



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8255/1
File Number: DWERVT1791
Duration of Permit: From 20 June 2019 to 20 June 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Kalinga Holdings Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 7 on Plan 2837, Moora

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than clear 56 native trees within the areas marked yellow on attached Plan 8255/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Clearing not authorised

The Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear trees at the following Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates:

EASTING	NORTHING	SPECIES
408365.1	6607379.7	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>
408371.6	6607328.7	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>
408363.1	6607309.9	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>
408363.2	6607308.3	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>
408373.7	6607163.7	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>
408456.1	6607156.6	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>
408601.6	6607157.3	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>
408514.4	6605940.5	<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>

2. 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.

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:

- the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a GPS unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- the date that the area was cleared;
- the size of the area cleared (in trees); and
- actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing 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* 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
2019.05.21
11:20:04
+08'00'

Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION





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

21 May 2019

Plan 8255/1



Legend

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



1:14,683

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Ryan Mincham

2019.05.21 11:21:08

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Date

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



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8255/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Kalinga Holdings Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 7 on Plan 2837, Moora
Local Government Authority: MOORA, SHIRE OF
DWER Region: Swan
DBCAs District: Moora
Localities: Moora

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	64	Mechanical Removal	Operation of controlled traffic farming system

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 21 May 2019
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 21 November 2019 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 based on the historical landuse (cropping), the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DWER, 2019) of the vegetation under application and the applicants minimisation and mitigation measures, that the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is to clear up to 64 native trees within Lot 7 on Plan 2837, Moora for the purpose of facilitating easier operation of a controlled traffic farming system.

Vegetation and Site Description: The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 4, described as described as Medium woodland; marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al., 1990).

The majority of the trees under application consist of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum), *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo) and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (york gum) (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2019). The trees are within a paddock currently used for farming (cropping).

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

The structure and condition of the vegetation under application was determined from supporting information provided with the application (photos and GPS points of the trees under application).

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

- Ranfury 1 Subsystem (Map Unit 256ra_1), described as alluvial plain of Moore river; loamy earths, clays and minor sandy earths (Schoknecht et al., 2004); and
- Coorow 2 Subsystem (Map Unit 258cw_2), described as low rises, with sand sheets; Yellow and pale deep sands, yellow sandy earths, some gravel and sandy duplexes (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



Photo 2

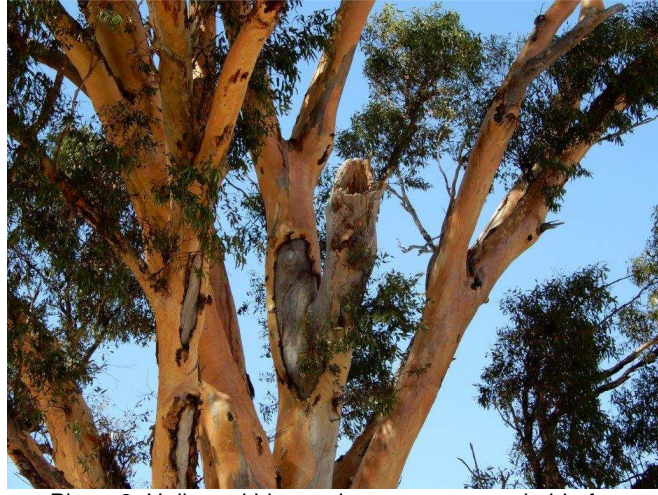


Photo 3: Hollow within a salmon gum tree suitable for Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo use. This tree will not be cleared as part of the proposed clearing.



Photo 4:

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

On 26 February 2019, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation wrote to the applicant to advise that the proposed clearing had the potential to result in environmental impacts to breeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo. The applicant was requested to address this concern.

In response, the applicant commissioned Bamford Consulting Ecologists to assess the value of trees for Carnaby's cockatoos within the application area. As a result of the survey, the applicant has committed to retaining eight habitat trees which were within the original application area. Based on this commitment, the clearing permit provides authorisation to clear a total of 56 native trees.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear up to 64 native trees within a paddock currently used for farming. The proposed clearing covers 20 different areas within Lot 7 on Plan 2837, Moora for the purpose of facilitating easier operation of a controlled traffic farming system.

According to available databases from the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 15 priority flora species and four threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area. The application area consists of paddock trees over pasture/weeds and is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. None of the four threatened flora species are trees, and of the 15 priority flora species recorded within the local area, only one (*Eucalyptus x carnabyi*) is a tree. *Eucalyptus x carnabyi* (P4) is a small mallee tree recorded approximately 5.1 kilometres from the application area. Noting the current land use and distance between the P4 species to the application area, it is unlikely the species will be impacted upon by the application. Furthermore, photos supplied by the applicant indicate that the trees proposed to be cleared are not a representation of *Eucalyptus x carnabyi*. Noting this and the current land use, it is unlikely the application area would provide suitable habitat for the abovementioned flora species or other known priority and threatened flora within the local area.

According to available databases, three fauna specially protected under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). These are the Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) and Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the condition of the vegetation within the application area and current land use, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous ground dwelling fauna including the Chuditch and Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider.

Photos and GPS points provided as supporting information with the application indicates that some of the trees could be considered potential nesting trees for Carnaby's cockatoos. 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, however, for salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 mm (Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, 2012). Additionally, the recovery plan for Carnaby's cockatoo defines breeding habitat as including nesting sites, and foraging habitat and water sources within foraging distance of nesting sites (Parks and Wildlife, 2013).

A black cockatoo assessment of the application area identified 49 trees that met the DBH criteria, comprising of 24 *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, 13 *Eucalyptus wandoo* and 12 *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2019). The trees surveyed were classified using the following ranking:

- Trees with a rank of 4 or 5 are extremely unlikely to contain hollows that could be used for nesting, although could eventually develop hollows of suitable size;
- Trees ranked from 1 to 3 are either being used (rank of 1), have been recently used based on chew marks around a suitable hollow entrance (rank of 2), or have potentially suitable hollows that have not been recently used (rank of 3) (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2019).

The survey identified 35 trees as having a ranking of 5, three trees with a ranking of 4, ten trees with a ranking of 3 and one tree with a ranking of 2. There were no trees identified as having a ranking of 1 (Bamford Consulting Ecologists, 2019). As discussed under section 3, the applicant has committed to retaining eight of the trees, seven of which were assigned the ranking of 3 along with the one tree assigned the ranking of 2 (salmon gum as indicated within Photo 3). A permit condition will ensure that these trees are retained. Noting the retention of the sole tree with a ranking of 2, along with majority of the trees with a ranking of 3, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on habitat for the 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, noting the current land use and the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, it is considered that the application area is not likely to be significant as a remnant.

According to available databases, no watercourses and wetlands occur with the application area. Noting this, and the current land use, the proposed clearing will not impact on vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

According to available databases, an unnamed nature reserve located approximately 2.5 kilometres west of the application area is the only the conservation area recorded within the local area. Noting the distance between the nature reserve and the application areas, and given they are separated by roads, along with other areas of remnant vegetation and paddocks of cleared land, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.

Noting the condition of the vegetation under application, the current land use and that there are no watercourses within the application area, 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.

Noting the above, the proposed is not likely to be at variance to the clearing Principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 21 November 2018 for a 21 day submission period. One submission was received during this period.

The submission raised concerns that the application area is Carnaby's cockatoo breeding habitat and that a survey should be undertaken to check for hollows within trees that may be suitable for breeding (Submission, 2018). The concerns raised within the submission have been addressed within the above assessment.

The Shire of Moora has advised there are no development requirements associated with the Shires Local Planning Scheme for the activity of native vegetation clearing on freehold General Agriculture Zoned land in the Shire of Moora. On that basis, the Shire does not have any comment in relation to the subject application (Shire of Moora, 2019).

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

5. References

- Bamford Consulting Ecologists (2019) Assessment of the value of trees for Balck-Cockatoos to inform permit application CPS 8255/1 – Kalinga Holdings (DWER Ref:A1784231).
- 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 February 2019
- 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.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (2012). Referral guidelines for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*). <http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/895d4094-af63-4dd3-8dff-ad2b9b943312/files/referral-guidelines-wa-black-cockatoo.pdf>

Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2013) Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) Recovery Plan. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth, Western Australia.

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.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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.

Shire of Moora (2019) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8255/1 (DWER Ref:A1759998)

Submission (2018). Submission received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 8255/1 (DWER Ref:A1741082).

GIS Databases:

Aboriginal Sites of Significance

DBCA Estate

Groundwater salinity

Hydrography, Linear

Hydrography, Hierarchy

Remnant Vegetation

SAC bio datasets (accessed January 2019)

Soils, Statewide

Topographic contours