GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# CLEARING PERMIT

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

**PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: CPS 8173/1
File Number: DWERVT1215
Duration of Permit: From 22 December 2018 to 22 December 2020

**PERMIT HOLDER**

Shire of Kojonup

**LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

Kojonup-Frankland Road reserve:

PIN 11626746, Mobrup
PIN 11626747, Mobrup
PIN 11626749, Mobrup
PIN 11626750, Frankland River
PIN 11626751, Frankland River
PIN 11627308, Mobrup
PIN 11627310, Mobrup
PIN 11627311, Mobrup

**AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.342 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8173/1.

**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 *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 the 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 weeds and dieback 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**

***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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Ryan Mincham
2018.11.22
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+08'00'

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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

22 November 2018

# Plan 8173/1

34.15789°S 34.15789°S

116.965014°E 117.034865°E


116.965014°E 117.034865°E

34.192839°S 34.192839°S

## Legend

- Imagery
- Clearing Instruments Activities
- Local Government Authority

N

0 1km

1:34,108

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Ryan Mincham
2018.11.22 14:41:39
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..... Date .....

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.:** 8173/1
**Permit type:** Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

**Applicant's name:** Shire of Kojonup
**Application received date:** 20 August 2018

### 1.3. Property details

**Property:** Kojonup-Frankland Road

PIN - 11627308, MOBRUP
PIN - 11627310, MOBRUP
PIN - 11626751, FRANKLAND RIVER
PIN - 11626747, MOBRUP
PIN - 11626749, MOBRUP
PIN - 11626746, MOBRUP
PIN - 11626750, FRANKLAND RIVER
PIN - 11627311, MOBRUP

**Local Government Authority:** KOJONUP, SHIRE OF
**Localities:** MOBRUP and FRANKLAND RIVER

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | Purpose category: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.342 | | Mechanical Removal | Road construction or upgrades |

### 1.5. Decision on application

**Decision on Permit Application:** Grant
**Decision Date:** 22 November 2018
**Reasons for Decision:** The clearing permit application was received on 28 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*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing Principles.

The Delegated Officer noted the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area (a road corridor). The applicant has avoided and minimised impacts through limiting tree removal to those individuals critical to the road works. Other trees exist outside the road formation and will not be removed (Shire of Kojonup, 2018a and 2018b).

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to avoid and minimise, weed and dieback, and reporting conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable impact to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The application to clear 0.342 hectares of native vegetation on the Kojonup-Frankland Road, Mobrup and Frankland River, between 38.8 and 44.5 SLK, is for road seal widening and safety reasons (Figure 1 below).

The proposed road seal widening activities on both sides of the road will occur from between the edge of the existing road seal to the outer edge of the backslope (between 2 and 3 metres wide on each side of the road seal), and includes the table drain and the 0.5 metre wide gravel shoulder (that being the road formation) (Shire of Kojonup, 2018a and 2018b).

**Vegetation Description:** The application area is mapped as Beard's vegetation complexes:

- Jingalup 4: comprises a medium woodland of marri & wandoo (northern and southern extent of application area); and
- Jingalup 27: comprises a low woodland; paperbark (Melaleuca sp.) (middle extent of application area) (Shepherd et al, 2001; Government of Western Australia, 2018).

The Shire of Kojonup advised that the application area comprises scattered eucalyptus trees (either as individuals or in clumps), either no mid-storey or only limited mid-storey, a groundcover that consists of scattered native shrubs and weeds, and other areas devoid of any vegetation. None of the eucalyptus trees contain hollows (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b).

**Vegetation Condition:**

Based on photographs (refer Figures 2 to 4 below) and information provided by the Shire of Kojonup, it is noted that the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in the following condition (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b):

- Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost without native species; to
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance; scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching 'Good' condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

**Soil types:**

The application area occurs within the following mapped soil units (DPIRD, 2017):

- **Jingalup 2 Subsystem**
  Hill slopes of gently undulating rises with mainly grey deep sandy duplex soils and areas of deep sandy gravels and grey shallow sand duplex.
- **Gordon Flats 1 Subsystem**
  Broad valley flats. Semi wet soil and Grey deep sandy duplex are common with Saline wet soil, Duplex sandy gravel and Pale deep sand.
- **Gordon Flats 3 Subsystem**
  Low gravelly rises in broad alluvial plain. Duplex sandy gravel is common with grey deep sandy duplex and pale deep sand.
- **Gordon Flats 6 Subsystem**
  Broad drainage lines of major river channels. Saline wet soil is dominant with grey deep sandy duplex, pale deep sand and semi-wet soil.
- **Farrar 4 Subsystem**
  Foot slopes and concave lower slopes adjacent to drainage lines with grey deep sandy duplex soils and some areas of loamy gravels.

**Comments:**

The local area considered in the assessment of the application is described as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the application area. The local area retains approximately 27 per cent native vegetation cover.

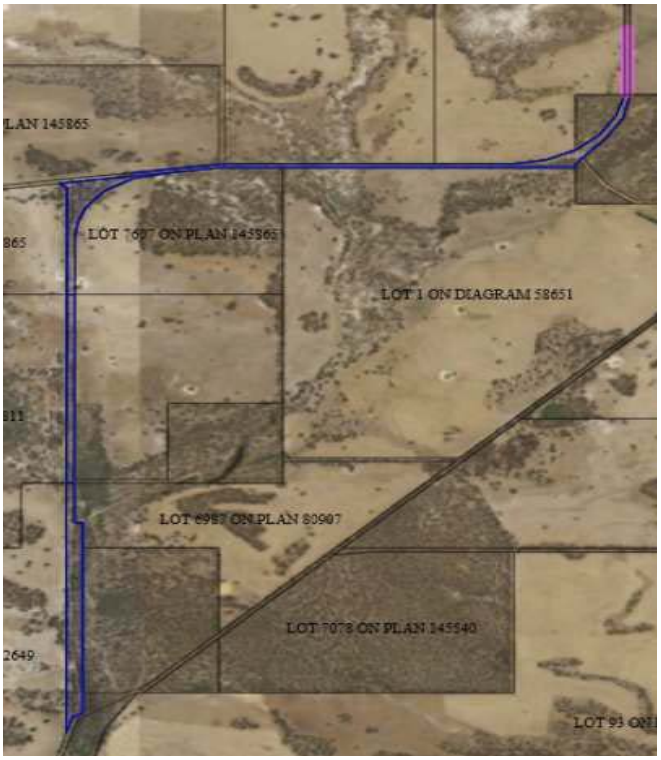


Figure 1: Map of application area (cross-hatched blue). Kojonup-Frankland Road SLK 38.8-44.5, Shire of Kojonup.

Figure 2: Kojonup-Frankland Road SLK 43.86, facing south (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b)

Figure 3: Kojonup-Frankland Road SLK 39.68, facing south (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b)

Figure 4: Kojonup-Frankland Road SLK 40.51, facing south (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b)

## 3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

To avoid and minimise clearing impacts, all trees that are to be retained will be demarcated. The majority of the eucalyptus trees in the application area occur close to the boundary fence-line of the adjoining properties and these trees will remain. Only those individual trees critical to the widening activities will be removed (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b).

## 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As noted in Section 2 above, the vegetation within the application area comprises scattered eucalyptus trees (either as individuals or in clumps), either no mid-storey or only limited mid-storey, a groundcover that consists of scattered native shrubs and/or weeds, and other areas devoid of any vegetation (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b). Based upon photographs, information provided by the applicant and aerial imagery, the vegetation structure and condition in the application area appears to be typical of many road verges influenced by adjacent agricultural practices and road maintenance activities. The road corridor vegetation is considered to be in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) to degraded condition. The five soil types mapped in the application area are similar and comprise a combination of deep grey sands and gravels, and wet/saline deep sand duplex soils (DPIRD, 2017).

The Shire of Kojonup's scope of works is to widen the existing road seal on each side in order to improve road safety between SLK 38.8 to 44.5. These works will occur between the edge of the existing road seal to the outer edge of the backslope (between 2 and 3 metres wide each side of the road seal) and include the table drain and the 0.5 metre wide gravel shoulder (being the road formation). The majority of the eucalyptus trees in the road reserve occur close to the boundary fence-line of the adjoining properties and are outside the scope of works. Other trees to remain will be demarcated, and only those individual trees critical to the widening activities will be removed (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b).

According to available datasets, two Priority Two (P2) listed flora species, three P3 and three P4 species are mapped within the local area (WAH, 1998-). Noting the habitat preferences of some of these species (including lateritic soils or wet areas that are not present within the application area), and the mapped soil and vegetation types and condition present within the application area, the majority of these species are unlikely to occur. It is considered that if any of the P2 species did occur within the application area, that these may not be significant as viable populations. It is further considered that the loss of any individuals, should they occur, would not impact the conservation status of these species.

A population of a P4 species (*Banksia porrecta,* a prostrate shrub) is recorded within the application area. This species is known from 45 Herbarium collections and has a wide distribution, extending up to 300 kilometres from the application area (WAH, 1998). The loss of any individuals, should they occur within the existing road formation, would not impact the conservation status of these species.

P3 and P4 flora species occur over a wide geographical area and are known from several populations, some within conservation reserves, hence their conservation status is not considered to be under any immediate threat (Jones, 2015). Noting this, and the number of records and range extents of these species, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the conservation status of these species should any individuals occur within the application area.

In addition, one rare flora species (*Gastrolobium lehmannii*) has been mapped within the local area, but not within the application area. The species known habitat preferences are lateritic/ironstone soils associated with ridges and crests. Neither of the soil type or landforms exist within the application area (WAH, 1998-).

Three threatened fauna species, *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (Forest red-tailed black cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). It is noted that no Carnaby's cockatoo breeding records are known from within the application area and that the closest records are over 19 kilometres west and 30 kilometres east of the application area. As noted above, the majority of the eucalyptus trees in the application area are outside the scope of works and only those trees critical to the widening activities will be removed. The applicant further advised that none of the trees within the application area contain hollows (Shire of Kojonup, 2018b). A nature reserve totalling 132 hectares occurs east of and adjacent to the application area's southern extent and one of 37 hectares also occurs adjacent at the northern extent. Aerial imagery indicates the vegetation is likely to be in a very good or better (Keighery, 1994) condition and likely to comprise better habitat values. Therefore, the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to have significant impacts on black cockatoo (and other fauna) habitat in the local area.

Given the relatively small area under application, the proposed clearing is also not likely to impact on the environmental values of these nature reserves. Appropriate management practices will ensure that weeds and dieback are not spread into conservation reserves.

No priority or threatened ecological communities are mapped within the application area. According to available databases, the ecological community 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' is mapped from many occurrences within the local area. The nearest of which is approximately three kilometres southeast of the southern end of the application area. The community is defined primarily by its structure as a woodland. Noting the type and condition of the vegetation mapped within the application area, in particular noting that the application area does not contain Salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), York gum (*E. loxophleba*), Red morrel (*E. longicornis*) and Gimlet (*E. salubris*), the vegetation within the application area is not likely to comprise this community.

No geomorphic wetlands or other conservation significant wetlands are mapped in the local or application area. Towerlup Brook, a minor, non-perennial watercourse occurs just east of application area; small tributaries of this brook intersect the application area at three points. It is unlikely, given the small and linear nature of the proposed clearing and that drain and culverts already exist, that the proposed road works will cause any unacceptable environmental impacts to these water bodies. Potential impacts, if any, would be localised and short-term.

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 is located within the Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 53 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and the mapped Beard vegetation associations (BVA) Jingalup 4 and Jingalup 27 which retain approximately 27 and 74 per cent respectively of their pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 27 per cent native vegetation cover. It is noted that the proposed clearing involving BVA Jingalup 4 has a representation less than the threshold. However, given the application area is part of an existing transport corridor and the small amount of vegetation proposed to be cleared, the potential reduction in vegetation representation is likely to be minimal.

Further, noting the completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) vegetation condition and that 169 hectares of conservation reserve occurs adjacent, the application area is not likely to be significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The mapped soil types in the local area vary between deep grey sands and gravels, and wet/saline deep sand duplexes. Overall, they have a moderate risk of water and wind erosion and a partial to moderate salinity risk. Groundwater salinity is measured at 3000-7000 milligrams per litre (DPIRD, 2017).

Given the small size and occurrence along an existing road corridor, it is not likely the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation in the form of water erosion, cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding or cause any unacceptable environmental harm to surface or underground water quality.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to 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 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 22 October 2018 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

## 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/.

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

Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 State-wide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Jones, A. (2015) Threatened and Priority Flora List, 11 November 2015. Department of Parks and Wildlife: Kensington, WA

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.

Shire of Kojonup (2018a) Application for clearing permit CPS 8173/1 (DWER Ref: A1712810)

Shire of Kojonup (2018b) Supporting documentation and photographs for CPS 8173/1 (DWER Ref: A1719734, A1721681 and A17121683)

Western Australian Herbarium (WAH, 1998-) FloraBase-the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/


GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, General Hydro
- Hydrography, Wetlands
- SAC bio datasets
- TPFL Data
- WAHerb Data
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries
- Virtual Mosaic WA Now / Aerial imagery (accessed November 2018)