GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# CLEARING PERMIT

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

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|---|---|
| **Purpose Permit number:** | CPS 8570/1 |
| **Permit Holder:** | Shire of Murray |
| **Duration of Permit:** | 11 October 2019 to 11 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 road widening.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Kirkham Road reserve (PIN 1379380), Meelon.

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than eight native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8570/1.

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:
   (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
   (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
   (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

**7. Record keeping**

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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(s) 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;

**8. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 7 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

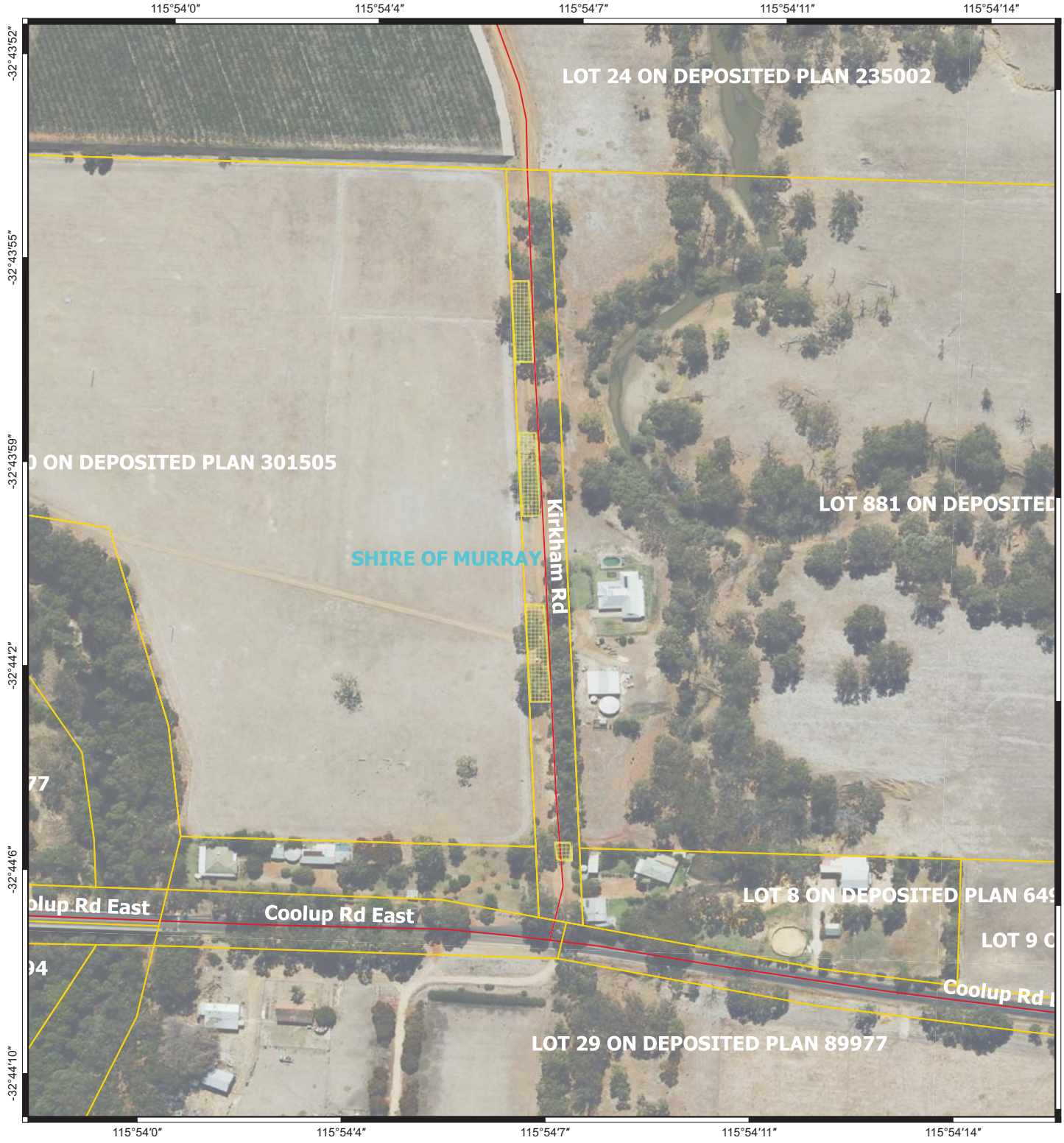
***CEO*** means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

