



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8510/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Kondinin
Duration of Permit:	From 31 October 2019 to 31 October 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 safety upgrades.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 2887 on Plan 216959, (Crown Reserve 28832), Hyden

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.1 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8510/1.

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

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 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 spread of *weeds*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *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.

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 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.



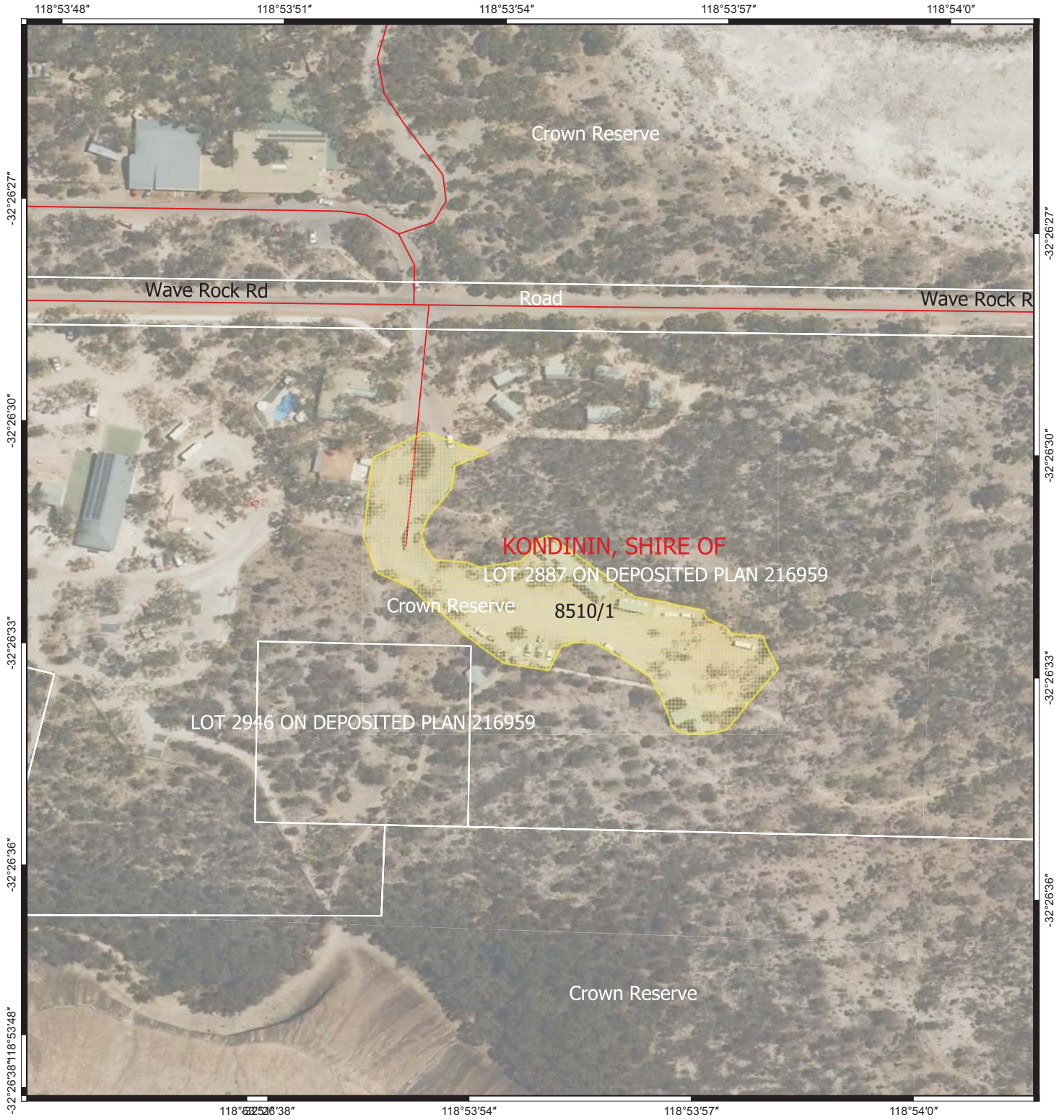
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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION





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

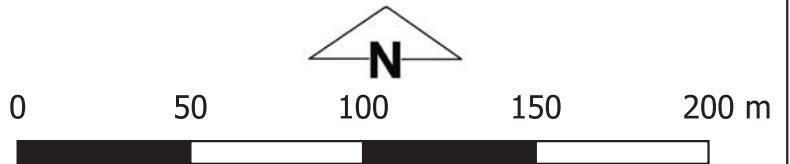
1 October 2019

Plan 8510/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
-  Image



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.: 8510/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Kondinin
Application received date: 29 May 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2887 on Plan 216959, (Crown Reserve 28832), Hyden
Local Government Authority: Shire of Kondinin
Localities: Hyden

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 1 October 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 not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

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, taking into account the application area is small and is largely comprised of isolated native vegetation in a completely degraded condition within an existing car park. The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds being introduced or spread into adjacent native vegetation. Weed management measures will minimise impacts to adjacent native vegetation.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 0.1 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2887 on Plan 216959, (Crown Reserve 28832), Hyden, for the purpose of improving safety within a car park (figure 1).

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Association Western Mallee 128, described as bare area with rock outcrops (Government of Western Australia, 2019).

A vegetation survey was carried out in September 2018 by Ecoedge, (Ecoedge, 2019). The survey covered an area of 1.1 hectares of which 0.53 hectares comprised native vegetation. The application area is largely devoid of native vegetation with the exception of the 0.1 hectares of native vegetation proposed to be cleared.

One vegetation unit was mapped within the flora survey area, described as (Ecoedge 2019):

York Gum Woodland, consisting of woodland of York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba*) over variable open shrubland including *Acacia acutata*, *Acacia assimilis*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Dodonaea adenophora*, *Leptospermum erubescens*, *Melaleuca uncinata*, *Olearia muelleri* and *Westringia rigida* over open grassland of *Aristida contorta* and *Amphipogon turbinatus* and herbland including *Actinobole uliginosum*, *Borya constricta*, *Brachyscome iberidifolia*, *Podotheca gnaphalioides* and *Stylidium repens* on greyish yellow sandy loam.

Vegetation Condition

Based on the vegetation condition mapping conducted by Ecoedge (2019), the majority of the application area is in a completely degraded condition. Vegetation condition within the broader survey area was rated as ranging from:

Completely degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs (Keighery, 1994).

To

Very good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires; the presence of some more aggressive weeds; dieback; logging; & grazing. (Keighery, 1994).

Soil type

The application area is mapped within the following land subsystem;

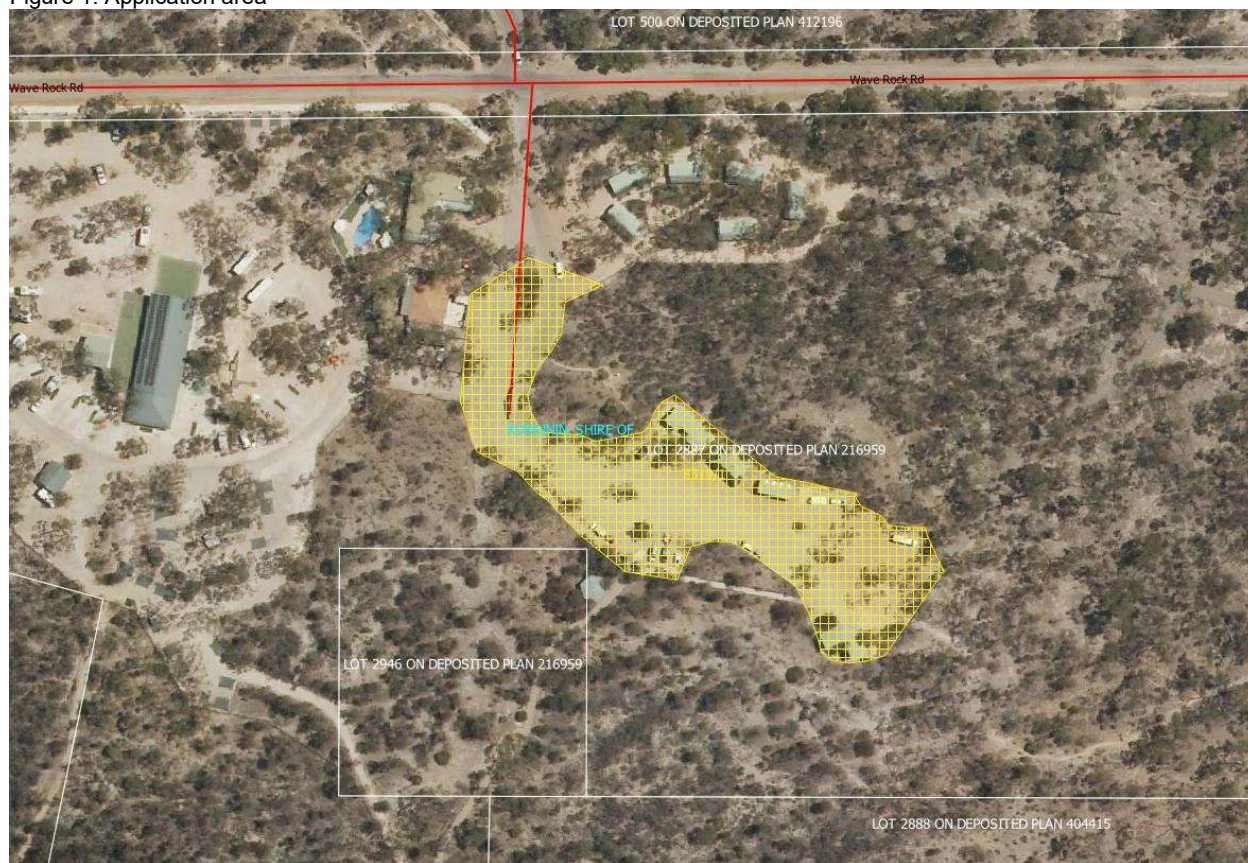
Hyden Sandplain 2 Subsystem - Gently undulating mainly grey lateritic sandplain containing iron stone gravelly soils with associated brown yellow sandy and loamy and sandy earths, interspersed with grey alkaline sodic duplexes.

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 vegetation condition was confirmed through photographs supplied by the consultant (Ecoedge, 2019)

Figure 1: Application area



3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The following management measures will be implemented by the applicant to minimise the impacts of the proposed clearing on the surrounding bushland (Ecoedge, 2019):

- Where possible/practical existing trees and vegetation will be retained;
- The proposed clearing area will be clearly demarcated in the field prior to clearing works;
- All machinery and vehicles will be clean upon entry to site to reduce the risk of introducing plant diseases and weeds during clearing operations.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The proposal will involve the clearing of up to 0.1 hectares of York Gum Woodland, which is regarded as comprising part of the Commonwealth listed 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) due to the dominant presence of *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* (Ecoedge, 2019). This vegetation unit is State listed as a Priority 3 ecological community. The potential impacts to the Commonwealth listed TEC are not considered to be significant given the small scale of clearing proposed and the location of the clearing on the boundary of an existing car park. Ecoedge (2019) carried out a vegetation survey in September 2018 which described the broader survey area as having relatively high biological diversity, however, the proposed clearing area comprises only a small part of the survey area and is considered to have low biological diversity due to its small size and the overall average condition of vegetation within the application area. Desktop surveys identified fourteen conservation significant flora species which had been previously recorded in the local area, however, no conservation significant species of flora were identified in the application area during the vegetation survey (Ecoedge, 2019). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (a).

A fauna habitat assessment (including field survey) was conducted for the area under application in October 2018 by Greg Harewood. This assessment identified the following conservation significant fauna as having been previously recorded, or having potential to occur within the general vicinity of subject site (Harewood, 2019):

Species	Conservation Status	
	BC Act/ DBCA Priority	EPBC Act
Water Flea (<i>Daphnia jollyi</i>)	P3	-
Woolybush bee (<i>Hylaeus globuliferus</i>)	P3	-
Lake Cronin Snake (<i>Paroplocephalus atriceps</i>)	P3	-
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	S3	VU
Migratory Shorebirds/Wetland Species	Various	Various
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	S7	-
Carnaby's black cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>)	S2	EN
Western rosella (<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>)	P4	-
Fork-tailed Swift (<i>Apus pacificus</i>)	S5	Mig
Grey Wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)	S5	Mig
Hooded Plover (<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i>)	P4	-
Chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroi</i>)	S3	VU
Red-tailed Phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>)	S3	VU
Numbat (<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>)	S3	VU
Bilby (<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>)	S3	VU
Western Brush Wallaby (<i>Notamacropus irma</i>)	P4	-
Western Mouse (<i>Pseudomys occidentalis</i>)	P4	-
Heath Mouse (<i>Pseudomys shortridgei</i>)	VU	VU
Central Long-eared Bat (<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>)	P4	-

No fauna species of conservation significance were positively identified as utilising the application area based on habitats present, however, several species may occur at times (Harewood, 2019).

A black cockatoo habitat assessment of the application area found no evidence of black cockatoos at the site, and no trees were identified as fitting the criteria of being black cockatoo breeding habitat. No evidence of black cockatoo foraging was observed during the filed survey and the application area does not comprise habitat suitable as a roost site by black cockatoos. Based on available mapping, there is approximately 4,600 hectares of remnant native vegetation within 10 kilometres of the subject site. Some of this is likely to contain "potential" breeding habitat as defined by DotEE (i.e. suitable tree species with a DBH >50 centimetres (30 centimetres for wandoo/salmon gum) though it should be noted that the subject site is located at the extreme inland/eastern limit of the Carnaby's black cockatoo range and they probably only occur infrequently even in ideal habitat (Harewood, 2019).

The fauna habitat assessment determined that it is unlikely that any fauna species of conservation significance would be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing on the basis of a lack of suitable habitats, the known local extinction of some species and relatively small size of the clearing footprint (Harewood, 2019). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (b).

A desktop assessment identified two threatened flora species that had been recorded in the local area, *Grevillea scapigera* and *Royceya pycnophylloides*. The flora and vegetation assessment carried out by Ecoedge (2019) found no sign of either of these conservation significant flora species within the application area. The clearing under application is unlikely to result in adverse impacts to the conservation status or distribution of any threatened flora species. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (c).

There are no State listed TECs mapped as occurring within the application area, on which basis the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (d).

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 (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 56.53 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The Beard vegetation association Western Mallee 128 which is mapped over the application area, retains approximately 65.93 per cent vegetative cover within the Mallee IBRA region. Considering the current pre-European vegetation extent of the IBRA bioregion and the Beard vegetation association,

the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be classified as significant remnant native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance with Principle (e).

The application area is not associated with a wetland or watercourse, with the nearest wetland being 100 metres to the south and the nearest watercourse being the Camm River located 700 metres to the north. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on either of these and is therefore not likely to be at variance with principle (f).

The area to be cleared is in an area which is described as having a low to medium risk of soil degradation by flooding or water erosion, with <3% described as having a high to extreme hazard. Approximately 30-50% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard of wind erosion. Due the small scale of clearing proposed and sparse distribution of vegetation within the application area, it is not likely that the clearing will contribute to appreciable land degradation. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (g).

The nearest conservation areas to the application site are between 1 kilometre and 1.5 kilometres to the south-east and east of the application area. At this distance, none of these will be impacted by the proposed clearing. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (h).

As mentioned under principle (f), there are no surface water features within 100 metres of the application area. Only 3-10% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard of becoming saline or is presently saline. The proposed clearing, which is within a largely cleared car park is unlikely to further affect the quality of groundwater or surface waters and is not likely to be at variance with Principle (i).

The application area is mapped as having a <3% high to extreme chance of flooding. Given the small scale of clearing to be undertaken, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (j)

The proposed clearing has the potential to introduce weed species into the surrounding vegetation, potentially degrading habitat for any flora and fauna species of conservation significance. Weed management conditions have been imposed on the permit which should mitigate this potential impact.

5. Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Two registered Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped in the locality of the application area:

Wave Rock Scarred Tree - Artefacts / Scatter, Modified Tree
Wave Rock - Camp, Hunting Place, Water Source

The proposed clearing will not impact on any of these sites as they are outside the clearing footprint, being located closer to Wave Rock.

The Native Title interests for the area are registered to the Ballardong People represented by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 25 June 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

6. References

Ecoedge (2019) Supporting Documentation for a Clearing Permit Application for Wave Rock, Hyden Prepared for the Shire of Kondinin. February 2019.

Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>.

Harewood, G. – Zoologist (2019) Fauna Habitat Assessment Proposed Car Park Upgrade Wave Rock – Hyden, Shire of Kondinin
Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998>) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed August 2019).

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- Beard vegetation associations
- Flora datasets accessed 19/08/19
- Fauna dataset accessed 19/08/19
- Geoscience dataset accessed 19/08/19
- Hydrography, linear 19/08/19
- Hydrography, hierarchy 19/08/19
- Parks and Wildlife tenure 19/08/19
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Soil Sites
- ESA/TEC dataset accessed 20/08/19
- Native title / Heritage datasets accessed 20/08/19