



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 8331/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	12 July 2019 to 12 July 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 removal of trees with unacceptable risk rating.

#### **2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lot 35 on Plan 28750, Augusta  
Lot 38 on Plan 222043, Augusta  
Lot 404 on Plan 206431, Augusta  
Lot 405 on Plan 222043, Augusta  
Lot 442 on Plan 209270, Augusta  
Lot 485 on Plan 175288, Augusta  
Lot 828 on Plan 215150, Augusta  
Lot 857 on Plan 188703, Augusta  
Lot 858 on Plan 188703, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 1348894, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 1348906, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 11396552, Augusta

#### **3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 100 native trees within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 8331/1.

#### **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 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 areas to be cleared.

### **8. Direction of clearing**

The Permit Holder shall conduct clearing in a progressive manner from one direction to the other (e.g. east to west) to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

### **9. Fauna management – pre-clearing inspections**

- (a) In relation to the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8331/1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect each tree to be removed immediately prior to, and for the duration of, clearing for the presence of western ringtail possum(s) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).
- (b) Clearing must cease in any area where western ringtail possum(s) referred to in condition 9(a) above are identified until either:
  - (i) the individual(s) has moved on from that area to adjoining *suitable habitat*; or
  - (ii) the individual(s) has been removed by a *fauna specialist*.
- (c) Any western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) individuals removed in accordance with condition 9(b)(i) of this Permit must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to *suitable habitat*.

### **10. Revegetation - mitigation**

For every Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) tree removed under this Permit, the Permit Holder must *plant* at least two Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8331/1.

## **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

### **11. Records must be kept**

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done in pursuant to this Permit:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
  - (i) 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;
  - (ii) the date that the clearing occurred;
  - (iii) the direction that clearing occurred;
  - (iv) the species of tree cleared; and
  - (v) the number of trees cleared.
- (b) Actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of the Permit;
- (c) Actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 7 of the Permit;

- (d) Where a western ringtail possum(s) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) is identified under condition 9(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must provide the following records to the *CEO* as soon as practicable:
  - (i) the number of individuals identified;
  - (ii) the date each individual was identified;
  - (iii) the location where each individual was identified 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;
  - (iv) the number of individuals removed and relocated;
  - (v) the date each individual was removed;
  - (vi) the date each individual was relocated;
  - (vii) the location where each individual was relocated to, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
  - (viii) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, an individual.
- (d) In relation to the planting of Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) trees pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:
  - (i) a description of the *planting* activities undertaken;
  - (ii) the location of *planting* recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
  - (iii) the date that *planting* occurred.

## 12. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
  - (i) of records required under condition 11 of this Permit; and
  - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year.
- (c) Prior to 12 March 2024, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(a) of this Permit.

## 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;

***fauna specialist*** means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of two years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*;

***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;

***planting*** means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*);

***suitable habitat*** means habitat known to support western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) within the known current distribution of the species. This often includes stands of myrtaceous trees

(usually Peppermint Tree (*Agonis flexuosa*)) growing near swamps, watercourses or floodplains, and at topographic low points which provide cooler, often more fertile, conditions.

*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.



---

Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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





12 June 2019

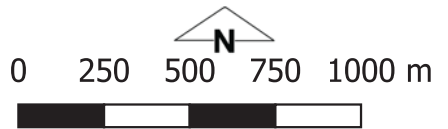


# Plan 8331/1



## Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear base layers
-  Cadastre
-  Road Centrelines
-  Local Government Authorities
- Image



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*Mathew Gannaway*

**Mathew  
Gannaway**  
2019.06.12  
14:58:59 +08'00'

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

**Permit application No.:** 8331/1  
**Permit type:** Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

**Applicant's name:** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River  
**Application received date:** 14 January 2019

### 1.3. Property details

**Property:** Lot 35 On Plan 28750, Augusta  
Lot 38 On Plan 222043, Augusta  
Lot 404 On Plan 206431, Augusta  
Lot 405 On Plan 222043, Augusta  
Lot 442 On Plan 209270, Augusta  
Lot 485 On Plan 175288, Augusta  
Lot 828 On Plan 215150, Augusta  
Lot 857 On Plan 188703, Augusta  
Lot 858 On Plan 188703, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 1348894, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 1348906, Augusta  
Road Reserve - 11396552, Augusta

**Local Government Authority:** Shire of Augusta-Margaret River  
**Localities:** Blackwood

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
-	100	Mechanical Removal	Recreation

### 1.5. Decision on application

**Decision on Permit Application:** Granted  
**Decision Date:** 12 June 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*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b), is at variance to Principle (f), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The proposed clearing may result in the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. A weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise this risk.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact on significant habitat for western ringtail possums (WRP) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). To minimise impacts to WRP's, the Delegated Officer has granted the clearing permit subject to conditions requiring:

- A pre-clearance search of the application area to identify any WRP's, with a requirement to cessate clearing should any WRP's be identified, until such time that they have been removed and relocated, or move on independently;
- The planting of two peppermint trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) trees for every peppermint tree removed under this permit; and
- one directional clearing to allow WRP's to move into adjacent habitat.

The Delegated Officer also had consideration for the management measures proposed by the applicant.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to any unacceptable risk to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description** The application is for the proposed clearing of up to 100 native trees within the abovementioned Lots due to the unacceptable risk of falling trees within caravan parks in Augusta (Figure 1).



**Vegetation Description**

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as (Mattiske and Havel, 1998):

- Wilyabrup (Wr, 305): Woodland of *Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* with closed heath of Myrtaceae-Proteaceae-Fabaceae spp. on steep rocky slopes in the hyperhumid zone.
- D'Entrecasteaux (D, 77): Tall shrubland and woodland of *Agonis flexuosa-Acacia saligna* on flats between dunes in the perhumid zone.
- Kilcarnup (KbE, 150): Mosaic of coastal complex and closed heath of *Olearia axillaris-Pimelea ferruginea-Melaleuca huegelii* on exposed calcareous dunes on seaward slopes in hyperhumid to humid zones.

**Vegetation Condition**

The condition of the vegetation within the application area ranges from completely degraded to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, defined as:

- Completely Degraded: No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species; to
- Excellent: Vegetation structure intact, damage to trees caused by fire, the presence of non-aggressive weeds and occasional vehicle tracks.

**Soil/Landform Type:**

Four soil types are mapped within the application area (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Wilyabrup undifferentiated hillslope Phase 216Wv: Slopes with gradients generally 5-15%, but ranging from 2-30%, and gravelly soils (i.e. Forest Grove and Keenan Soils).
- D'Entrecasteaux calcareous sand flats Phase 215Dx: Interdune flats with deep calcareous sands with organic stained topsoils.
- Wilyabrup exposed slopes Phase 216Gr: Low slopes (gradients generally 5-10%) exposed to strong winds off ocean.
- Kilcarnup beach Phase 216Gr: Beaches and foredunes of calcareous sand, along the west coast.

**Comment**

The vegetation condition was determined from aerial imagery and a fauna survey of the Turner Caravan Park (Harewood, 2018).

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 85 per cent native vegetation cover.

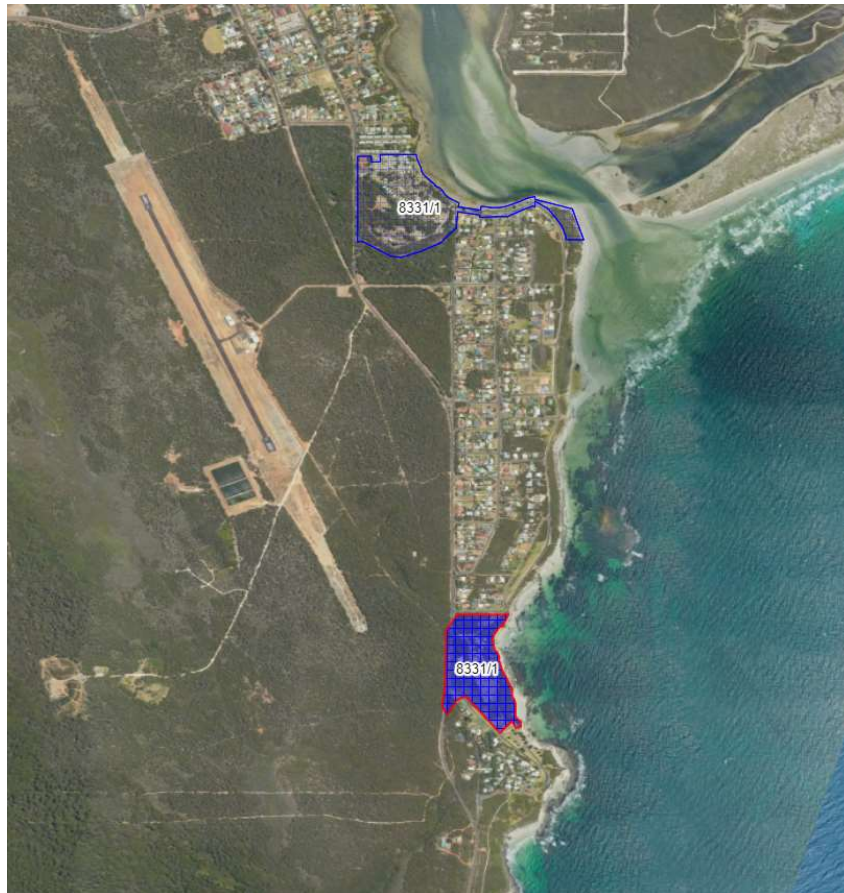


Figure 1: Application area in blue; northern portion of the application area is Turner Caravan Park and surrounds, and southern portion of the application area is the Flinders Caravan Park and surrounds

### 3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that replacement planting of trees is already underway for the trees to be removed under this permit (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019a). The applicant advised (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019b) during the assessment that it had purchased 123 Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) trees for planting within the application area. In the past 12 months, 70 Peppermint trees and 16 other trees (eucalypt and melaleuca species) were planted at the Turner Caravan Park and surrounds (Figure 2). The applicant advised that a further 40 Peppermint plants would be planted in the next 12 months at the Turner Caravan Park and surrounds. While no Peppermints have been planted at the Flinders Caravan Park in the past 12 months, the applicant advised that in the next 12 months, approximately 44 Peppermint trees are scheduled to be planted.



Figure 2: Planting of Peppermints at Turner Caravan Park

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is for the proposed clearing of up to 100 native trees within the abovementioned Lots, due to the unacceptable risk of trees falling within caravan parks in Augusta. Arborist inspections for the Turner Caravan Park and adjacent foreshore areas (northern portion), and for the Flinders Caravan Park surrounds (southern portion), have assessed tree health and public safety for over 900 trees. These assessments have identified 41 mature trees with an unacceptable risk requiring immediate removal as they show signs of extensive decay, rot and cracks (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019a). The majority of trees requiring removal are Peppermints (*Agonis flexuosa*) and Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), with some Paperbark (*Melaleuca* sp.) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*).

A number of other trees are currently considered to pose an acceptable risk but are in decline and are subject to annual inspections. Potential removal of up to another 59 trees may be required through the duration of the clearing permit, where future arborist assessments identify these trees to be unsafe (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019a).

According to available databases, 32 Threatened fauna species, 20 species protected under international agreement, seven Priority fauna and five specially protected fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 2007-). Based on a fauna survey of the Turner Caravan Park and surrounds (Harewood, 2018), western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), the south-western brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger*) and quenda (*Isoodon obesulus fusciventer*) were observed in or near the application area, and black cockatoo species (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo [*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*], Baudin's Cockatoo [*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*] and Carnaby's Cockatoo [*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*]) foraging activity was recorded in or near the application area.

The Turner Caravan Park and surrounds contains habitat for the western ringtail possum with a high number of Peppermint trees present in the area and observations of at least 10 individuals during the Harewood (2018) survey. Similar results for western ringtail possum can be expected at the Flinders Caravan Park (DBCA, 2019) as there are similar tree species at both locations which would provide habitat for the fauna species. It is understood that the applicant will engage a fauna specialist to oversee clearing of trees with western ringtail possums or dreys (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019a). As advised by DBCA (2019), the fauna specialist should ensure that trees are felled to allow any individuals to disperse to nearby vegetation and to ensure individuals do not shelter under vehicles or other machinery that may result in later injury. The fauna specialist should also ensure that any injured individuals or individuals that will not disperse into nearby vegetation are captured and taken to the relevant carers.



The south-western brush-tailed phascogale is an arboreal species that uses tree hollows for nesting and forages in the tree canopy (DBCA, 2013). The fauna survey recorded the south-western brush-tailed phascogale and quenda within the reserves located adjacent to Turner Caravan Park. It is possible for the abovementioned species to occur within the application area, but are not likely to reside within the proposed clearing area given it is already largely cleared and devoid of native vegetation ground cover (Harewood, 2018).

DBCA advised that the tall vegetation in the Turner Caravan Park may be providing foraging, breeding and/or roosting habitat for black cockatoos (DBCA, 2019). This is supported by the Harewood (2018) survey which advised that much of the Turner Caravan Park contains foraging habitat for black cockatoos. No trees with suitable hollows for breeding or evidence of roosting were recorded within the Turner Caravan Park (Harewood, 2018). DBCA (2019) advised that the majority of the remainder of the applied trees outside of Turner Caravan Park are low-wind pruned mallees that would be barely over 3-m metres in height. Noting the above, whilst the application area may provide suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoo species, the proposed clearing is not likely to contain suitable breeding habitat. The application area does not provide significant foraging habitat for black cockatoos due to the local area retaining approximately 85 per cent native vegetation cover.

It is considered that a number of other specially protected and priority fauna species known to occur within the local area may occur within the better quality bush area located adjacent to the application areas but are not considered likely to frequent the more developed sections of the application area itself (Harewood, 2018).

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b). The replacement trees that are being planted will, over time, reduce the habitat lost from the trees removed under this application. It is understood that 70 Peppermint trees were planted in the last 12 months at the Turner Caravan Park and further plantings are proposed over the next 12 months at both caravan parks (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019b). To mitigate the impact and ensure the connectivity of the area is maintained, for each Peppermint removed within the application area, at least two Peppermint plants should be planted. Visual inspections for western ringtail possums are to be undertaken during clearing activities to allow any individuals the opportunity to leave or be removed.

According to available databases, seven Threatened flora and 42 Priority flora species have been recorded within the local area, with no known occurrences within the application area. The closest recorded species is the Threatened species *Kennedia lateritia* located approximately 60 m to the south of the northern portion of the application area (the Turner Caravan Park). This species is a climbing shrub known to grow in heath tangled amongst other shrubs and Eucalyptus, and with species such as Peppermint, bracken fern (*Pteridium esculentum*) and bridal creeper (*Asparagus asparagoides*). While there are no known Threatened or Priority flora species within the application area, it is possible that the application area contains suitable habitat for the Threatened species *Kennedia lateritia*. Whilst suitable habitat may be present, there are 27 records of this species within five kilometres of the application area, and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the local abundance of this species. Furthermore, the permit only allows the applicant to clear tree species, with any impacts to understorey species outside of the bounds of this permit. DBCA (2019) advised that any impacts to *Kennedia lateritia* will require a Permit to Take under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

According to available datasets, the application area does not contain any threatened ecological communities (TECs) or priority ecological communities (PECs) and is not within or adjacent to any conservation areas. Information obtained from the fauna survey (Harewood, 2018) shows that the application area does not contain any vegetation consistent with any TECs or PECs recorded within the local area.

A wetland (dampland) is within the southern portion of the application area and the Blackwood River is adjacent to the northern portion of the application area. As vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland is present within the application area, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f). Whilst the clearing is at variance to Principle (f), clearing of single trees is not likely to have a significant impact on the watercourse or wetland.

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 local area retains more than 85 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent and the vegetation complexes retain more than 36 per cent of their pre-European extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Given the percentage of vegetation complexes remaining, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant.

Based on the mapped land degradation risk, the application area has a relatively low likelihood of water erosion, salinity, subsurface acidification, flooding and water logging. Wind erosion is mapped at upwards of 50 per cent, which is a high to extreme risk of wind erosion that may lead to land degradation. However, given that the clearing is for separate trees and not wholesale clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (g). It is considered that the replacement trees being planted by the applicant will assist in managing erosion.

The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds and dieback being introduced into areas of adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b), is at variance to Principle (f), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

## Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website on 13 February 2019 for a 21 day submission period ending on 6 March 2019. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

One Aboriginal Site of Significance, Blackwood River (Mythological), has been recorded within the application area. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they comply with their obligations under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

## 5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001). National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2007-). NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2012). Fauna profiles: Quenda, *Isodon obesulus* (Shaw, 1797) accessed via [https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/conservation-management/pests-diseases/quenda\\_2012.pdf](https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/conservation-management/pests-diseases/quenda_2012.pdf)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2013). Factsheet: Brush-tailed Phascogale, *Phascogale tapoatafa* (Meyer, 1793), accessed via <https://library.dbca.wa.gov.au/static/FullTextFiles/071549.pdf>
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2019). DBCA advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 8331/1. (DWER Ref: A1782144)
- 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. Retrieved from <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Harewood, G. (2018). Fauna Assessment, Turner Caravan Park, Augusta. Prepared for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. May 2018. (DWER Ref: A1782144)
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment 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.
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (2019a). Clearing Permit application. (DWER Ref: A1755475)
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (2019b). Clearing Permit application – further information (DWER Ref: A1788771)

### GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Heritage
- DBCA Estate
- DWER Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed March 2019)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands