



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8460/2
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mr Daniel Christopher Collins
Application received date: 12 April 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 5038 on Plan 229254, Eastbrook
Local Government Authority: Shire of Manjimup
Localities: Eastbrook

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
40		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 31 March 2021

Reasons for Decision: On 9 March 2020, Clearing Permit CPS 8460/1 was granted to clear up to 40 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 5038 on Plan 229254, Eastbrook. One appeal was lodged against the granting of this permit.

This clearing permit amendment gives effect to the determination of the Minister for Environment (Minister) to allow in-part the appeal (Appeal Number 015 of 2020). In their determination, the Minister identified that the clearing permit would require amendment to include additional conditions to effect the following:

- thinning must be conducted by operators experienced in meeting harvest and silvicultural standards required for native forest operations on DBCA managed lands;
- thinning must be undertaken from below (i.e. removing the smaller stems with consideration of tree spacing), maintaining the overall structure and composition of the dominant overstorey species;
- the definition for basal area to be corrected to reference measurement of trunk diameter is made over bark at 1.3 metres above ground not 1.5 metres;
- retention of at least two primary habitat trees per hectare in karri dominant stands and at least five primary habitat trees per hectare in marri dominant stands – these rates may be averaged across the total area of each dominant forest type (karri or marri) to account for natural variation in stand structure;
- inclusion of a definition for primary habitat trees as trees with a trunk diameter at breast height (measured over bark 1.3 metres above ground) of at least 70 cm for karri and marri that are senescing with first preference being those trees with visible evidence of hollow use, nests, or large hollows suitable for cockatoo breeding, or where these do not occur, large mature trees that in future will develop hollows suitable for larger hollow-nesting species;
- retention of an average of one 30 metre diameter patch per hectare of healthy representative understorey, with an emphasis (where present) on habitat suitable for WRPs, such as patches dominated by *Agonis flexuosa*;
- retention, where present, of large ground habitat logs longer than 3 metres which have an internal pipe/decay diameter of greater than 10 cm at a rate of at least one per hectare;
- 'tops-disposal' around retained habitat trees and ground habitat logs – i.e. removal of woody fuels larger than 75 mm diameter and 1 metre in length from within 1 metre of the retained habitat tree or log;
- burning of the application area no more than once comprising a low-intensity controlled burn during spring to early summer under suitable conditions as determined by the Bushfire Control Officer appointed under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*; and
- associated record keeping and reporting of the activities undertaken in accordance with the above.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit to reflect the Minister's determination.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The application proposes to clear 40 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 5038 on Deposited Plan 229254, Eastbrook, for the purpose of fire mitigation and forest management (thinning) (Figures 1- 3).

Vegetation Description

The application area is mapped in the 'Warren' region of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), and is mapped as the following South West Forest vegetation complexes (Mattiske and Havel, 1998):

- WH1 (approximately 48 per cent) described as tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor*-*Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and tall open forest of *Eucalyptus patens* on valley floor in perhumid and humid zones;
- CRb (approximately 30 per cent) described as tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla*-*Eucalyptus diversicolor* on upper slopes with *Allocasuarina decussata*-*Banksia grandis* on upper slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones; and
- PM1 (approximately 22 per cent) described as tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* with mixtures of *Corymbia calophylla* on valley slopes and low forest of *Agonis juniperina*-*Banksia seminuda*-*Callistachys lanceolata* on valley floors in the perhumid zone.

A site inspection of the application area was conducted by officers from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 15 May 2019. The site inspection identified that vegetation within the application area comprises of a mixture of *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Eucalyptus diversicolor* and *Corymbia calophylla* woodland over open native heath. Of these, jarrah woodland over open heath is the dominant vegetation type. Other species observed were *Agonis flexuosa* and *Eucalyptus* sp., *Pteridium esculentum*, *Bossiaea aquifolium*, *Leucopogon verticillatus* and *Macrozamia riedlei*, Blackberry (*rubus laudatus*) scattered throughout the application area. A portion of the application area (approximately 5 hectares) located in the south-western portion of the application area appears to have been a pine plantation in the past with primarily bracken fern returning to the understorey.

Vegetation Condition

The condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be:

- Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance. (Keighery, 1994); to
- Degraded: structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

The condition of the vegetation was determined based on DWER's site inspection (DWER, 2019).

Soil type

The application area is mapped as the following land subsystems (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), 2019):

- Wheatley Subsystems (Pimelia), which covers approximately 50 per cent of the application area, and is described as shallow (20-40 m) minor valleys with low sideslopes (5-20%). and narrow swampy floors with a slightly incise stream channel. Soils are loamy gravels, sandy gravels and loamy earths;
- Crowea (Pimelia) subsystem, is mapped across approximately 30 per cent of the application area and is described as brown duplex Phase subsystem is described as Brown gravelly duplex soils and red earths; karri-marri forest; and
- Pemberton Subsystem (Pimelaia) subsystem, which covers approximately 20 per cent of the application area and is described as 20 to 40 m deep, flat to gently sloping floors. Few channels. 3 to 10 deg. Smooth slopes. Red or yellow gradational soils, not calcareous with some red duplex soils.

Comments

The local area is comprises a 10 kilometre radius of the application area.

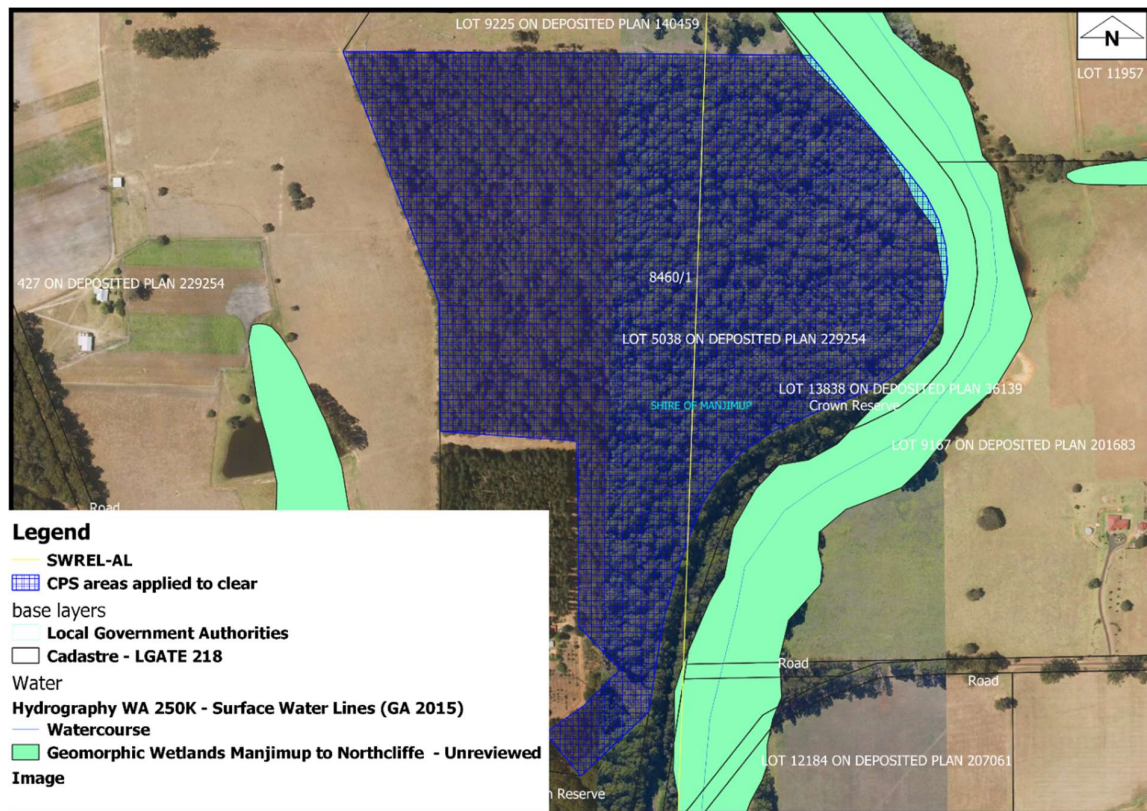


Figure 1 - Application area cross-hatched blue



Figure 2 - Vegetation within the central portion of the application area (DWER, 2019)



Figure 3 - Vegetation within the north-western portion of the application area (DWER, 2019)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

This amendment is the result of an appeal determination made by the Minister for Environment regarding the conditions of Clearing Permit CPS 8460/1. Further information on the appeal determination can be found at the Office of the Appeals Convenor's website at <https://www.appealsconvenor.wa.gov.au/> (Appeal Number 015 of 2020).

4. References

- Applicant (2019). Application form in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8460/1. DWER Ref: A1783685.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). (2019). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 13 May 2019).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). (2019). Site inspection report in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8460/1. DWER Ref: A1797613.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994). Bushland Plant Survey: a guide to plant community survey for the community, Wildflower Society of WA (Inc), Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.