GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8580/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Manjimup
Duration of Permit:	1 July 2020 to 1 July 2025

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 construction and upgrades.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Grays Road reserve (PIN 11536581), Quinninup

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.105 hectares of native vegetation and one native tree within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8580/1.

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.

7. **Land management**
   This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation between 1 May and 30 September of any given year.

8. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

(i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;

(ii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared;

(iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done in pursuant to this Permit:

(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
   (i) 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;
   (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

(b) Actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of the Permit.

(c) Actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 8 of the Permit.

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*;

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or

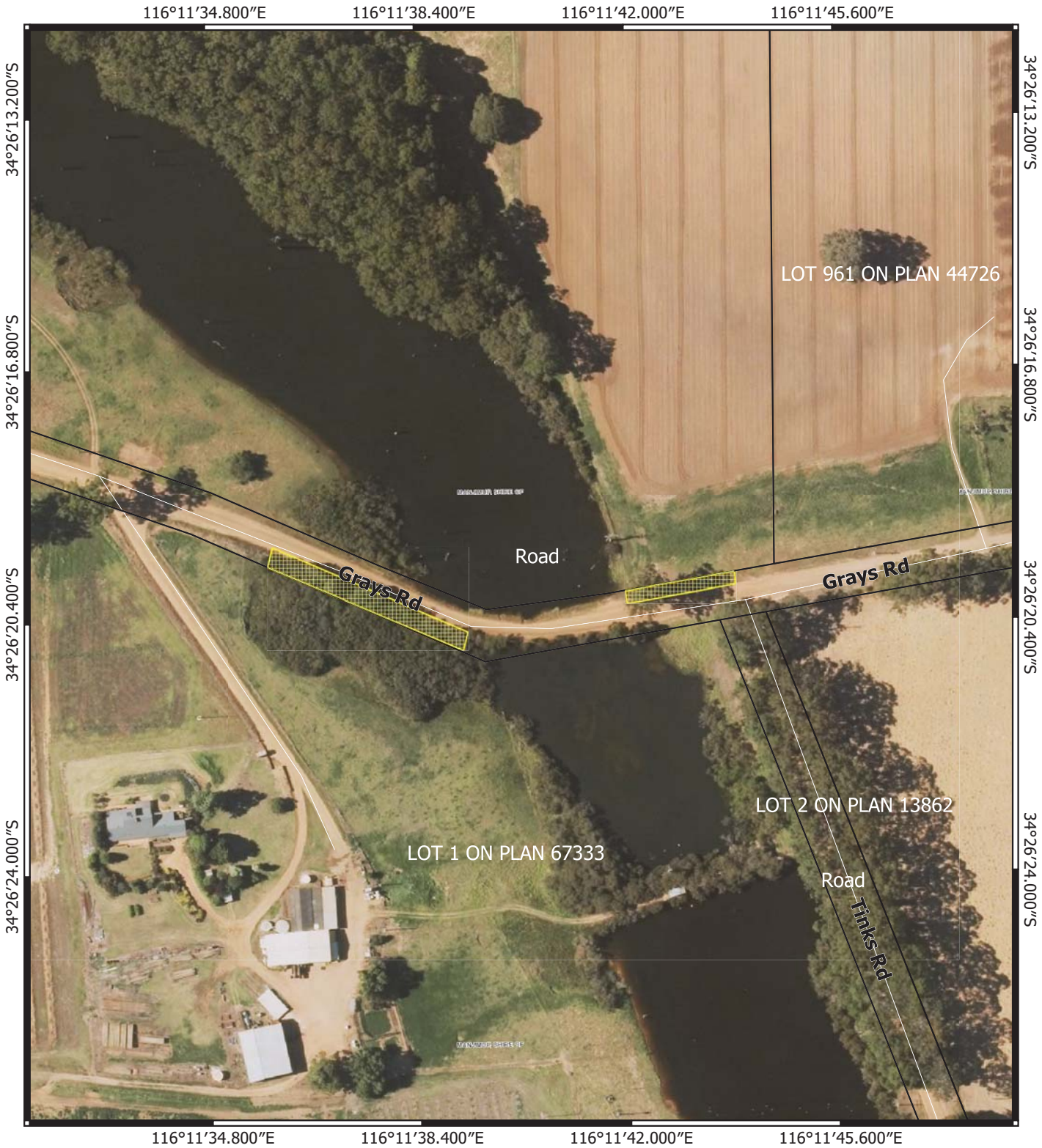
(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Richard Newman
DIRECTOR
NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

9 June 2020

Plan 8580/1



Legend

CPS areas approved to clear

Cadastre

base layers

Road Centrelines

Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)

N

0 50 100 150 m

9 June 2020

Officer delegated 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

Permit application No.: 8580/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Manjimup
Application received date: 27 June 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Grays Road Reserve (PIN 11536581)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Manjimup
Localities: Quinninup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.105	1	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 9 June 2020

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 at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principles (g) and (i), and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that there is a low risk that the proposed clearing may cause land degradation and deterioration in the quality of surface water through erosion, sediment transport and turbidity to nearby dams. To minimise these impacts, a condition has been placed on the permit limiting activities to drier months of the year by not allowing clearing to take place between 1 May and 30 September.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to land management, weed and dieback management 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 application is to clear 0.105 hectares of native vegetation and one native tree within Grays Road reserve: (PIN 11536581), Quinninup, for the purpose of road construction and upgrades.

Vegetation Description

The application area is within mapped Wheatley vegetation complex (WH1), 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 (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

A site inspection was conducted by officers of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), which identified that the vegetation within the application area comprises one karri tree (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), *Melaleauca* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Lepidosperma* spp., *Baumea* spp. and native sedges (DWER, 2019).

Vegetation Condition

The site inspection determined that the application area is in the following condition (DWER, 2019):

Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation or ability to regenerate.

To

Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

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.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles, planning instruments and other relevant matters

A review of the available databases identified five priority flora species and one threatened flora species within the local area. None of these conservation significant flora species were recorded within the same soil or vegetation types as the application area. Therefore, it is unlikely these species occur within the application area and the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of the identified priority and threatened flora.

According to available databases, 13 threatened fauna species, three Priority 4 fauna species and two other specially protected fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Of these species, the Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris)*, forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) have been identified as having the potential to utilise the application area. The application area includes one potential habitat tree for black cockatoos (DWER, 2019). A western ringtail possum survey and habitat tree assessment was undertaken in April and May 2020, which found no evidence of western ringtail possums within the application area and that the tree proposed to be cleared does not contain hollows suitable for black cockatoos (Harewood, 2020). The western ringtail possum survey included both a daytime and nocturnal survey, and a camera trap was placed within the application area for 37 days. The surveys found no signs of utilisation within the application area and that the habitat was marginal in quality, given the small size of the remnant vegetation and lack of foraging plant species (Harewood, 2020). Additionally, the only fauna captured on the camera trap were feral species (Harewood, 2020). During the survey, the potential habitat tree was observed for hollows, and it was found that the tree does not harbour any hollows suitable for, or in use by black cockatoos (Harewood, 2020). Noting the findings of the surveys, the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to comprise the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

According to the available databases, there are no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TECs/PECs) mapped within the application area or the local area.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia have 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 application area falls within the Darling Plateau subregion of the South-West Forests and is mapped as Wheatley vegetation complex (WH1), retaining 80.71 percent (16,400 hectares) of its pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The local area retains approximately 76.34 percent (24,091 hectares) of remnant native vegetation. Given that the local area and mapped vegetation complex retain above the 30 percent threshold level, the application area is not considered to be located within an area that has been extensively cleared.

The closest conservation reserve is the Warren State Forest which is located approximately 500 metres from the application area. Given the limited size of the proposed clearing (0.105 hectares), it is not likely to impact upon the environmental values of this reserve. Weed and dieback management conditions will assist in minimising the risk of the proposed clearing resulting in the spread of weeds and dieback into adjoining native vegetation.

The application area is adjacent to a waterbody, and contains vegetation that are typically associated with watercourses, including melaleucas and sedges. The site inspection observed surface water flowing within the application area (DWER, 2019), therefore native vegetation within the application area is considered to be riparian in nature. However, given the limited size of the proposed clearing, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on riparian vegetation.

Noting the proximity to a waterbody, there is a low risk that the proposed clearing may cause land degradation and deterioration in the quality of surface water through erosion, sediment transport and turbidity to nearby dams. The requirement to conduct the proposed clearing during the dry months of the year will minimise the risk of land degradation and associated deterioration in surface water quality.

Noting the linear shape of the application area and its location adjacent to an existing road, the proposed clearing is not likely to exacerbate flooding.

The assessment has found that the clearing under application is at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principles (g) and (i), and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The application is for the reconstruction and widening of Grays Road to improve road safety (Shire of Manjimup, 2019).

The area surrounding the application area is zoned priority agriculture under the town planning scheme.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The application area is within the Warren River Water Reserve gazetted under *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act). The reserve is not located in a Public Drinking Water Source Area hence no priority source protection has been assigned or is proposed. Water resource advice received for a previous application nearby advised that Grays Road is located within Zone C, a medium salinity risk area, where DWER Policy and Guidelines for the "Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation" provide for the grant of a licence to clear for government works subject to an equivalent area being reforested within

the same or higher salinity risk zone (DWER, 2017). Noting the proposed clearing is minimal, the amalgamation of similar CAWS Act offset areas over time to create sustainable revegetation areas is acceptable.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 30 July 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed September 2019.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2017) Regional advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7726/1. Received 27 September 2017 (DWER Ref: A1530033).

Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2019) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 8580/1. Site inspection undertaken 23 September 2019 (DWER Ref: A1830872).

Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca

Harewood, G. (2020) Western Ringtail Possum survey and habitat tree assessment of proposed clearing areas (CPS 8580/1). Report prepared for Shire of Manjimup, May 2020.

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.

Shire of Manjimup (2019) Clearing permit application and supporting documentation for CPS 8580/1 (DWER Ref: DWERDT17275).

5. GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- CPS Areas applied to clear
- DBCA Managed Estate
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- SAC Bio Datasets
- Soils, Statewide
- TPFL
- WAHerb Data
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries