



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8283/1
File Number: DWERVT1877
Duration of Permit: From 23 December 2019 to 23 December 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Viridis Ag Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 3489 on Plan 205675, Bindi Bindi
Lot 3490 on Plan 205675, Bindi Bindi
Lot 3497 on Plan 205676, Bindi Bindi
Lot 3498 on Plan 205676, Bindi Bindi
Lot 3644 on Plan 205676, Bindi Bindi
Lot 3648 on Plan 205675, Bindi Bindi
Lot 555 on Plan 71977, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1626 on Diagram 7275, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1635 on Diagram 7286, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1667 on Diagram 7402, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1679 on Diagram 7403, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1680 on Diagram 7427, Bindi Bindi
Lot M1683 on Diagram 7422, Bindi Bindi

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 638 native trees within the combined areas hatched yellow on attached Plans 8283/1a, 8283/1b, 8283/1c, 8283/1d, 8283/1e, 8283/1f, 8283/1g, and 8283/1h.

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 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 area to be cleared.

3. Records to 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 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise 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 2 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 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 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*

25 November 2019

Plan 8283/1a



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:41:41

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1b



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:44:06

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1c

30.604137°S

30.604137°S

116.411517°E

116.477913°E



30.63997°S

30.63997°S

Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:46:29

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1d

30.605555°S

30.605555°S

116.445538°E

116.511935°E



116.445538°E

116.511935°E

30.641388°S

30.641388°S

Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:48:40

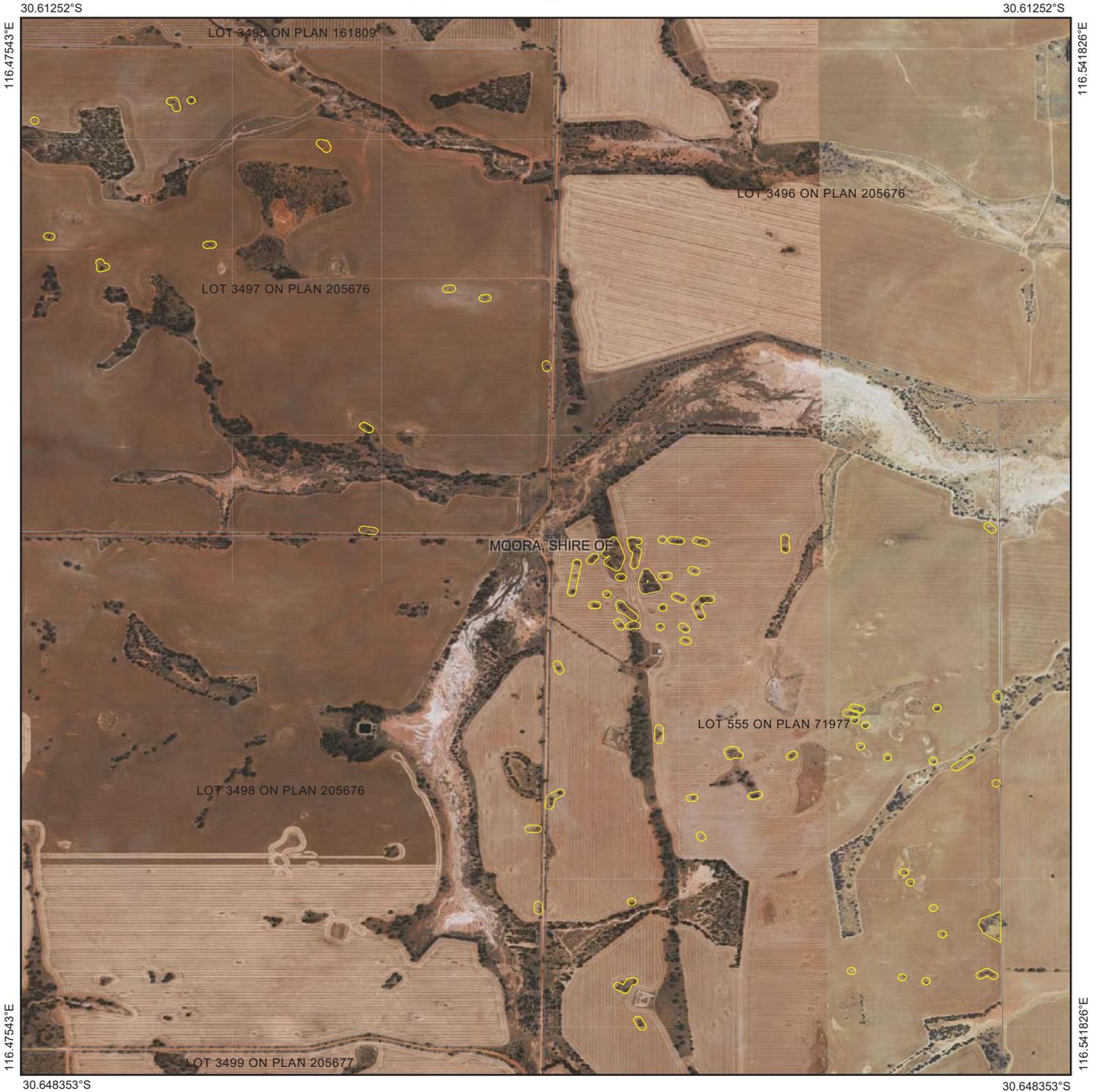
+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1e



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:51:11

+08'00'

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



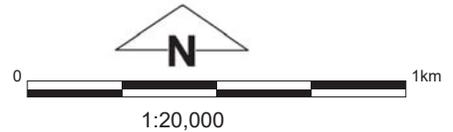
GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1f



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:53:49

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1g

30.633722°S

30.633722°S

116.402519°E

116.468915°E



116.402519°E

116.468915°E

30.669555°S

30.669555°S

Legend

-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:55:57

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019

Plan 8283/1h

30.65332°S

30.65332°S

116.437033°E

116.503429°E



116.437033°E

116.503429°E

30.689153°S

30.689153°S

Legend

- Imagery
- Clearing Instruments Activities
- Local Government Authority



0 1km

1:20,000

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.11.25 09:57:50

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2019



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8283/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: VIRIDIS AG PTY LTD
Application received date: 3 December 2018

1.3. Property details

Property:
 LOT 3489 ON PLAN 205675, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 3490 ON PLAN 205675, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 3497 ON PLAN 205676, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 3498 ON PLAN 205676, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 3644 ON PLAN 205676, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 3648 ON PLAN 205675, BINDI BINDI
 LOT 555 ON PLAN 71977, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1626 ON DIAGRAM 7275, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1635 ON DIAGRAM 7286, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1667 ON DIAGRAM 7402, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1679 ON DIAGRAM 7403, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1680 ON DIAGRAM 7427, BINDI BINDI
 LOT M1683 ON DIAGRAM 7422, BINDI BINDI

Local Government Authority: MOORA, SHIRE OF
Localities: BINDI BINDI

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of clearing	Purpose Category:
	638	Mechanical Removal	Cropping

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 25 November 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 is at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principle (e) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

The applicant initially applied to clear an area of 817 native trees. Through assessment of the initial application area it was identified that the proposed clearing had the potential to impact on suitable habitat for threatened flora species and significant remnant vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing had the potential to result in significant environmental impacts. Further information was sought from the applicant to address these concerns.

The applicant requested to amend the application area to remove the patches of remnant vegetation that may comprise suitable habitat for threatened flora species.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent remnant native vegetation. To minimise this risk, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to weed and dieback management, and an avoid and minimise conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description	The application area is within the mapped as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beard vegetation association 142, described as medium woodland; york gum & salmon gum (Shepherd <i>et al</i> 2001).• Beard vegetation association 392, described as shrublands; <i>Melaleuca thyioides</i> thicket (Shepherd <i>et al</i> 2001).
Vegetation Description	The application is to clear 638 native trees within numerous lots (listed above) in Bindi Bindi for the purpose of providing efficient farm management practice and machinery access.
Vegetation Condition	Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994). To Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation or ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).
Comment	The local area is defined as the 20 kilometre radius surrounding the application area.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear 817 native vegetation native trees within numerous lots in Bindi Bindi for the purpose of providing efficient farm management practice and machinery access. A site inspection conducted by DWER (2019) officers determined that the application area is in a good to a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The vegetation is predominantly consisting of mostly of paddock trees, and a few stands of trees that have no understorey, or an understorey of paddock grass. However there were a few patches of remnant condition that were in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition with native species in the understorey.

According to available databases, six fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (Parks and Wildlife 2007-). This includes Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), listed as endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), and the Shield-backed Trapdoor Spider (*Idiosoma nigrum*) and Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) which are Vulnerable under the EPBC Act.

Carnaby's cockatoo breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Carnaby's cockatoo nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum and powder bark (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

The site inspection (DWER, 2019) identified a number of trees that fit the criteria for black cockatoo breeding habitat, having a diameter at breast height (DBH) of more than 50 centimetres (or 30 centimetres for salmon gum), however no hollows were observed that may provide suitable nesting habitat for black cockatoos. Noting the application area contains York gum and Salmon gum, it is considered that the application area may contain potential habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo. Given the application area predominantly consists paddock trees, and no hollows were observed, the application area is not likely to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna.

Fourteen priority flora and five threatened flora have been recorded within ten kilometres of the application area. Of these conservation flora, threatened flora species *Chorizema humile* was recorded within 200 metres of the application area and growing in association with York gums. Given that this species has been recorded on the same mapped vegetation and soil types as the application area, the application area may contain suitable habitat for this species. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance with principle (c). A flora survey is required to determine if the vegetation within the application area comprises significant habitat for this species.

One remnant within the application area is mapped as the nationally listed threatened ecological community (TEC) 'Eucalypt Woodlands of Western Australian Wheatbelt' (WA Wheatbelt Woodlands). The WA Wheatbelt Woodlands was listed as a critically endangered TEC under the EPBC Act on 4 December 2015. The WA Wheatbelt Woodlands TEC is dominated by a complex mosaic of eucalypt species with a tree or mallet form over an understorey that is highly variable in structure and composition. The patch of vegetation in question is 0.46 hectares and does not meet Department of Environment and Energy's (2015) condition threshold, which requires a patch to be greater than 5 hectares, for vegetation in good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, to be considered a WA Wheatbelt Woodlands TEC.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation includes a target that does not support the clearing of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia 2001). The Avon Wheatbelt IBRA Bioregion retains approximately 19 per cent of its original vegetation extent and mapped Beard vegetation Associations 142 and 392 (Shepherd *et al* 2001) retain approximately 12 and 19 per cent (Government of Western Australia 2013) of their original vegetation extent respectively, within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA Bioregion. The local area is also highly cleared with approximately nine per cent vegetation remaining. Noting the vegetation within the application area consists of mostly paddock trees, it is not representative of Beard Vegetation Associations 142 and 392. Noting there are a few remnant patches that retain their understorey, these areas may be suitable habitat for the threatened flora species *Chorizema humile*, and therefore may be a significant remnant of vegetation. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance with principle (e).

According to available datasets, minor watercourses are mapped throughout the application areas. Twenty of the 817 trees are within 50 metres of these watercourses, therefore some trees are considered to be within an environment associated with a watercourse. The proposed clearing may also cause short-term sedimentation of surface water of these watercourse, however, this impact is considered to be minimal.

The closest conservation reserve, Lake Hinds Nature Reserve, is located ten kilometres east of the application area. Given the distance to this reserve from the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon the environmental values of this reserve.

Previous advice from the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2017) indicates that the removal of isolated trees and small stands of trees on this farm, for the purpose of agriculture, presents a low risk of land degradation occurring.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principles (c) and (e), and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining 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 DWER website on 25 January 2019 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. Applicant's Submissions

On 29 July 2019, a Delegated Officer of DWER wrote to the applicant outlining the environmental impacts associated with the application and recommending that a flora survey be undertaken.

On 5 September 2019, the applicant amended the application by reducing the clearing area from 817 native trees to 638 native trees. The applicant removed stands of trees, that were in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition with native species in the understorey, from the application area. The amended application area consists of 638 paddock trees in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

5. Consideration of variances following applicants submission / further information

In regards to principle (c), given that areas with good (Keighery, 1994) condition vegetation that may comprise suitable habitat for the threatened flora species *Chorizema humile* have been removed from the application. The amended application area is not likely to comprise suitable habitat for threatened flora species. Given this, the proposed clearing of 638 native trees is not likely to be at variance with principle (c).

In regards to principle (e), given that areas with good (Keighery, 1994) condition vegetation that may comprise suitable habitat for the threatened flora species *Chorizema humile* have been removed from the application. The amended application area is not likely to comprise suitable habitat for threatened flora species, a priority ecological community or TEC, or significant fauna habitat and therefore it is not likely to represent significant remnant native vegetation. Given the local area still remains an extensively cleared area, the proposed clearing remains as may be at variance with principle (e).

In regards to principle (f), twenty trees of the amended application area remain within 50 metres of mapped watercourses. Given the proximity of the watercourses to these trees, the amended application area is considered to be within an environment associated with a watercourse, and therefore the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f). Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 2019) condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the values and the function of the watercourses, or the remanent riparian vegetation that line them.

The applicant was able demonstrate that the potential significant environmental impacts could be adequately addressed by reducing and modifying the application area.

6. References

- Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2017) Land degradation assessment report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7426/1. Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DWER Ref: A1408198).
- 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: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Commonwealth of Australia
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2019) Site inspection report for Clearing Permit application CPS 8283/1. Site inspection conducted 14 March 2019 (DWER REF: A1787667).
- Government of Western Australia. (2018). 2017 Statewide 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.
- 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 Managed Estate
- Directory of Important Wetlands
- Geomorphic Wetlands
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- SAC Bio Datasets
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Pre-European Vegetation