



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8210/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Coolgardie
Duration of Permit:	13 April 2019 – 13 April 2024

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

Road construction

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 312 on Deposited Plan 48600, Widgiemooltha
Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 40377, Widgiemooltha

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.7 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8210/1.

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. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *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.

8. Records to be kept

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

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 8 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

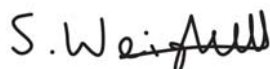
CEO: means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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.



Simon Weighell
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

Thursday, 14 March 2019

Plan 8210/1

121°36.480'

121°36.600'

121°36.720'

121°36.840'

121°36.960'

-31°31.680'

-31°31.800'

-31°31.920'

-31°32.040'

-31°32.160'

-31°31.680'

-31°31.800'

-31°31.920'

-31°32.040'



121°36.480'

121°36.600'


121°36.720'


121°36.840'

121°36.960'

121°37.080'

Legend

 CPS areas approved to clear base layers

 Local Government Authorities

 Road Centrelines

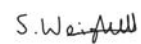
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0 100 200 m



S. W. 

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8210/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Coolgardie
Application received date: 2 October 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 40377, WIDGIEMOOLTHA
Lot 312 on Deposited Plan 48600, WIDGIEMOOLTHA
Local Government Authority: Shire of Coolgardie
Localities: Widgiemooltha

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.7		Mechanical Removal	Road construction/upgrades

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 14 March 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*, and 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 standard avoid/minimise and weed hygiene conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable impacts to environmental values.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.7 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 40377 and Lot 312 on Deposited Plan 48600, Widgiemooltha for the purpose of realigning Binneringie Road.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 9 and 936 described as:

- 9: medium woodland: coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*), (Shepherd *et al* 2001)
- 936: medium woodland; salmon gum (Shepherd *et al* 2001)

A reconnaissance flora/vegetation and fauna survey of the Binneringie road realignment area undertaken in September 2018 described the vegetation within the application area as low woodland of *Eucalyptus salubris* over tall open shrubland of *Melaleuca sheathiana* and low shrubland of *Atriplex vesicaria/cratystylis* in clay-loam plain (Botanica Consulting 2018)

Vegetation Condition The vegetation condition was reported to be in a very good (Keighery 1994) condition (Botanica Consulting, 2018), described as; vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994).

Soil Description The application area occurs within the '265Gm' Gumland System soil type that is described as; Extensive pedepains supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic and non-halophytic shrub understoreys (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018).

Comments The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 20 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 95 per cent native vegetation cover.

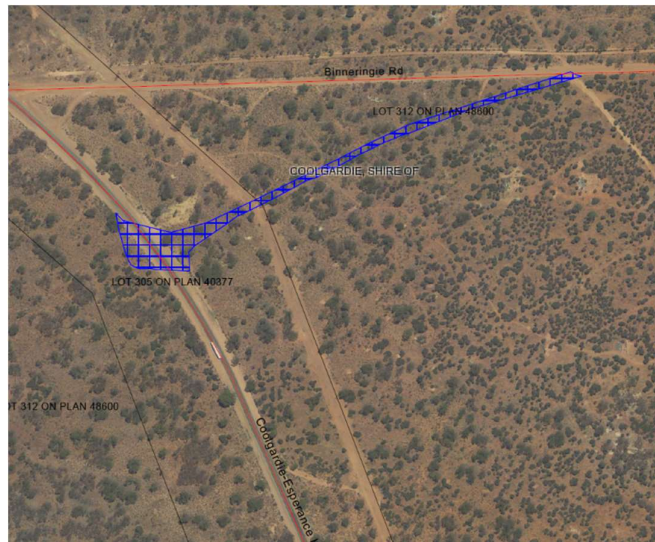


Figure 1: CPS 8210/1 Application Area (hatched blue)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As noted in Section 2 above, the vegetation within the application area is broadly described as medium woodland: coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*) & goldfields blackbutt (*Eucalyptus lesouefii*) (Shepherd *et al* 2001), and medium woodland; salmon gum (Shepherd *et al* 2001) and is considered to be in very good condition (Botanica Consulting 2018; Keighery 1994).

According to available datasets, one Threatened fauna species; malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and one other specially protected fauna species; the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2007-) The reconnaissance flora/vegetation and fauna survey undertaken by Botanica Consultants (2018) recorded no significant fauna during their September 2018 survey. Given the surrounding area is not extensively cleared and fauna habitats are well represented outside of the application area, it is not considered the proposed clearing contains significant habitat for fauna.

According to available datasets, seven Priority 1 (P1) listed flora species, one P2 and four P3 species have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). None of these records occur within the application area. The closest flora records are P1 *Calandrinia lefroyensis* and P1 *Ptilotus rigidus* located 450 meters and 1.5 kilometers north of the application area, respectively. The field survey completed by Botanica Consulting 2018 also found no significant flora within the application area (Botanica Consulting 2018). Given this, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on individuals or habitat for threatened or priority flora.

According to available datasets, no threatened ecological communities (TEC) or priority ecological communities (PEC) have been recorded within the application area. The closest mapped conservation significant ecological community is a PEC located approximately 68 kilometers north east of the application area, known as Mount Belches *Acacia quadrimarginea* / *Ptilotus obovatus* (banded ironstone formation) categorised as Priority 3 by DBCA. The application area is not considered to be representative of this PEC and noting the distance to this PEC, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on this PEC or on any known TECs.

Given that the application area is not likely to contain any threatened or priority flora, TEC's, PEC's or significant fauna habitat, the vegetation within the application area is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

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 (i.e. pre-European settlement) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). This is the threshold level below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level. The application area is located within the Coolgardie Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 98 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and mapped Beard vegetation associations 9 and 936 which both retain approximately 98 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 95 per cent native vegetation cover. These remnant vegetation figures are all considerably greater than the abovementioned 30 per cent threshold, and the application area is not considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. Furthermore, noting the extent of the proposed clearing (0.7 hectares), the vegetation within the application area is not likely a significant remnant.

According to available datasets, no watercourses or wetlands intersect the application area. The survey provided with the application indicated that the vegetation within the application area is not riparian (Botanica Consulting, 2018).

The closest conservation area to the application area is the Dordie Rocks Nature Reserve which is located over 6 kilometers from the application area. Considering the distance from the application area, it is not likely that the proposed clearing would have an impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

The chief soils mapped within the application area are Gumland System -Extensive pedeplains supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic and non-halophytic shrub understorey (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018). It is noted that the soil subsystem may be susceptible to erosion when vegetation is removed but given the very good (Botanica Consulting

2018, Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation surrounding the application area and the low annual rainfall it is considered that the removal of 0.7 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation, impact on the quality of groundwater or surface water, or result in the exacerbation of flooding on or off site.

The application area is surrounded by intact native vegetation. A weed management condition will minimise and mitigate any potential impacts to adjacent vegetation.

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.

According to available datasets, no Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped within the application area.

On 24 December 2018, the Ngadju Native Title Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC (Ngadju) provided correspondence advising that the proposed clearing will impact Ngadju's native title rights and interests. The Ngadju advised that at the time of writing, they had not been contacted by the Shire and had not been made aware of any Aboriginal heritage study of the location over the application area. Accordingly Ngadju requested that the Shire of Coolgardie either undertakes an Aboriginal heritage survey with Ngadju over the area to be disturbed or, in consultation with Ngadju, engage Ngadju monitors to observe the area at the time it is to be disturbed (Ngadju, 2018).

The applicant will be advised to ensure that they comply with all relevant provisions under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

The road realignment is subject to a Road Dedication, pursuant to Section 56 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* and Section 24KA of the *Native Title Act 1993*. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has advised that DPLH supports the road dedication with the process currently underway. Native title consultation is required to occur as part of this process.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water Environmental Regulation's website on 30 November 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

- Botanica Consulting (2018) Reconnaissance Flora/Vegetation & Fauna Survey- Realignment Binneringie Road, Western Australia DWER Ref: A1743581
- 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) (2018) 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia
- Ngadju, (2018) Advice in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8210/1. Received 24 December 2018. DWER Ref: A1752524
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase-the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed November 2018).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Heritage
- DBCA Estate
- DEC Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed November 2018)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands