



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8221/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Kellerberrin
Duration of Permit:	15 March 2019 – 15 March 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

Clearing for the purpose of road widening and associated activities.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Kwolyin West Road Reserve (PIN 1302300), Daadenning Creek.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.19 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plans 8221/1a and 8221/1b.

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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing 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* or delegated officer

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*.

 Ryan Mincham
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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION







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

13 February 2019

Plan 8221/1a



Legend

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



1:2,120

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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









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Plan 8221/1b



Legend

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



1:1,152

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8221/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Kellerberrin

1.3. Property details

Property: Kwolyin West Road Reserve (PIN 1302300), Daadenning Creek
Local Government Authority: SHIRE OF KELLERBERRIN
DWER Region: Wheatbelt
DBCAs District: CENTRAL WHEATBELT
Localities: DAADENNING CREEK

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.19		Mechanical Removal	Road widening and associated activities

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 13 February 2019
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 the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is to clear up to clear 0.19 hectare of native vegetation in 15 locations within a 640 metre stretch of Kwolyin West Road reserve (PIN 1302300, south of Nichols Road), Daadenning Creek, for the purpose of road widening and associated activities.

Vegetation Description: The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association:

- 1023, described as medium woodland; york gum, wandoo and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) (Shepherd et al, 2001).

A survey over the length of Kwolyin West Road (12.1 kilometres) determined that the road reserve comprises of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* to *Eucalyptus loxophleba* with very little midstorey apart from the odd *Acacia acuminata* and *Senna artemisioides* over a ground cover of predominately agricultural weeds, however, isolated patches of salt bush were observed where the road intersects with drainage lines (Santaleuca Sandalwood Products, 2015). It was also noted within the road reserve a number of cultivated mixed eucalyptus species (Santaleuca Sandalwood Products, 2015).

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).
To
Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

On review of aerial photography and photographs of the application area provided in the applicant's survey (refer to Figures 1 and 2 below), the application area appears to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Soil and Landform Type: The application area is mapped within two land subsystems:

- Kellerberrin, Merredin Subsystem (Map Unit 258KbME), described as Broad, flat valleys of the eastern wheatbelt containing heavy, red and grey soils (mapped over approximately 75 per cent of the application area); and
- Kwolyin, Danberrin Subsystem (Map Unit 258KyDB), described as areas of rocky, red and greyish brown loamy sands and sandy loams formed from freshly exposed bedrock. Rock outcrop is common (mapped over approximately 25 per cent of the application area) (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comment:

The local area referred to in the below assessment is defined as the area within a 10 kilometre radius of the application area.

Figure 1: Images of application area



Figure 2: Photographs of vegetation within the application area



Photo 1: *Small shrubs on the eastern side of the road reserve.*

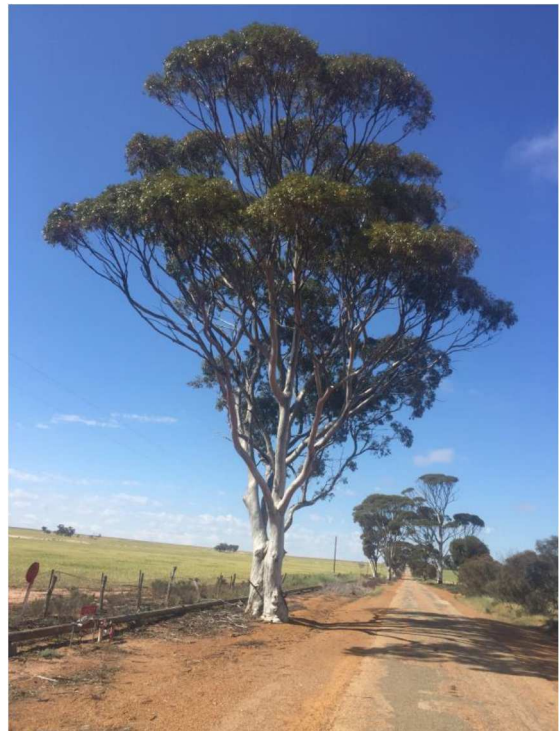


Photo 2: *Two Salmon Gum trees on the eastern side of the road reserve.*

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear 0.19 hectares of native vegetation in 15 locations within a 640 metre stretch of Kwolyin West Road reserve. The proposed clearing is to occur on both sides of the road reserve to allow for the widening of the transport corridor to allow for eight metres of bitumen and associated shoulders and drains.

According to available databases from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 18 priority flora species and four threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area. A vegetation survey of the application area did not record any threatened or priority flora species and determined that the majority of the 12.1 kilometre survey area (including the application area) to have no understorey species with the exception of small areas of salt bush near drainage lines, with the road reserve being dominated by agricultural weeds (*Santaleuca Sandalwood Products*, 2015). Noting this, the degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the applied area and that the application area has been previously disturbed for the construction of a pipeline (as shown in Photo 1 and 2), the application area is unlikely to provide suitable habitat for priority and threatened flora in the local area.

According to available databases, four fauna specially protected under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). These are the malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii* subsp. *badia*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and Black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis* subsp. *Lateralis*). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the condition of the vegetation within the application area and that the proposed clearing is confined to an already disturbed road reserve, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including the abovementioned conservation significant species.

Photos and GPS points within supporting information provided with the application identified eight potential nesting trees (Salmon Gum) for Carnaby's cockatoos (Munns, 2018). Nesting trees are defined as "trees of species known to support breeding within the range of the species which either have a suitable nest hollow, or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, suitable DBH is 500 millimetres". Although the eight trees are of an appropriate size for breeding, none contained hollows with the majority of the trees consisting of thin branches beyond the trunk (Munns, 2018). Noting this, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on significant breeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo.

According to available databases, several occurrences of the ecological community 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' occur within the local area. This ecological community is listed as Priority 3 by DBCA and as a threatened ecological community (TEC) under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). The Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC specifies a number of criteria for vegetation to be considered representative of this TEC (Department of the Environment, 2015); one of these criteria being condition threshold. Condition thresholds provide guidance on when a patch of an ecological community retains sufficient conservation values to be considered a TEC (Department of the Environment, 2015). It is intended that the condition thresholds will exclude degraded patches from any requirement for protection. For instance, where roadside and other woodland remnants are too small and narrow, or where the tree canopy has become too patchy and discontinuous (effectively <10% cover), or the understorey has lost considerable elements of its native structure and diversity (Department of the Environment, 2015). Noting this, as well as the extent of the proposed clearing, the condition of the vegetation and the mapped vegetation types within the application 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 remaining extents of native vegetation within the bioregion, local government authority and mapped vegetation associations are below the 30 per cent threshold (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Aerial imagery indicates that the local area retains approximately 10 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting this, the application occurs in an extensively cleared landscape. However, given the small scale of clearing proposed, degraded condition of vegetation within the application area and that it does not contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna or flora, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant.

According to available databases, one minor non-perennial watercourse has been mapped within 15 metres of the application area. The vegetation proposed to be cleared within this area consists of an individual salmon gum, which is not a species attributed to a watercourse based on photos and GPS points received with the application (Munns, 2018). Noting this, the application will not impact on the mapped watercourse, however it is noted that the construction of the road is likely to impact on the watercourse. Impacts to the watercourse can be mitigated by installing culverts. As discussed under planning and other matters, the applicant has a permit to interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse.

According to available databases, there are a number of conservation areas within the local area. None of these conservation areas are directly adjacent to the application area, and are separated from the application area by other areas of remnant vegetation, roads and farmland. Noting this, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Noting the linear shape of the application area and the extent of the proposed clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation or deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, and is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The application area falls within the Avon River System Surface Water Area. In accordance with the provisions of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, the applicant has received a permit to interfere with a Bed and Banks of a watercourse.

The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 15 October 2018 for a 21 day submission period. No submissions were received during this period.

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

4. 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 December 2018.
- Department of the Environment (2015). *Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt*. Canberra: Department of the Environment. Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf>. In effect under the EPBC Act from 04-Dec-2015.
- Government of Western Australia (2018). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of November 2017. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Munns, R. (2015) Record photos of Vegetation to be cleared for Clearing Permit. Assessed on 11 October 2018 2015. DWER Ref: A1729999.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Santaleuca Sandalwood Products (2015). Report to the Shire of Kellerberrin. Vegetation Condition and Threatened and Endangered Flora on Four Road Reserves within the Shire of Kellerberrin (DWER Ref:A1729994).
- 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.
- 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.

GIS Databases:

Aboriginal Sites of Significance
DBCA Estate
Groundwater salinity
Hydrography, Linear
Hydrography, Hierarchy
Remnant Vegetation
SAC bio datasets (accessed December 2018)
Soils, Statewide
Topographic contours