



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8584/1  
File Number: DWERVT3060  
Duration of Permit: 7 November 2019 to 7 November 2021

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Lake Grace

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 213 on Deposited Plan 39268, Newdegate  
Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 39268, Newdegate

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 19.183 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8584/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. 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*:

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

#### 3. Records to 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 the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit.

#### **4. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 3 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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Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION PROTECTION

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

8 October 2019

# Plan 8584/1



## Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Land Tenure (LGATE\_226) - SLIP
- Local Government Authorities
- LGA
- LAKE GRACE, SHIRE OF

0.2      0.09      0.2 Kilometers



WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere

Mathew  
Gannaway  
2019.10.08  
08:28:03 +08'00'

Officer

Date

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

Disclaimer: This map is used as a generic static output for reference purposes. Information on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. While the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of this data, the department accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies and persons relying on this data do so at their own risk.

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## Locality Map



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8584/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Lake Grace  
Application received date: 28 June 2019

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 213 on Deposited Plan 39268  
Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 39268  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Lake Grace  
Localities: Newdegate

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
19.183		Mechanical Removal	Miscellaneous

### 1.5. Decision on Application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 8 October 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 26 June 2019 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer noted the application area has previously been cleared and minimal regrowth has occurred. The vegetation is not representative of a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The application is for the proposed clearing of 19.183 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 213 and Lot 215 on Deposited Plan 39268, Newdegate, for the purpose of improving stormwater harvesting.

**Vegetation Description:** The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 519, which is described as shrublands; mallee scrub, with *Eucalyptus eremophila* (Sheppard et al, 2001).  
The application area appeared to contain emergent mallee *Eucalyptus* sp. over sparse mixed shrubs and grasses (Shire of Lake Grace, 2019).

**Vegetation Condition:** The vegetation condition has been determined from available aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Lake Grace, 2019). The vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, whereby the structure is severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

**Soil description:** The application area occurs within the Newdegate 2 Subsystem, which is described as lower to upper slopes, broad crests and upland plains. Soils are mainly grey and yellow/brown sandy duplex soils, often alkaline with hardsetting surfaces, and duplex sandy gravels (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

**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 local area retains approximately 23 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1: Application area cross-hatched in blue



Figure 2: Aerial imagery 1998 (Landgate, 2019)



Figure 3: Aerial imagery 2008 (Landgate, 2019)



Figure 4: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Lake Grace, 2019)



Figure 5: Photograph of the application area (Shire of Lake Grace, 2019)

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, four Threatened fauna species, two specially protected fauna species, one fauna species protected under international agreement and three priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). As the application area has been historically cleared and contains only regrowth with minimal understory (Figures 2-5 above), it is considered that the application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for ground-dwelling fauna species recorded within the local area. The application area is within the mapped breeding range for Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus latirostris*), however, the trees within the application area are too small to contain hollows suitable for breeding or provide any significant foraging habitat. Noting the native vegetation present within the application area, the proposed clearing does not include significant habitat for native fauna.

According to available databases, one threatened and 24 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998- ). Based on the known habitat preferences of flora species and the mapped soil and vegetation types within the application area, it was considered the application area may contain suitable habitat for the following flora species;

- *Grevillea involuocrata* (listed as endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act))
- *Acacia drewiana* subsp. *minor* Priority 2 (P2)
- *Acacia mutabilis* subsp. *stipulifera* P3
- *Bentleya spinescens* P4
- *Daviesia implexa* P3
- *Eremophila serpens* P4
- *Guichenotia asteriskos* P2
- *Hemigenia* sp. Newdegate (E. Bishop 75) P1
- *Synaphea bifurcata* P3
- *Verticordia integra* P4

A site inspection was conducted by officers of the Wheatbelt Region of Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) on 23 September 2019, targeting suitable habitat for *Grevillea involuocrata*. DBCA noted that there was no evidence of this species occurring within the application area or the surrounding area and no other flora species of interest were found or were likely to be within the application area due to the previous clearing and small amount of regeneration that had occurred (DBCA, 2019).

Noting the above, the application area is not likely to impact on or, include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, Threatened or priority flora.

The application area is within 330 meters of a mapped occurrence of the critically endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' (critically endangered under the EPBC Act and Priority 3 by DBCA). The aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Lake Grace, 2019) indicate that the vegetation within the application area is not representative of the mapped TEC or any other TECs or PECs within the local area. Given this, the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a threatened or priority ecological community.

The application area is considered to be in degraded condition (Keighery, 1994), is not likely to provide habitat for indigenous fauna and is not likely to contain threatened or priority flora species. Therefore, the vegetation within the application is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

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 bioregion, which retains approximately 56 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and is mapped as Beard vegetation association 519, which retains approximately 59 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018) within the bioregion. The local area retains approximately 23 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the local area retains less than 30 per cent pre-European vegetation extent, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. However, the application area is not considered to represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape, as it is in degraded condition and is not likely to contain habitat for conservation significant fauna, flora or communities.

According to available datasets, the closest watercourse to the application area is a man-made reservoir that intersects the application area. As discussed under Section 2, the vegetation in the application area comprises of a vegetation type which does not contain riparian vegetation. Given the size and purpose of the proposed clearing and the presence of intact vegetation surrounding the application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any unacceptable environmental impacts to this reservoir or any other watercourse or wetland.

The application area is approximately 10 kilometres from the Lake Biddy Nature Reserve and 16 kilometres meters from Breakaway Ridge Nature Reserve. Given the distance between these conservation areas and the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

The application area is surrounded by intact native vegetation. The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds impacting the adjacent vegetation. Weed management conditions will mitigate this risk.

The chief soil mapped within the application area is the Newdegate 2 Subsystem, described in detail within Section 2 of this report (Schoknecht et al., 2004). These soils are not prone to water erosion, salinity, water logging or phosphorus export risk but have a moderate risk of wind erosion and a high risk of subsurface acidification (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018). Given the application area is surrounded by intact vegetation and has been historically cleared for more than 20 years, it is considered that the removal of 19.183 hectares of degraded vegetation is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation, impact on the quality of groundwater, or result in the exacerbation of flooding on or off site.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of 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 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 29 July 2019 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

#### **4. References**

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (2019). Advice received for CPS 8584/1. DWER reference: A1827510
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2018). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed August 2019).
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 State-wide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

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 Lake Grace (2019) Clearing Permit Application CPS 8584/1. DWER reference: A1808666 & DWERDT172942

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

Western Australian Land Information Authority, Landgate (2019), Aerial imagery. <https://maps.landgate.wa.gov.au/mapslandgate/registered/> (accessed August 2019)

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- DEC Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed August 2019)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- WAHerb Data August 2019
- WA TEC PEC Boundaries
- Wetlands