



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 8336/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	15 April 2019 – 15 April 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 improving vehicle sightlines.

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

Fifty One Road Reserve (PIN 11476602), Cowaramup

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 12 native trees within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8336/1.

**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:

- 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.

## 7. Weed and Dieback 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 any earth-moving machinery and other clearing equipment of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *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.

## 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 trees);
- (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 *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

### 9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 8 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; and

*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; and
- (d) that is a species permitted for planting under a Pastoral Diversification Permit issued by the Department of Regional Development and Lands

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Ryan Mincham  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

21 March 2019

# Plan 8336/1

115°3'6.480"E

115°3'7.200"E

115°3'7.920"E

115°3'8.640"E

33°49'58.800"S

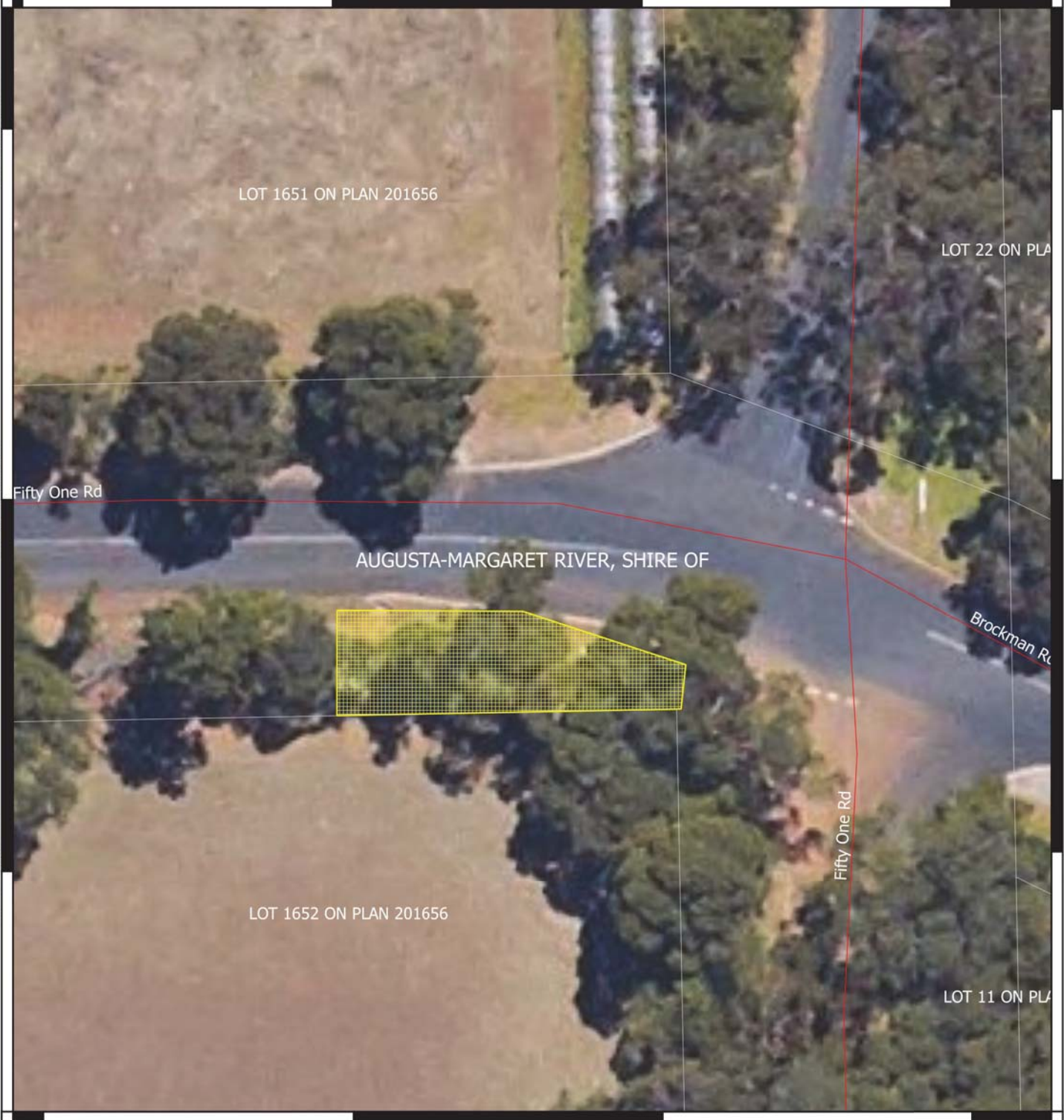
33°49'59.520"S

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115°3'6.480"E

115°3'7.200"E

115°3'7.920"E

115°3'8.640"E

## Legend

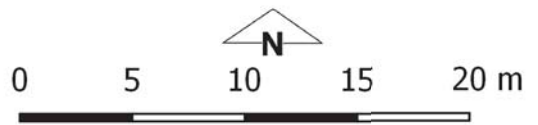
base layers

Local Government Authorities

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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



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8336/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Applicant's name: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Fifty One Road Reserve (Pin 11476602)  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River  
Localities: Cowaramup

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	12	Mechanical Removal	Improving vehicle sightlines

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 21 March 2019  
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 21 January 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 considered that the implementation of a suitable weed and dieback management condition was appropriate to mitigate the impact of spreading weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The application is to clear up to 12 native trees within Fifty One Road Reserve (PIN 11476602), Cowaramup, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, for the purpose of improving vehicle sightlines. The 12 native trees comprise of two trees at <300 millimetres diameter at breast height (DBH), three trees at <150 millimetres DBH, and seven saplings at <75 millimetres DBH (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019). The application area is shown in Figure 1, and photographs of the vegetation within the application area has been provided by the applicant (Figure 2; Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019).

**Vegetation and Site Description:** The application area is mapped as Matiske vegetation complex: Wilyabrup Vegetation Complex (W2), described as open forest of *Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina decussata-Agonis flexuosa* on deeply incised valleys in perhumid and humid zones.

**Vegetation Condition:** Based on the photographs provided by the applicant, the condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be Degraded; basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance (Keighery, 1994).

**Soil and Landform Type:** The application area is mapped within the Wilyabrup gentle slope Phase subsystem, described as gradients 5 - 10 per cent (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.

During the assessment of this application, the applicant (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River) further clarified the scope of works by minimising the original application area to the extent of the 12 native trees, and excluding the adjacent vegetation within the road reserve (Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019).



Figure 1. Application area (cross-hatched blue)



Figure 2. Photographs of vegetation within the application area

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The application proposes to clear up to 12 native trees to improve vehicle sightlines at the intersection of Fifty One Road and Brockman Road, Cowaramup. Based on the photographs provided by the applicant, the vegetation within the application area is comprised of eucalypt trees of mixed age, lacking an understorey, and is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

A review of available databases determined that 31 flora species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area, comprising one threatened species, one Priority 1 species, four Priority 2 species, eighteen Priority 3 species and seven Priority 4 species (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). No occurrences of these conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the application area. Of the 31 flora species recorded in the local area, one species *Thysanotus isantherus* (Priority 4) has been recorded within vegetation and soil types that are consistent with the application area. However, based on the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, it is not anticipated that the application area comprises optimal habitat for this species.

According to available databases, 27 terrestrial fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area, comprising 16 threatened species, five Priority 4 species, one Priority 3 species, three species protected under international agreement, and two species classified as 'other specially protected fauna' (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation and the lack of understorey species, the application area is not likely to provide suitable habitat for any ground dwelling fauna species. Furthermore, a review of photos provided by the applicant (Figure 2; Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, 2019) did not identify any hollow bearing trees or significant foraging areas for any arboreal and/or aerial fauna species. Given that the application area is limited to 12 native trees in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and that it does not form a part of an ecological linkage, the application area is not likely to be significant habitat for native fauna species.

Clearing activities have the potential to facilitate the spread of weeds and dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) into adjacent native vegetation. Weed species can decrease the biodiversity value of an area, as they out-compete native vegetation for available resources, contribute to land degradation and increase the frequency

and intensity of fires. Potential impacts to biodiversity within and nearby the application area as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of weed and dieback management practices.

No threatened ecological communities (TECs) occur within the local area, and the closest priority ecological community (PEC) occurs over 5 kilometres from the application area. Noting the degraded (Keighery, 1994) vegetation condition and the small extent of the application area, the application area is not likely to comprise, or be necessary for the maintenance of any TEC or PEC. The closest conservation area to the application area is the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park located approximately 2.4 kilometres southwest from the application area. Given the distance between the application area and the nearest conservation area, the application area is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

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 Warren IBRA bioregion retains approximately 79 per cent of the pre-European extent, and the mapped Wilyabrup Vegetation Complex retains approximately 32 per cent (approximately 1,316 hectares), of the pre-European extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018a; Government of Western Australia, 2018b). The local area surrounding the application has been extensively cleared and retains approximately 30 per cent native vegetation. However, given that the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and does not contain a high level of biodiversity, conservation significant flora, fauna or communities, the application area is not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape.

The application area is located within the Cape to Cape North Surface Water Area and Busselton-Capel Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*. However, according to available database, no watercourses or wetlands intersect the application area. The soil mapped within the application area is the Wilyabrup gentle slope Phase soil type which has a low risk of wind erosion, water erosion and flooding, and has a medium risk of salinity. Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area, and as no riparian zones are mapped within the application area, it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on water resources, lead to appreciable land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water, or result in the exacerbation of flooding (DWER, 2019).

Given the above, clearing the vegetation under application is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

#### Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

**Comments** There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the permit application area. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The application area is zoned Local Roads under the town planning scheme.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 11 February 2019 with a 21 day submission period. One public submission was received in relation to this application after the submission period's closing date (Submissions, 2019). The submission raised concerns in relation to the proposed clearing, including the potential impacts to remnant vegetation, flora and fauna habitat and increase in weed presence. These matters have been considered through the assessment and addressed in this report. The submission also made comments concerning matters including installation of road safety barriers, signage, and reducing speed limits. These matters are beyond the scope of the assessment of clearing impacts and have not been addressed.

#### 4. 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, <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed March 2019).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2019). Water Online advice received on 5 March 2019. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER Ref: A1771027).
- Government of Western Australia (2018a). 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>.
- Government of Western Australia (2018b). 2017 State-wide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of February 2018. 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 PJ and Purdie B. (2004). Soil-landscape mapping in south-western Australia - Overview of methodology and outputs. Management Technical Report 280, Department of Agriculture Western Australia.
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River (2019). Application for a clearing permit and supporting documentation CPS 8336/1, Cowaramup, Western Australia. (DWER Ref: A1757317, A1770843).
- Submissions (2019) Public submissions received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8336/1 (DWER Ref: A1772163).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed March 2019).

#### GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DPaW Tenure
- Hydrography, linear

- Hydrography, hierarchy
- SAC bio datasets accessed March 2019