



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8169/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Northam
Duration of Permit:	28 December 2018 to 28 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 road widening, constructing improved roadside drains, improving site distance and reducing potential risk

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Irishtown Road reserve - 11333530, Northam
Irishtown Road reserve - 1260732, Irishtown

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.73 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8169/1.

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.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. 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.

7. 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 *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.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Record keeping

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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(s) 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 6 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must produce the records required under condition 8 of this Permit when required 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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

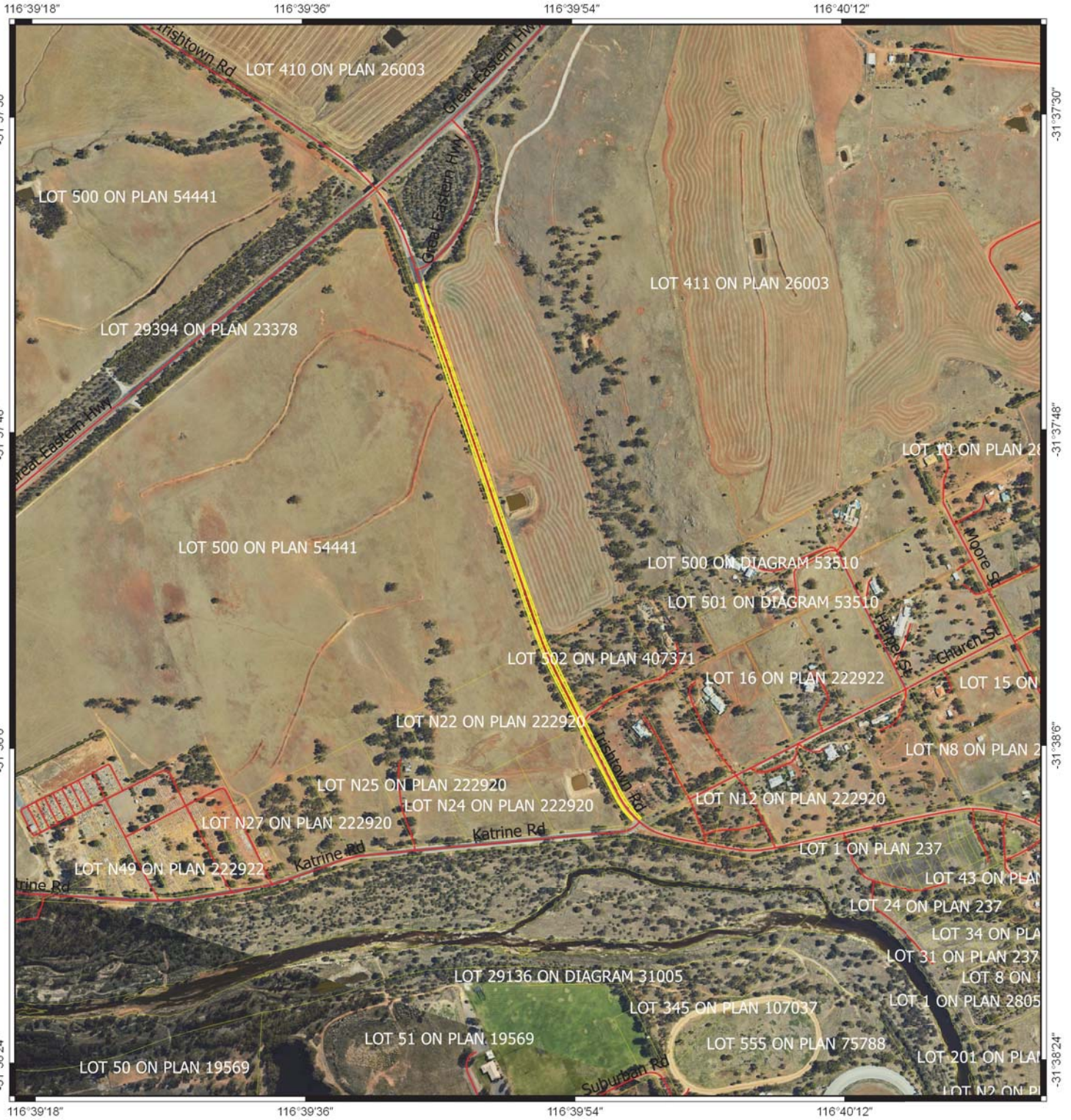
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Abbie Crawford
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

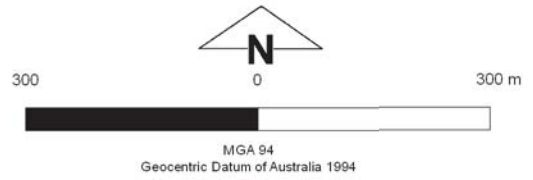
28 November 2018

Plan 8169/1



Legend

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



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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 8169/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Northam
Application received date: 15 October 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Irishtown Road reserve - 11333530, Northam
Irishtown Road reserve - 1260732, Irishtown
Local Government Authority: Shire of Northam
Localities: NORTHAM and IRISHTOWN

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.73	0	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 28 November 2018
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 15 October 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 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 0.73 hectares (39 trees) of native vegetation within Irishtown Road reserve (PINs 1260732 and 11333530), Irishtown and Northam, for the purpose of road widening, constructing improved roadside drains, improving site distance and reducing potential risk.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 352, described as York gum, salmon gum etc. (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*, *E. salmonophloia*).

Photographs supplied by the applicant (Arborists report) indicate the vegetation within the application area consists of young to mature trees of *Acacia acuminata* and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum), with very scarce understorey.

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the application area is completely degraded: the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The condition of the vegetation was determined from areal imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Northam, 2018).

Soil Type The soil type within the application area is mapped as Jelcobine York Subsystem (Map unit: 256JcYO), described as 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 (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. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 20 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the species identified within the application area and that it is dominated by a weedy understorey, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon any rare or priority flora species.

The proposed clearing area does not contain significant foraging or breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

A small portion of the application area has been mapped as the eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt threatened ecological community (TEC). This TEC is listed as 'Priority 3' by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and as a 'Critically Endangered' TEC under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC specifies a number of key diagnostic criteria for vegetation to be considered representative of this TEC (TSSC, 2015). Noting these criteria, the vegetation within the application area does not meet the minimum patch size or condition threshold to be classified as this TEC. The application area does not resemble vegetation associated with a priority ecological community or threatened ecological community (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 Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion retains approximately 1,761,227 hectares (18 per cent) of its pre-European extent of native vegetation, and the mapped Beard vegetation association retains approximately 108,888 hectares (17 per cent) of its pre-European extent within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Noting that the current vegetation extents for the bioregion and mapped Beard vegetation association within the bioregion are all below the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared area (Figure 1). The application area contains native vegetation in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with sparse native understorey and does not comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna. On this basis, and noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

No conservation areas have been mapped within the local area.

No watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area. An indefinite watercourse has been mapped approximately 30 metres north of the application area and the Avon River is mapped approximately 200 metres south of the application area. However, noting the size of the application area and the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse. Noting the above, the mapped soil type within the application area, and that the application area is surrounded by cleared agricultural land, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, or cause deterioration in the quality of underground water, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 30 October 2018, inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are several sites of Aboriginal significance mapped within the application area. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> Accessed June 2018. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <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.
- Shire of Northam (2018) Application for a clearing permit and supporting document, including Arborists report. Emailed to DWER by the Shire of Northam on 25 September 2018 (DWER Ref: A1722812).
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2015). Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. Department of the Environment, Canberra. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf>.

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Beard vegetation
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed November 2018)
- Soils, statewide