

# Management Plan

to accompany

**Application for a clearing permit (area permit) – Form C1**

from

**Department of Water and Environmental Regulation**

for

**R & EB Pessotto**

## **Background**

Remo and Eileen Pessotto own a mixed farming property off Whim Landing Road at Wilgarrup, approximately 15 km north east of Manjimup in the southwest of Western Australia.

The total area of the property is 555 hectares, most of which is cleared for cropping. The several patches of remnant native forest on the property amount to approximately 60 hectares in area.

In 2008 a permit to clear (thin) the 60 hectares of remnant native forest was granted to the Pessottos by the then Department of Environment and Conservation ("Purpose Permit" CPS 2186/1). This permit had a duration from 26 July 2008 to 26 July 2013 and authorised the permit holders to thin jarrah and marri trees, cull unsaleable trees and to burn cleared understory and culled trees.

A modest quantity of jarrah sawlog was harvested under the 2008 permit and some culling of trees took place. Burning of understory and culled trees was minimal.

## **Current status of the native forest subject to this application to clear (thin)**

The approximately 60 hectares of remnant regrowth native forest on the property is comprised of mixed jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) with minimal understory. The harvesting which took place ten years ago was focussed on trees which were saleable as sawlog, resulting in a forest of mostly smaller diameter stems which now need to be further thinned to allow growth of the better-quality trees.

Culling of trees ten years ago was mainly restricted to edges of the patches of forest. Minimal culling has taken place inside the patches of remnant forest. Logs from culled trees are mostly in-situ.

Soils under the remnant patches of forest are mostly gravel with a high proportion of laterite floaters. Drainage is generally very good.

### **Silvicultural/harvesting prescription**

- The prescription to be adopted will be to thin the regrowth jarrah/marri forest to a basal area of 10 m<sup>2</sup>/ha of future crop trees, evenly spaced.
- At least two habitat trees per hectare will be retained. Habitat trees will be generally sound, older trees with hollows for fauna.
- Harvesting machinery will be cleaned of any soil and plant-matter before entering the property to minimise any risk of introducing jarrah dieback disease.
- Harvesting will be carried out by an experienced and qualified local harvesting contractor using machinery suitable for the harvesting of regrowth jarrah/marri forest. This will comprise a tree harvester to fell trees and cut boles into appropriate lengths, and to cut logs from previously culled trees. Extraction of logs will be carried out using a rubber-tyred forwarder which will also be used to load trucks.
- Extraction tracks will, where necessary, be created by the tree harvester and will follow the longitudinal alignment of the remnant patches of forest and will maximise use of natural gaps between trees.
- Harvesting slash will be removed from around the bases of retained trees during harvesting.
- All harvesting activity will be conducted in accordance with the WA timber industry Codes of Practice, as published from time to time by the Forest Industries Federation (WA) Inc.
- Following harvesting, the thinned areas will be "tops burnt", that is harvesting debris will be burnt under cool conditions in autumn or winter such that only recently dried harvesting slash and any rolled understory vegetation will burn.

### **Estimated quantities of forest products to be harvested**

The estimated quantities of forest products, by species and grade, to be produced from the proposed operation are:

- Jarrah sawlog: 300 tonnes
- Marri sawlog: 100 tonnes
- Blackbutt sawlog: 25 tonnes
- Jarrah/blackbutt firewood log: 525 tonnes
- **Total:** approx. 950 tonnes

### **Future management**

After the proposed thinning and post-thinning burn, the patches of forest will need little attention for at least five years. At that time, a cycle of regular mild prescribed burning should be adopted to reduce the risk of damage from uncontrolled wildfires. Given that the property is primarily used for cropping, damage from stock is not considered to be a risk.

A further thinning operation may be feasible approximately 20 years hence.

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1 June 2019