



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8385/1
Permit Holder:	Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited
Duration of Permit:	28 September 2019 – 28 September 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

Realigning an access road

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lake Grace-Newdegate Road reserve (PINs 11639519 and 11434857), Newdegate
Lot 1181 on Deposited Plan 204058 (Crown Reserve 20629), Newdegate
Lot 521 on Deposited Plan 408399 (Crown Reserve 29080), Newdegate

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.91573 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8385/1.

4. Clearing not authorised

This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear the flora species *Guichenotia asteriskos*.

5. 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.

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 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery 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 areas to be cleared.

8. 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 6 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *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*;

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.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

Thursday, 29 August 2019

CPS 8385/1 Plan

33.09612°S

33.09612°S

119.005297°E

119.011993°E







119.005297°E

119.011993°E

33.099219°S

33.099219°S

Legend

-  Imagery
-  Cadastre
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Roads




1:3,312

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 29/08/2019
Mathew Gannaway

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8385/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited
Application received date: 26 February 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lake Grace-Newdegate Road reserve (PINs 11639519 and 11434857),
Lot 1181 on Deposited Plan 204058 (Crown Reserve 20629)
Lot 521 on Deposited Plan 408399 (Crown Reserve 29080)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Lake Grace
Localities: Newdegate

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.91573 (revised)		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades.

1.5. Decision on application Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 29 August 2019
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 26 February 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*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (a) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the other clearing principles.

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

The Delegated Officer determined that whilst the proposed clearing includes priority flora species, suitable habitat and individuals of the species impacted is still retained within the adjacent areas. The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on the species local or regional occurrence.

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

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The revised application is for the proposed clearing of 0.91573 hectares of native vegetation in Lake Grace-Newdegate Road reserve (PINs 11639519 and 11434857), Lot 1181 on Deposited Plan 204058 (Crown Reserve 20629) and Lot 521 on Deposited Plan 408399 (Crown Reserve 29080), Newdegate, for the purpose of realigning an access road.

Vegetation Description: The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 380, described as mixed heath with scattered tall shrubs *Acacia* spp., *Proteaceae* and *Myrtaceae*. (Sheppard et al, 2001). The vegetation within the application area has been described by Eco Logical (2019) as:

- *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* open shrubland;
- Mixed sparse shrubland; and
- *Eucalyptus phaenophylla* subsp. *phaenophylla* open mallee woodland

Vegetation Condition: The condition of the vegetation within the application area ranges from very good to excellent condition (Eco Logical, 2019, Keighery, 1994); defined as:

- Very good: vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994); to
- Excellent: vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil description:

The application area occurs within the Newdegate 6 subsystem which is described as areas of significant rock outcrop including monadnocks, and sheet rock. Associated soils include stony soils, yellow/brown deep sandy duplex soils, deep sands and red soils (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments:

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 23 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Application area cross-hatched in blue

3. Minimisation and mitigation

The original application was for the proposed clearing of 1.36 hectares of native vegetation. A preliminary assessment report and correspondence was sent to the applicant on 2 July 2019 requesting further avoidance and minimisation measures. The applicant revised the amount of clearing required and reduced the area to 0.91573 hectares.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As noted in Section 2 above, the vegetation within the application area includes and *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* open shrubland, Mixed sparse shrubland and *Eucalyptus phaenophylla* subsp. *phaenophylla* open mallee woodland (Eco Logical, 2019).

According to available databases, five Threatened fauna species, two specially protected fauna species, one fauna species protected under international agreement and three priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2007-).

Eco Logical Australia (2019) noted observations directly and indirectly of eight native fauna species during a September 2018 fauna survey of the application area, none of which were of a threatened, priority or other conservation status. Eco Logical Australia (2019) did consider that the Priority 4 species, *Platycercus icterotis* subsp. *xanthogenys* (western Rosella), was likely to occur within the application area and that the following conservation significant species had the potential to occur;

- *Pseudomys shortridgei* (Heath Mouse) (listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act))
- *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Vulnerable under the BC Act)
- *Phascogale calura* (red-tailed Phascogale) (listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and S6 under the BC Act)
- *Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift) (listed as Migratory under International Agreement under the EPBC Act, and as S5 under the BC Act)
- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon) (listed as S7 under the BC Act)
- *Bothriembryon bradshawi* (Bradshaws land snail) (listed as Priority 1 by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)),
- *Psophodes nigrogularis* subsp. *oberon* (western whip-bird) (listed as Priority 4 by DBCA)
- *Notamacropus irma* (western brush wallaby) (listed as Priority 4 by DBCA)
- *Pseudomys occidentalis* (western mouse) (listed as Priority 4 by DBCA).

Eco Logical Australia (2019) identified no suitable foraging, breeding or roosting habitat for conservation significant black cockatoo species or malleefowl within the application area. Malleefowl were reported as having the potential to occur within the application area but only as vagrant or transitional (Eco Logical Australia, 2019).

While there is a likelihood for the western Rosella to occur within the application area and a potential for other conservation significant fauna to occur, the vegetation type found within the application area is also represented in nearby conservation reserves including; South Buniche Nature Reserve and Silver Wattle Hill Nature Reserve. Given the above, no significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species is likely to occur within the application area.

According to available databases, 25 threatened and priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Eco Logical Australia (2019) reported four priority flora species recorded in and around the application area during the September 2018 survey. These species are; *Guichenotia asteriskos* (Priority 2(P2), *Banksia xylothemelia* (P3), *Daviesia implexa* (P3) and *Persoonia brevirhachis* (P3). While recordings of the Priority 3 species *Banksia xylothemelia*, *Daviesia implexa* and *Persoonia brevirhachis* occurs within the application area, these species are well represented outside of the application area. Priority 3 and Priority 4 flora species are known from several locations and do not appear to be under imminent threat.

Banksia xylothemelia (P3) is known from 50 records, three of which are in the local area and some of which are located in National Parks (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The species is recorded as having 0.5 per cent cover throughout 0.9 hectares within the study area (Eco Logical 2019) The proposed clearing would remove approximately 0.38 hectares of this vegetation type. Given the vegetation within the surrounding area appears to be of similar type and condition and 0.52 hectares (58 per cent) of known habitat will be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of this species.

Daviesia implexa (P3) is known from 33 records (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), some of which are in secure tenure such as those in Breakaway Ridge Nature Reserve. A total of 223 individual *Daviesia implexa* were recorded in the survey area with approximately 89 per cent of these recordings occurring outside of the application area (Eco Logical 2019). Although the proposed clearing will remove a percentage of this species, the species is still well represented within the local area with more than 180 individuals to be retained in close proximity to the proposed clearing (Eco Logical 2019). The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of this species.

Persoonia brevirhachis (P3) is known from 39 records, some of which are in secure tenure. Eco Logical Australia (2019) reported this species as having 0.5 per cent coverage throughout an area of 1.28 hectares within the study area. The proposed clearing would remove 0.401 hectares of this vegetation. Given the vegetation within the surrounding area appears to be of similar type and condition and 0.879 hectares (69 per cent) of known habitat will be retained, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of this species.

Priority 2 species are poorly known and recordings of the species may raise the conservation status of the species. The P2 species *Guichenotia asteriskos* is known from 21 records (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), some of which are within close proximity of the proposed clearing. The recording of this species from Eco Logical Australia (2019), is within 6 meters of the application area and is not expected to be impacted by the proposed clearing (Eco Logical Australia, 2019). The clearing permit has been conditioned to avoid this species.

Whilst the proposed clearing area is known to contain priority three (P3) flora species, a review of the surveys provided by the applicant notes that the habitat for these flora extends beyond the application area. The application area is surrounded by similar vegetation and is part of patch with a size of over 1749 hectares. Given the representation of the preferred habitat of the priority species within the adjacent area, it is not likely that the proposed clearing of 0.915 hectares of vegetation is likely to impact the regional and local populations of these species.

Noting the above and the extent of the application area, the application area is not likely to impact on or be necessary for the continued existence of, Threatened or Priority flora.

The application area is within 300 meters of a critically endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt'. Eco Logical Australia (2019) found that the vegetation types within the application area were not representative of the mapped TEC or any other TECs or Priority Ecological Communities within the local area. Given this, the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC or PEC.

The application area is in very good to excellent condition (Eco Logical, 2019, Keighery, 1994), may provide habitat for indigenous fauna and contains priority flora species. Therefore, the vegetation within the application area may comprise a high level of biodiversity.

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 application area is located within the Mallee Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 56 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and is mapped as Beard vegetation association 380, which retains approximately 42 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018) within the bioregion. The proposed clearing of 0.915 hectares is less than 0.01 per cent of the vegetation association within the IBRA region. The local area retains approximately 23 per cent native vegetation cover.

Noting the local area retains less than 30 per cent pre-European vegetation extent, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. Whilst the application area has the potential to contain habitat for conservation significant fauna species and contains priority flora species, noting that the application area is a part of a 1749 hectare remnant, the proposed clearing of 0.915 hectares is not considered to be significant as a remnant within an extensively cleared area.

According to available datasets, no wetlands or water courses intersect the application area, with the closest watercourse to the application area being a reservoir located around 450 meters from the application area. As discussed under Section 2, the

vegetation in the application area comprises of a variety of vegetation types, none of which contain riparian vegetation. Given the scope of the works and the surrounding land use of the area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any unacceptable environmental impacts to this reservoir or any other watercourse or wetland.

The application area is approximately 14 kilometres from both Silver Wattle Hill Nature Reserve and Breakaway Ridge Nature Reserve. Given the distance between these conservation areas and the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

The application area is surrounded by intact native vegetation. The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds impacting the adjacent vegetation. Weed management conditions will mitigate this risk.

The chief soils mapped within the application area are areas of significant rock outcrop including monadnocks, and sheet rock with associated soils including stony soils, yellow/brown deep sandy duplex soils, deep sands and red soils (Schoknecht et al., 2004). These soils are not prone to wind erosion, or water erosion but have a moderate risk of salinity and subsurface acidification (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018). Given the application area is surrounded by intact vegetation, it is considered that the removal of 0.915 hectares of vegetation is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation, impact on the quality of groundwater, or result in the exacerbation of flooding on or off site.

Given the above, the proposed may be at variance to clearing principles (a), and is not likely to be at variance to 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 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 9 April 2019 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH) utilises the Newdegate Field Day site carpark annually to store up to 80,000 tonnes of grain to augment the Newdegate grain receival site. A traffic impact assessment report of the site notes existing limitations and deficiencies and proposes improvement works on the Lake Grace Newdegate Road. The works include realigning the access road to the carpark. As a road safety issue, Main Roads WA require, and Shire of Lake Grace endorse the works being constructed. Preference to undertake road improvement works on the Lake Grace Newdegate Road including sealing the existing access road to the carpark were not supported by Main Roads WA and Shire of Lake Grace (CBH, 2019).

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Cooperative Bulk Handling (2019) Clearing Permit Application CPS 8398/1. DWER reference: A1770695
- 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 Primary Industries and Regional Development (2018). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed April 2019).
- Eco Logical Australia Pty Ltd (2019) Newdegate CBH Storage Facility Entry Road flora, vegetation and fauna assessment. Prepared for CBH Group. DWER reference: A1783692
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 State-wide 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.
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase-the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed November 2018).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- DEC Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed April 2019)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- WAHerb Data March 2019
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries
- Wetlands