



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8160/1
Permit Holder:	MM Mechanical Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	21 December 2018 – 21 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 expansion of existing laydown yard

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 31 on Plan 88, Toodyay

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.16 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8160/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

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 known *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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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 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 5 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 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*;

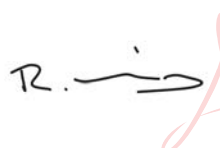
dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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.

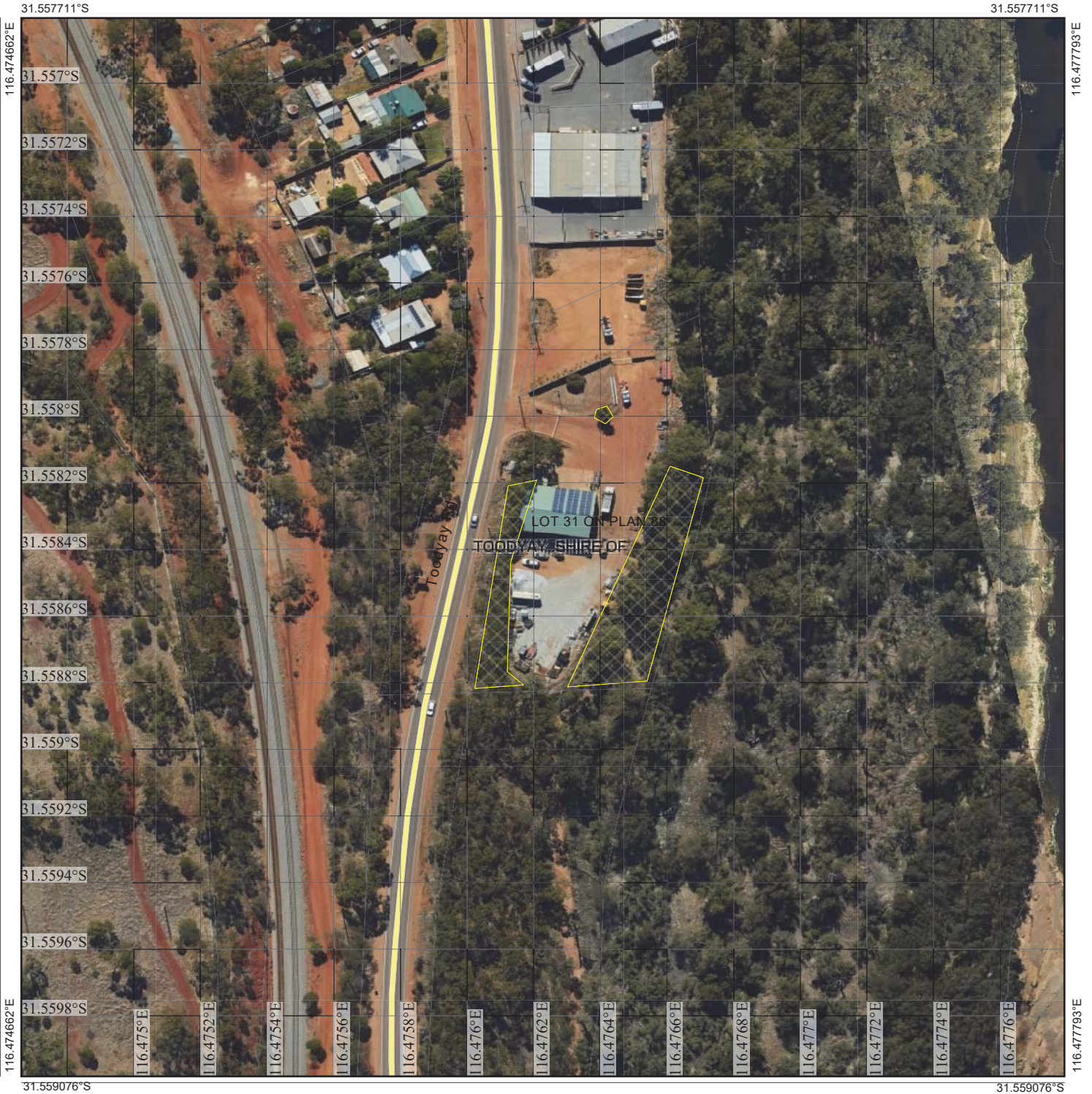
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Date: 2018.11.21
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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

21 November 2018

Plan 8160/1



Legend

-  Roads - Main Road
-  Imagery
-  Cadastre
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority
-  POI



1:1,574

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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Date

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 8160/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MM Mechanical

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 31 on Plan 88
Local Government Authority: Shire of Toodyay
Localities: Toodyay

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.16		Mechanical Removal	Expansion of existing laydown yard

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 21 November 2018
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 7 August 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*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through the assessment, the Delegated Officer determined that the vegetation within a portion of the application area is growing in association with a watercourse and the proposed clearing of 0.16 hectares is not likely to be significant.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the risk of dieback and weeds being introduced or spread into adjacent native vegetation. Dieback and weed management measures will minimise impacts to adjacent native vegetation.

In granting a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable environmental impacts.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is to clear 0.16 hectares within Lot 31 on Plan 88, Toodyay for the purpose of expansion of an existing industrial laydown yard.

Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as South West vegetation complex:

- Bindoon (Bi): Woodland of *Eucalyptus loxophleba* on the slopes, flanked by woodlands of *Eucalyptus wandoo-Eucalyptus accedens* on the breakaways and upper slopes in the perarid zone.
- 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. (Mattiske et al., 1998).

A site inspection was conducted by officers of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 12 November 2018. The DWER site inspection found that the vegetation within the application area consists of *Acacia* sp. over *Ptilotus polystachyus* and weeds in the western section and *Eucalyptus rudis* over *Melaleuca* sp. over weeds in the eastern section (DWER, 2018).

Vegetation Condition: Degraded; Basic 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 area was determined during a site inspection by DWER Environmental Officers.

Soil/Landform Type: The application area is mapped within the following soil and landform sub-system:

- Jelcobine York sub-system. Areas of soils derived from freshly exposed rock. 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 (Schoknecht et al, 2004).

Comment: The local area referred to in this assessment is defined as the area within a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. Aerial imagery indicates that the local area retains approximately 20 per cent native vegetation cover.

Figure 1: Map of application area



3. Minimise, mitigate

The applicant is proposing to engage a local conservation group to replant local native species in the area along the eastern boundary following clearing and levelling. Imported fill material will be used to raise the level of the eastern portion of the application area to be level with the existing laydown yard.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, two threatened flora species and 16 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. The nearest record of conservation significant flora species is 811 metres from the application area. Noting the habitat preferences of these species, the degraded condition of vegetation found within the application area, no flora species of conservation significance are expected to occur.

According to available databases, 17 fauna species of conservation significance (nine rare or likely to become extinct, three Priority, three migratory species protected under International Agreement and two other specially protected fauna) have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). The application area is located 12 kilometres from a confirmed Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) breeding site however, the application area is unlikely to contain significant foraging habitat and does not contain any trees with hollows suitable for black cockatoo breeding. One tree with hollows was identified on the property during a site inspection undertaken by DWER Environmental Officers (DWER 2018). This tree is outside of the application area and will be retained. Given the above and noting the condition of the vegetation and proximity to the existing industrial laydown yard, the application area is unlikely to contain significant habitat for fauna.

According to available databases, one threatened ecological community (TEC) has been mapped within the local area, being the federally listed threatened TEC 'Eucalypt Woodlands of Western Australian Wheatbelt' (WA Wheatbelt Woodlands).

The WA Wheatbelt Woodlands was listed as a critically endangered TEC under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) on 4 December 2015. The TEC is defined as eucalypt woodlands that formerly were the most common type of vegetation across the wheatbelt landscape of south-western WA, i.e. inland between the Darling Range and western edge of the goldfields. The WA Wheatbelt Woodlands TEC is dominated by a complex mosaic of eucalypt species with a tree or mallet form over an understorey that is highly variable in structure and composition. Based on a site inspection undertaken by DWER Environmental Officers (DWER 2018), the application area does not appear to be representative of the WA Wheatbelt Woodlands 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 per cent of its pre-European clearing vegetation extent (Government of

Western Australia 2018). The Bindoon vegetation complex currently retains approximately 29 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent and the Williams vegetation complex retains approximately 25 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia 2018). Based on the above, the condition of the vegetation within the application area and the extent of remnant vegetation in the local area, the application area is unlikely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape.

The application area is located 97 metres from the Avon River. The eastern portion of the application area is located within the floodplain and the vegetation is considered to be associated with the watercourse. Therefore the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f), however, impacts to the watercourse are considered to be minimal.

The application area is located approximately 4715 metres from the nearest conservation estate (Mavis Jeffery Nature Reserve) Given the extent of the proposed clearing and the distance from the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the environmental values of these conservation areas. Lloyds Reserve - Crown Reserve vested with the Shire of Toodyay for conservation - abuts the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the reserve. Weed and dieback management conditions on the permit will assist in mitigating risks to adjacent vegetation.

Given the extent of the proposed clearing, these clearing activities are not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, result in deterioration in the quality of local surface water or groundwater resources, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 22 September 2018 for a 14 day public submission period. No submissions were received during this period.

No registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance occur within the application area.

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/>. Accessed October 2018.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, Available from: <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.
- 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.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- Directory of Important Wetlands
- Geomorphic Wetlands of the swan coastal plain
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- SAC Bio Datasets
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Vegetation Complexes south west forest