Ray Carvalho
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

10 September 2019

# Plan 8570/1




**Legend**

- Areas approved to clear
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities
- Roads

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

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

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|---|---|
| **Permit application No.:** | 8570/1 |
| **Permit type:** | Purpose Permit |

### 1.2. Applicant details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Applicant's name:** | Shire of Murray |
| **Application received date:** | 25 June 2019 |

### 1.3. Property details

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|---|---|
| **Property:** | ROAD RESERVE – PIN 1379380 |
| **Local Government Authority:** | SHIRE OF MURRAY |
| **Localities:** | MEELON |

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | Purpose category: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 8 | Mechanical Removal | Road construction or upgrades |

### 1.5. Decision on application

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|---|---|
| **Decision on Permit Application:** | Grant |
| **Decision Date:** | 10 September 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.<br><br>In determining to grant a clearing permit, the Delegated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. |

## 2. Site Information

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|---|---|
| **Clearing Description** | The application is to clear eight native trees within Kirkham Road Reserve (PIN 1379380), Meelon, for the purpose of road widening. |
| **Vegetation Description** | The application area is mapped as Guildford Complex which is described as a mixture of open forest to tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) - *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Wandoo) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) and woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Wandoo) (with rare occurrences of *Eucalyptus lane-poolei* (Salmon White Gum)). Minor components include *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum) - *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark). |
| **Vegetation Condition** | Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance, scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management;<br><br>to<br><br>Completely degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).<br><br>The condition of the vegetation was determined by reviewing photographs of the application area provided by the applicant (Shire of Murray, 2019). |
| **Soil type** | The soil type within the application area is mapped as *Pinjarra P9 Phase* subsystem and is described as shallow incised stream channels of minor creeks and rivers with deep acidic mottled yellow duplex soils (DPIRD, 2017). |

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available datasets, there are no threatened or priority flora species, or conservation significant ecological communities mapped within or adjacent to the application area. Noting this, and based on the degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) vegetation condition and the tree species identified within the application area (none of which are conservation significant), the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon any threatened or priority flora species, does not resemble vegetation associated with a priority or threatened ecological community, and is not likely to comprise a high level of biological diversity.

The application area occurs within the known range of *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *Naso (*Forest red-tailed black-cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) (collectively known as black cockatoos) which are listed as endangered (Carnaby's and Baudin's) and vulnerable (Forest-red tailed) under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and are specially protected as endangered and vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. Black Cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees, most often within Karri, Marri, Wandoo, Tuart, Salmon gum, Jarrah, Flooded gum, York gum, Powder bark, Bullich and Blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). The photographs provided by the applicant indicate that none of the trees proposed for clearing contain hollows of a suitable size for breeding by black cockatoos (Shire of Murray, 2019). Noting this, the extent of clearing, and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise of significant habitat for black cockatoos or any other indigenous fauna species.

Noting the distance to the nearest conservation area, being an un-named Nature Reserve, which is approximately 4.5 kilometres away, the proposed clearing of eight trees is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 percent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The local area retains less than the 30 percent of its pre-European native vegetation extent (retains approximately 20 per cent native vegetation cover). However noting that the application area comprises eight trees over largely exotic grasses, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

According to available databases, no wetlands or watercourses have been mapped within the application area. The nearest hydrological feature is a minor tributary located approximately 40 metres east. The closest wetland is located approximately 165 metres west of the application area. Noting the limited extent of clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in association with these watercourses/wetlands. Furthermore, noting the limited extent of proposed clearing, it is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, or cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing 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 DWER website on 22 July 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

## 4. References


Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act Referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Commonwealth of Australia.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/. Accessed June 2018. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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.

Shire of Murray (2019) Photographs of the application area provided by the applicant for CPS 8570/1. Received by DWER on 25/06/2019 (DWER Ref: DWERDTI171748).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Beard vegetation associations
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Estate
- Hydrography, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed July 2019)
- Soils, Statewide
- Wetlands