GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8586/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Manjimup
Duration of Permit:	23 October 2020 – 23 October 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**
   Pump Hill Road Reserve (PINS 11597305 and 11597306), Channybearup
   Pump Hill Road Reserve (PIN 11597307), Pemberton

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.25577 hectares of native vegetation and 17 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8586/1.

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**
   The permit holder may clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 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. Fauna management - direction of clearing

The Permit Holder shall conduct clearing in a slow progressive manner from one direction to the other (e.g. east to west) to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

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*:

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

9. 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;
(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;
(e) actions taken in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit; and
(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 8 of this Permit.

10. Reporting

The Permit Holder must produce the records required under condition 9 of this Permit when required 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*;

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 Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or

(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

30 September 2020

Plan 8586/1

34.440631°S 34.440631°S

116.015579°E 116.026217°E

116.015579°E 116.026217°E

34.445393°S 34.445393°S

Legend

- Imagery
- Clearing Instruments Activities
- Local Government Authority
- Roads

N

0 200m

1:5,179

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Date 30 September 2020

Mathew Gannaway

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

Permit application No.: 8586/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

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

1.3. Property details

Property: Pump Hill Road Reserve (PINS 11597305 and 11597306), Channybearup
Pump Hill Road Reserve (PIN 11597307), Pemberton
Local Government Authority: Shire of Manjimup
Localities: Channybearup and Pemberton

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.25577	17	Mechanical Removal	Road construction and upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 30 September 2020
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 28 June 2019, and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the application area may be utilised by fauna due to the presence of native vegetation in good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Slow, directional clearing will assist fauna in escaping ahead of the clearing activity.

The proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback being introduced in the remnant native vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to fauna, weed and dieback management conditions, the Delegated Officer found 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 0.25577 hectares of native vegetation and 17 native trees within Pump Hill Road Reserve, for the purpose of road widening and construction of road shoulders (Figure 1).

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped as the following South West Forests Vegetation complexes:

- Crowea (Crb) is described as tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus diversicolor* on upper slopes with *Allocasuarina decussata-Banksia grandis* on upper slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones; and
- Lefroy (LF) is described as tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and low woodland of *Agonis juniperina-Callistachys lanceolata* on lower slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

Vegetation Condition The application area is determined to be in a good to degraded condition, described as:

- Degraded; Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
- Good; Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Description The application area occurs within the following mapped soil units:

- Crowea (Pimelia); Brown duplex Phase - Brown gravelly duplex soils and red earths; karri-marri forest (Schoknecht et al., 2004).
- Lefroy Subsystem (Pimelia); Valleys 40 to 60 metres deep. Slopes smooth, 10 to 20 degrees. Narrow terrace. Red gradational soils, not calcareous with some red and brown duplex profiles (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comment

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. According to available aerial imagery, approximately 60 per cent native vegetation cover is remaining in the local area.

The condition of the vegetation within the application area was estimated through a site inspection of the application area conducted by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 23 September 2019.

Figure 1. Application area for CPS 8586/1 (cross-hatched blue)

Figure 2. Representative photographs of the application area (DWER, 2019)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The applicant proposes to clear up to 0.25577 hectares of native vegetation and 17 native trees for the purpose of road construction and upgrades.

The site inspection by DWER officers identified that the vegetation within the application area predominately consists of mature Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) with some Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) trees, over a sparse understorey in a degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DWER, 2019).

According to available databases, two threatened flora species, *Caladenia christineae* and *Commersonia apella*; and three priority flora species, *Thomasia brachystachys* (P2), *Amanita kalamundae* (P3) and *Amanita fibrillopes* (P3), have previously been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). A targeted flora survey was undertaken in June 2020 to identify the presence or absence of these species within the application area (Strategen JBS&G, 2020). No conservation significant flora were recorded during the survey. The survey was conducted within the fruiting period of *Amanita kalamundae* and *Amanita fibrillopes,* hence being the optimal time for the detection and identification. While the survey was undertaken outside of the known flowering period of *Commersonia apella* and *Thomasia brachystachys,* these species are present and visible all year round (Strategen JBS&G, 2020). *Caladenia christineae* was unlikely to have been detectable during the time of survey as it was outside of this species known flowering period. This species grows on winter-wet flats (on the margins as well as in standing water) in heath and tall scrub communities, within *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) – *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) forest and sometimes under *Melaleuca* sp. (paperbarks) (Brown et al., 1998). Due to the application area being inconsistent with the known habitat of this species, it is unlikely that it occurs within the application area. Noting the absence of conservation significant flora species within the application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact to conservation significant flora.

Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) are listed as Endangered and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) is listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and have been recorded within the local area. Black cockatoos nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Karri and marri trees were observed within the application area (DWER, 2019). A black cockatoo habitat tree assessment within the application area was undertaken in April 2020 (Harewood, 2020). The application area was found to contain 13 potential black cockatoo habitat trees (trees with diameter at breast height of more than 50 centimetres), however none were identified as containing hollows suitable for, or in use by black cockatoos (Harewood, 2020). It was noted that the vast majority of the trees within the application area appear to be relatively young and as a consequence do not contain hollows suitable for black cockatoos (Harewood, 2020). Considering the findings of the survey, 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.

Whilst the application area is not considered to contain significant habitat for fauna, it is recognised that fauna may be present at the time of clearing due to the presence of native vegetation in good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Slow, directional clearing will assist in fauna escaping ahead of the clearing activity.

According to available databases, there are no priority or threatened ecological communities (PECs/TECs) recorded within the local area. The nearest conservation significant ecological community is the priority 3 'Epiphytic Cryptograms of the karri forest' PEC, located over 24 kilometres from the application area. The application area is not likely to represent any TECs or PECs.

The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (EPA, 2008; Government of Western Australia, 2019; Commonwealth of Australia, 2019), therefore the application area is not considered to occur in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The application area is considered to form part of a South West Regional Ecological Linkage (SWREL). The SWREL report (Molloy et al., 2009) defines an ecological linkage as "a series of (both contiguous and non-contiguous) patches which, by virtue of their proximity to each other, act as stepping stones of habitat to facilitate the maintenance of ecological processes and the movement of organisms within, and across, a landscape". Axis lines in the SWREL Report are used to identify patches of remnant vegetation with high connectivity or linkage value; the emphasis for biodiversity planning and conservation becomes the protection and management of the patches identified using the linkage axis lines, rather than within the area defined by the axis line itself.

Remnant vegetation within the SWREL boundary can be assigned a 'proximity analysis' group. A patch of vegetation with an edge touching or less than 100 metres from a linkage (axis line) is assigned to proximity analysis Group 1(a) which is the highest category group. A SWREL axis line is mapped less than 20 metres east of the application area. While the application area may serve as an ecological linkage, the proposed clearing will not sever the linkage or remove linkage values entirely.

The closest conservation reserve is the Gloucester National Park which is located approximately a kilometre south of the application area. Given that the proposed clearing will be restricted to the application area, it is not likely to impact upon the environmental values of the conservation areas. There is however a risk of the proposed clearing resulting in the spread of weeds and dieback into adjoining native vegetation. Weed and dieback mitigation measures will assist in minimising this risk.

Based on the currently available hydrography mapping, Lefroy Brook intersects the most south-eastern portion of the application area. However, based on aerial imagery and the site inspection, Lefroy Book is located outside of the application area. It does not appear that the vegetation growing in association with Lefroy Brook is proposed to be cleared. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with principle (f).

Given the size of the proposed clearing and its location adjacent to an existing road reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed is not likely to be at variance with the 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 DWER website on 31 July 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

Brown, A, Thomson-Dans, C & Marchant, N (Eds), 1998, Western Australia's Threatened Flora, Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia, p. 132

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. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019) Site Inspection Report for CPS 8586/1, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, 23 September 2019 (DWER Ref: A1843877).

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2008) Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development Guidance Statement No 33. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.

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) Habitat Tree Assessment of proposed clearing area CPS 8586/1, Pump Hill Road (SLK 0.84 to 1.87). Unpublished report prepared for Shire of Manjimup. Version 1, April 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.

Molloy, S., Wood, J., Hall, S., Wallrodt, S. and Whisson, G. (2009). South West Regional Ecological Linkages Technical Report. Western Australian Local Government Association and Department of Environment and Conservation.

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.

Shire of Manjimup (2019). Application for a clearing permit (purpose permit) for CPS 8586/1 received 28 June 2019 (DWER Ref: DWERDT173029).

Strategen JBS&G (2020) Targeted flora survey for CPS 8586/1, Pump Hill Road. Unpublished report prepared for Shire of Manjimup. Rev A, July 2020.

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

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Managed Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands Management Category
- Hydrography Linear – Linear
- Hydrography WA 250K – Surface Water Lines
- IBRA Australia
- Land Degradation Hazards
- SAC bio datasets
- South-West Forests – Vegetation Complex Mapping
- Threatened and Priority Fauna Data September 2019
- TPFL Data September 2019
- WA Herb Data September 2019
- WA TECPEC Boundaries