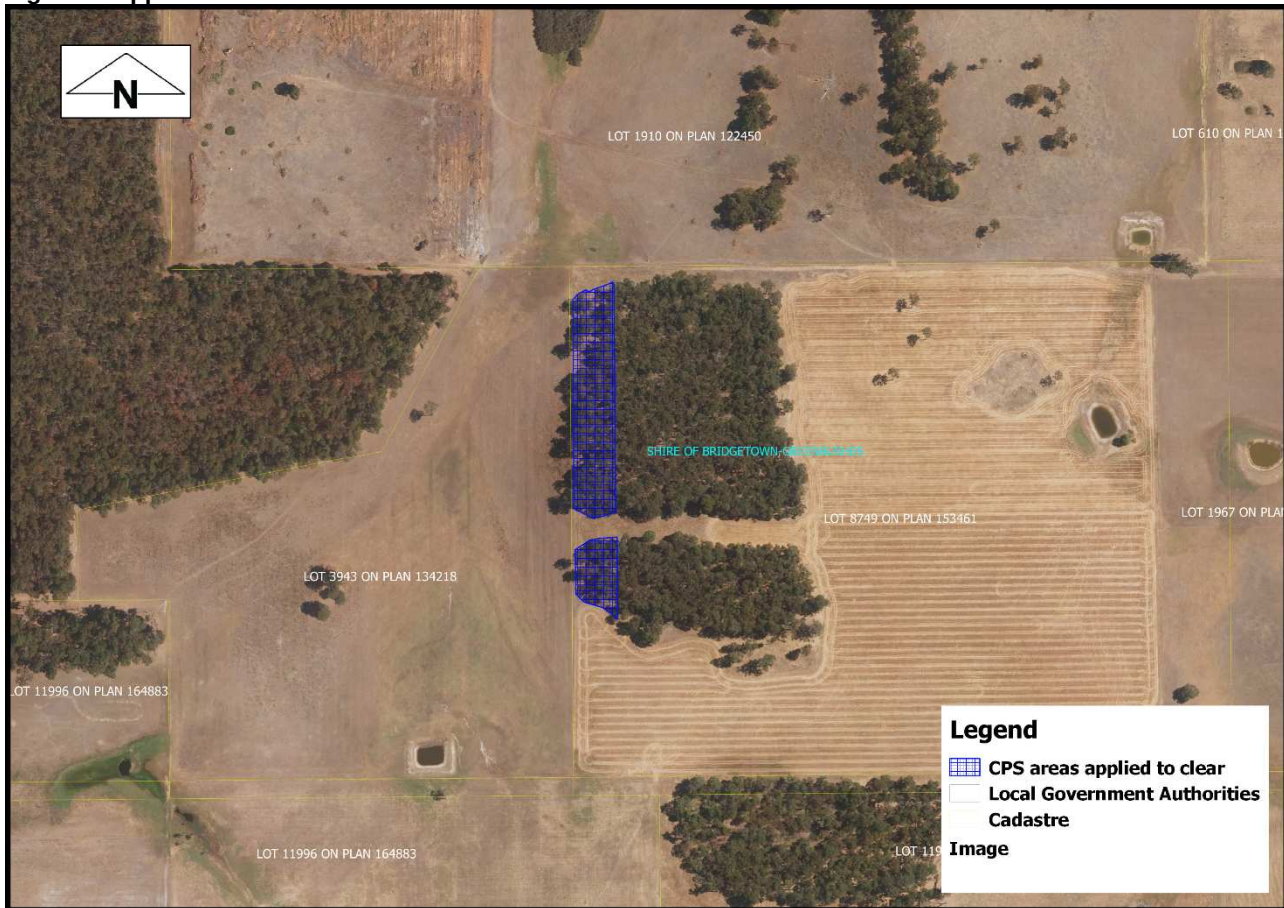


Figure 2: Photographs of vegetation within the application area



Photo 1: vegetation within the application area – jarrah-marri trees with understorey dominated by paddock grasses and weeds



Photo 2: large hollow bearing tree within the application area

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Three rare flora species and 12 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. The site inspection identified that the understorey was largely devoid of native species and was dominated by pasture grasses and weeds (DWER, 2018). Noting this, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon any rare or priority flora species.

The application area may comprise suitable breeding and foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*). Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo are listed as endangered and forest red-tailed black cockatoo listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (herein referred to collectively as black cockatoos). Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). A site inspection (DWER, 2018) identified a number of trees within the application area that fit the criteria for black cockatoo potential breeding habitat, having a (diameter at breast height) of more than 50 centimetres (DWER, 2018). Evidence of black cockatoo feeding was also observed on site, by way of chewed marri nuts (DWER, 2018). A black cockatoo habitat assessment survey of the application area recorded six hollow bearing trees, however none of the hollows were found to be of a size suitable for black cockatoos nor showed any signs of use by black cockatoos (Harewood, 2018). Noting this and the presence of better quality vegetation in close proximity to the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise significant habitat for black cockatoos.

An ecological linkage as defined by the South West Regional Ecological Linkage Report (Molloy et al., 2009), runs approximately 1.8 kilometres west of the application area. Noting the distance from the application area and the better quality vegetation west of the application area, the proposed clearing will not impact this ecological linkage.

No priority ecological communities or threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been mapped within the local area. The application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a 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 Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion retains approximately 2,406,939 hectares (53 per cent) of its pre-European extent of native vegetation, and the mapped South West Forest Vegetation Complexes retain approximately 11,724 hectares (61 per cent), 3,245 hectares (64 per cent) and 16,745 hectares (61 per cent) respectively of its pre-European extent within the Jarrah Forest IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). On this basis, and noting the extent of native vegetation within the local area, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

No wetlands or watercourses have been mapped within the application area. The closest watercourse is 1.4 kilometres from the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse.

According to available databases, the nearest conservation area is Yornup State Forest located approximately 120 metres west of the application area. The proposed clearing may indirectly impact on the environmental values of the adjoining conservation areas through the spread or introduction of weed species or dieback by machinery. A weed and dieback management condition will help mitigate these impacts.

Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to exacerbate or contribute to further land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding than that which is currently present.

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

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes advised that development approval is not required for the proposed clearing. However the shire was not in support of the rationale for the purpose of the proposed clearing, considering that the nearest habitable structure is located approximately 1.3 kilometres to the west, is separated by approximately 140 metres to the nearby State Forest to the west, and clearing a 1.5 hectare strip of vegetation, with approximately 7 hectares of vegetation to remain, seems to serve little purpose in reducing fire risk (Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, 2018). The applicant advised that the purpose of the clearing was to enable navigation of a boom sprayer to spray for weeds.

The applicant indicated that he may sell trees removed during the clearing activity for timber. A Commercial Producer's (PN) Licence is required if you are proposing to sell protected (native) timber taken from private land, and is required under *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. A Commercial Producer's (PN) Licence can be obtained from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service.

The application area is zoned 'Rural 1 – extensive farming' under the Town Planning Scheme Zones.

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

The original application was advertised on the DWER's website on 11 September 2018, inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day 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.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012). EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> Accessed September 2018. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2018) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 8158/1, undertaken 26 September 2018 (DWER Ref: A1742820).
- Government of Western Australia. (2018). 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Harewood, G. (2018). Black cockatoo habitat tree assessment – CPS 8158/1: Lot 8749, Yornup. December 2018. Version 1. Prepared on behalf of Mr. Peter Raymond Bloxome by Greg Harewood, Zoologist (DWER Ref: A1751187).
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Molloy, S., Wood, J., Hall, S., Wallrod, S. and Whisson, G. (2009) South West Regional Ecological Linkages Technical Report, Western Australian Local Government Association and Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (2018) Supporting Information for clearing permit application CPS 8158/1. Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (DWER Ref: A1720651).

#### 5. GIS Datasets

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Groundwater salinity, statewide
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Land for Wildlife
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed November 2018)
- Soils, statewide
- South West Forest Vegetation