GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8251/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Duration of Permit:	18 February 2019 to 18 February 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 gravel extraction

2. Land on which clearing is to be done
Lot 3205 on Plan 132543, Paynedale
State Forest 27 (PIN 509651), Paynedale

3. Area of Clearing
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 8251/1.

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:
(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.

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 spread of *dieback* and 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 *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. 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 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* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 9 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 pf *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.

Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

21 January 2019

Plan 8251/1

Legend

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

Image

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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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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.: 8251/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Application received date: 13 November 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: STATE FOREST 27, PAYNEDALE
LOT 3205 ON PLAN 132543, PAYNEDALE
Local Government Authority: DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP, SHIRE OF
Localities: PAYNEDALE

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
2		Mechanical Removal	Extractive industry

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 21 January 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* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b) and (h) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

Through assessment, it was determined that the proposed clearing may impact surrounding native vegetation. A weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer had regard to a Section 91 Licence under the *Land Administration Act 1997* that is currently being assessed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant environmental impact.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 2.00 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 3205 on Plan 132543, Paynedale, and State Forest 27 (PIN 509651), Paynedale, for the purpose of gravel extraction (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped as South West vegetation (previously Mattiske) Kingia vegetation complex and Bidella vegetation complex, which are described as'

"Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina fraseriana-Banksia grandis-Xylomelum* occidentale on lateritic uplands in perhumid and humid zones (Mattiske, 1998); and

"Low woodland of *Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis-Hakea lasianthoides* on valley floors and open forest to woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus* patens on slopes in perhumid and humid zones" (Mattiske, 1998).

A survey undertaken in October 2017 determined that the area predominantly consists of open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana* over open shrubland of *Banksia sessilis* over open shrubland of *Banksia dallanneyi*, *Hakea amplexicaulis, Hibbertia hypericoides, Hovea chorizemifolia, Macrozamia riedlei* and *Xanthorrhoea gracilis* over sparse forbland including *Lomandra sericea, Stackhousia monogyna, Stylidium androsaceum and S. piliferum* on laterite (Figure 3). The survey determined that the application area is severely impacted by *Phytophthora* dieback disease, resulting in very little understorey (Ecoedge, 2018a).

Vegetation Condition Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Soil type

The application area has been mapped as the following two soil categories;

Kingia Subsystem which is described as "Broad undulating lateritic crests and divides over sedimentary rocks, relief 5-20 m, slopes 1-10%. Soils are sandy gravels with some deep sands (Schoknecht et al., 2004); and

Bidella Subsystem which is described as "Shallow (5-25 m) minor valleys with gentle side slopes (2-10%) and broad swampy floors, soils are sandy gravels and deep sands" (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the centre of the application area.

According to surveys undertaken October 2016 and December 2017 (Ecoedge, 2018b), the application area has been previously logged.

Figure 1: Application area hatched in blue

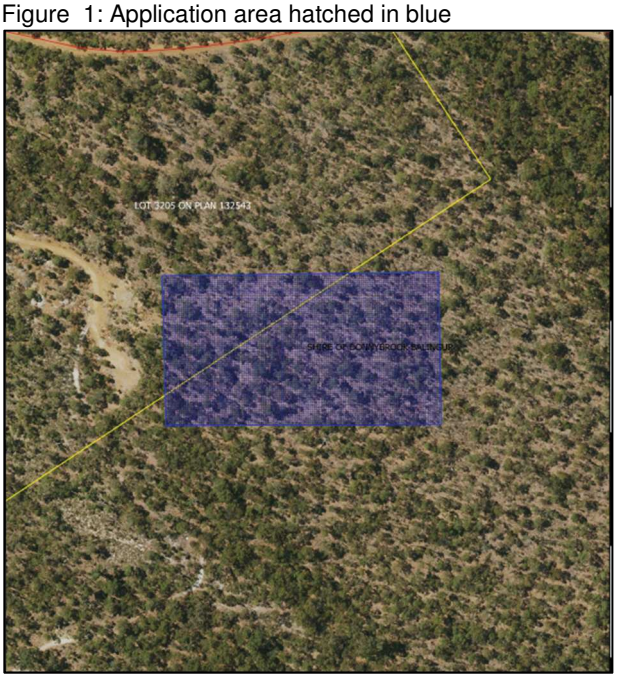

Figure 2: Vegetation in surrounding area

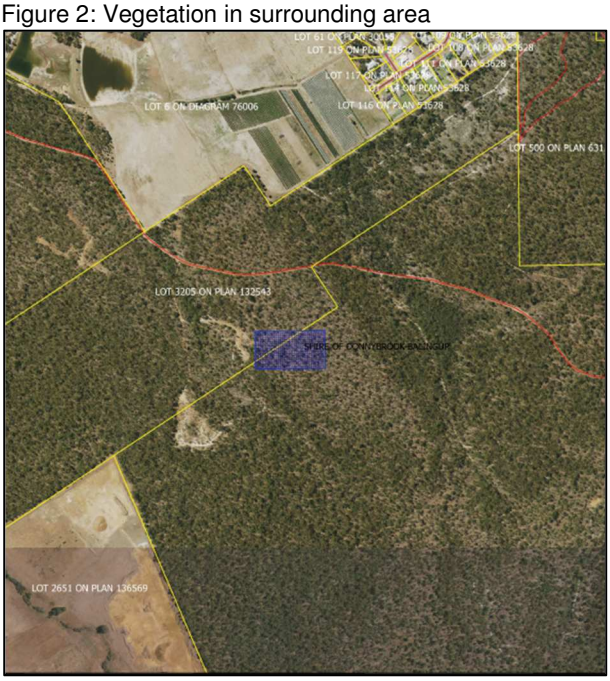

Figure 3: Vegetation unit (Ecoedge, 2018a)

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup has identified the need for a strategic source of gravel close to Donnybrook town site to service their needs going into the future. The Shire has explored private options over the past few years within a 10km radius of the Donnybrook town site, however the Shire have either not been able to negotiate an agreement with owners, or test holes have not achieved desired results to progress further (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2018).

It is considered that the Shires ability to secure a resource from the private sector is hindered by the location of large private gravel supply company pits within the area, which appears to inflate the desired price that many property owners are seeking for gravel resources located on their land. These companies mainly stock MRWA spec gravel, and maintain a significant portion of their supply for MRWA use (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2018).

The Shire has identified that degraded bushland off Gavin's Road as a site of high potential to facilitate their requirements for a long term strategic gravel supply, located with close proximity to Donnybrook (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2018).

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) supports the Shire in seeking approval to clear up to 2 hectares of Argyle forest block within State Forest 27. DBCA advised that clearing can only commence once the Section 91 Licence under the *Land Administration Act 1997* (LA Act) has been issued by DBCA following receipt and approval of the clearing permit (DBCA, 2018).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application proposes to clear 2 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 3205 on Plan 132543, Paynedale, and State Forest 27 (PIN 132543), Paynedale, for the purpose of gravel extraction.

This application is mapped within the Kingia vegetation complex and Bidella vegetation complex.

The local area retains approximately 53.45 per cent (approximately 17,206 hectares) of native vegetation cover. The majority of this (approximately 13,111 hectares) occurs on land managed by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as State Forest or Nature Reserve.

According to a dieback survey undertaken in October 2017, dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) was observed to be prevalent throughout the entire application area, exhibiting very high impact from the disease across all storeys of the forest. Dieback has changed the biomass and biodiversity of the application area. The parrot bush (Banksia sessilis), as a coloniser, now dominates the mid storey and little to no understorey was observed (Ecoedge, 2018a).

According to available databases, two threatened flora species and 17 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. *Acacia semitrulla* (Priority 4), *Andersonia ferricola* (Priority 1), *Boronia humifusa* (Priority 1), *Dillwynia sp. Capel (P.A. Jurjevich 1771)* (Priority 1), *Platytheca anasima* (Priority 2), *Stylidium acuminatum subsp. acuminatum* (Priority 2) and *Stylidium nitidum* (Priority 1) have been mapped within similar soil and vegetation types as the application area. The remaining priority flora have been mapped within different soil and vegetation types than that mapped within the application area. Threatened flora are discussed in more detail under Principle (c).

A flora survey undertaken in October 2017 (Ecoedge, 2018b) did not identify any priority species listed by7 DBCA, during the 2017 survey (Ecoedge, 2018b).

According to available databases, one threatened ecological community (TEC) and one priority ecological community (PEC) have been recorded within the local area. The State-listed PEC "Whicher Scarp Jarrah woodland of deep coloured sands" (Priority 1) occurs approximately 9147 metres from the application area and the Commonwealth-listed TEC "Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA Region" (Banksia Woodland TEC) (listed as endangered) occurs approximately 9,927.425 metres from the application area. According to the flora survey, no TECs or PECs were identified within the application area (Ecoedge, 2018b).

Eight conservation significant fauna species listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) within the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*, have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). These species are forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), and carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*). The application area comprises of potential suitable breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos and suitable habitat for chuditch. Fauna is discussed in more detail under Principle (b).

The vegetation within the application area is not representative of a TEC, is unlikely to contain threatened and priority flora and may comprise of suitable habitat for fauna. Given the local area retains 53.45 per cent remnant native vegetation, and that this vegetation is surrounded by native vegetation managed by DBCA in similar or better condition, the vegetation is not likely to comprise of a high level of biological diversity. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Proposed clearing is may be at variance to this Principle

As discussed in Principle (a), eight conservation significant fauna species listed under the BC Act within *the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*, have been recorded within the local area. These species are forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*), and carter's freshwater mussel (*Westralunio carteri*). Of these eight species, the application area is known to contain potential breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos and suitable habitat for chuditch.

Carnaby's cockatoo and Baudin's cockatoo are listed as endangered and forest red-tailed cockatoo is listed as vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). These species nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

The fauna survey undertaken in October 2016 (Ecoedge, 2018c) identified four marri trees (*Corymbia calophylla)* and two jarrah trees (*Eucalyptus marginata*) with a diameter at breast height (DBH) >50 centimetres. Two trees containing hollows were identified. The hollows were measured to be between 5 to 10 centimetres (Ecoedge, 2018c) (Figure 4), which are considered not of a suitable size for breeding black cockatoos. Given the above, the application area does not contain suitable breeding habitat for black cockatoos.

Black cockatoos have a preference for foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands and forest heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species such as *Banksia sp.*, *Hakea sp.*, and *Grevillea sp.* (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). From the black cockatoos listed above, only forest red-tailed cockatoo were observed utilising the application area, via the chewed marri fruits identified at several locations within the application area (Ecoedge, 2018c).

No evidence of any of the conservation significant species listed above were observed during the survey (Ecoedge, 2018c).

The South West Regional Ecological Linkage (SWREL) report (Molley et al., 2009) defines an ecological linkage as *"A series of (both contiguous and non-contiguous) patches which, by virtue of their proximity to each other, act as stepping stones of habitat facilitate the maintenance of ecological processes and the movement of organisms within, and across, a landscape".* Axis lines in the SWREL Report are used to identify patches of remnant vegetation with high connectivity or linkage value; the emphasis for biodiversity planning and conservation becomes the protection and management of the patches identified using the linkage lines, rather than the area defined by the line itself.

Remnant vegetation within the SWREL boundary can be assigned a 'proximity analysis' group. A group of vegetation with an edge touching or less than 100 metres from a linkage (axis line) is assigned to proximity analysis group 1(a) which is the highest category group. The SWREL axis line is mapped approximately 3.4 kilometres north, 3.6 kilometres east and 7.6 kilometres northwest of the application area. Despite the application area not directly forming part of an ecological linkage, given that the application is situated within a large expanse of State Forest, where several linkage axis lines have been mapped, the application area falls within proximity analysis group 1(b) (with an edge touching or less than 100m from a natural area selected in 1a), which is the second highest rating (Ecoedge, 2018b).

Given the above, the application area comprises suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoo and represents a significant ecological linkage. Given the application area is surrounded by native vegetation in the same or better condition and contains similar fauna habitat, the proposed clearing may be necessary for the maintenance of significant habitat for fauna.

The proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, two threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area, being *Banksia squarrosa subsp. argillacea* and *Daviesia elongata*.

A flora survey undertaken in October 2017 (Ecoedge, 2018b) did not identify these threatened flora species within the application area.

The flora survey identified a potential occurrence of the threatened flora *Synaphea stenoloba* located in native vegetation adjacent to the application area within the identified offset rehabilitation site (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2018). DBCA advised that there is no indication that the identification of this species has been clarified and as such it needs to be treated as threatened flora and protected from all potential impacts from both clearing and/or rehabilitation works (DBCA, 2019). A 50 metre buffer around the Synaphea stenoloba population should be implemented prior to clearing, where no works or disturbance is to be permitted (DBCA, 2019).

The occurrence of *Synaphea stenoloba* is approximately 105 metres from the application area and therefore is not likely to be impacted from the proposed clearing. Therefore, the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to include, or be necessary for the continued existence of threatened flora.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

As discussed in Principle (a), the "Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA Region" has been mapped more than 9 kilometers from the application area. According to the flora survey, no TECs were identified within the application area (Ecoedge, 2018b), therefore the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The local area retains approximately 53 per cent (approximately 17,206 hectares) native vegetation cover. The majority of this (approximately 13,111 hectares) occurs on land managed by DBCA as State Forest or Nature Reserve.

The application area falls within Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and is mapped as the South West (previously Mattiske) Kingia vegetation complex and Bidella vegetation complex, retaining 53 per cent, 94 per cent and 92 per cent respectively. The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup retains 56 per cent of its pre-European extents (Table 1) (Government of Western Australia, 2018a; Government of Western Australia, 2018b).

Given these extents are above the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is not considered a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Table 1: Bioregion, south west vegetation complex, and local government statistics (Government of Western Australia, 2019a; Government of Western Australia, 2018b).

	Pre-European Extent	Current Extent Remaining		Current Extent Remaining in DBCA Managed Lands
	(ha)	(ha)	(%)	(%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Jarrah Forest	4,506,660.26	2,406,938.58	53	37
Vegetation Complex				
Kingia	102,026.18	96,173.78	94	92
Bidella	47,784.70	44,068.92	92	91
Local Government Authority				
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	115,914.50	87,590.40	56	-

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, no wetlands or watercourses have been mapped within the application area. Therefore vegetation within the application area is likely to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principe.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application is mapped as the following land subsystems (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Kingia Subsystem: Broad undulating lateritic crests and divides over sedimentary rocks, relief 5-20 m, slopes 1-10%. Soils are sandy gravels with some deep sands
- Bidella Subsystem: Shallow (5-25 m) minor valleys with gentle side slopes (2-10%) and broad swampy floors, soils are sandy gravels and deep sands.

The land degradation risk categories that apply to this subsystem are demonstrated in Table 2. Based on the mapped land degradation risk outlined in Table 2, the application area has a relatively low likelihood of water erosion and flood risk.

Soils mapped as the Kingia Subsystem have a moderate wind erosion and salinity risk (30-50% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk and 30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline respectively). Soils mapped as the Bidella subsystem have a moderate water logging and salinity risk (30-50% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk and 30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline respectively).

Given that the application area is surrounded by substantial remnant vegetation in similar to better condition, the application area is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation through wind erosion, water logging and salinity.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Table 2: Land degradation risk categories for the Kingia subsystem and Bidella subsystem (Schokecht et al., 2004).

Risk Category	Kingia Subsystem	Bidella Subsystem
Wind Erosion	30-50% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk
Water Erosion	3-10% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk
Flood Risk	<3% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk
Water Logging	<3% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk	30-50% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk
Salinity	30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline	30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, four State Forest areas (Jarrahwood, Boyanup, Wellington and Mullalyup) and one unnamed Nature Reserve, have been mapped within the local area. The application area falls within the Boyanup State Forest.

The local area retain approximately 53.45 per cent (approximately 17,206 hectares) of native vegetation cover. The majority of this (approximately 13,111 hectares) occurs on land managed by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) as State Forest or Nature Reserve.

As discussed under Principle (b), SWREL axis lines are mapped approximately 3.4 kilometres north, 3.6 kilometres east and 7.6 northwest of the application area. Despite the application area not directly forming part of an ecological linkage, given that the application is situated within a large expanse of State Forest where several linkage axis lines have been mapped, the application area falls within proximity analysis group 1(b) (with an edge touching or less than 100m from a natural area selected in 1a), which is the second highest rating (Ecoedge, 2018b).

Noting the application area falls within Boyanup State Forest, the proposed clearing may impact on the environmental values of these ecological linkages via fragmentation or removal of native vegetation and on the environmental values of the Boyanup State Forest. A weed and dieback management condition placed on the Permit will mitigate the impact of spreading weeds and dieback in the surrounding area.

The proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

A section 91 licence issued by the DBCA will further address and mitigate impacts to the Boyanup State Forest.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as between 500 and 1000 total dissolved solids, milligrams per litre. This level of groundwater salinity is classified as “marginal”. Given this level, the proposed clearing is not likely to increase groundwater salinity.

As discussed in Principle (f), the application area does not contain any wetlands or vegetation growing in association with a water course.

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

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

As discussed in Principle (g), given that the mapped land degradation flood risk is between 3 percent and 30 percent and the porous nature of the soils identified within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The application area is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The application area is located within the Busselton-Capel Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (*RiWI Act*)*. DWER's South West Region advised that there are no applications to date to construct bores, or to take groundwater or surface water under the RiWI Act. DWER's South West Region requested confirmation from the applicant on whether they intended to extract groundwater or surface water to meet the needs of the gravel extraction (DWER, 2019). The applicant confirmed that they do not intent to extract groundwater or surface water during the gravel extraction process. The applicant advised that water will be trucked in by water tankers, if and when required (Shire of Donnybrook – Balingup, 2019).

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) advised DWER to undertake the clearing permit assessment and to make a decision on the application, prior to a Section 91 Licence under the *Land Administration Act 1997* being issued to the applicant (DBCA, 2018).

DBCA advised that since the identification of *Synaphea stenoloba* has not been clarified, a 50m buffer around this population of threatened flora is required to ensure it is protected. No offset rehabilitation/clearing works is permitted within this buffer (DBCA, 2019).

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup advised that they plan to rehabilitate 0.84 hectares of native vegetation with native species located approximately 33 metres from the application area (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2018).

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 17 December 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.

Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007 -) Nature Map: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: https://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ . Assessed December 2018.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2018) Approval to DWER to undertake clearing permit assessment and decision prior to a Section 91 Licence is issues to the applicant, Western Australia (DWER A1747152).

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Regional advice received 14 January 2019, Western Australia (DWER 1755072).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019) Water online advice, Received 2 January 2019, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia, DWER A1752540.

Ecoedge (2018a) Gavins Road Proposed Gravel Pit – *Phytophthora* Dieback Interpretation Report, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

Ecoedge (2018b) Report of a Flora and Vegetation Survey at the proposed gravel pit - Gavins Road – Donnybrook, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

Ecoedge (2018c) Gavins Road Gravel Pit and Offset Area Fauna Survey Report, Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup.

Government of Western Australia (2018a) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of February 2018. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth

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6. GIS Databases

- Aboriginal sits of significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Sac bio datasets accessed December 2018