



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8638/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Murray
Duration of Permit:	21 November 2019 – 21 November 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

Lakes Road Reserve (PIN 1362216), North Dandalup

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 3 native trees within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8638/1.

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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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 trees);
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and


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*;

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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION




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

22 October 2019

Plan 8638/1



Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
-  Image



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Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2018



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8638/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Murray
Application received date: 7 August 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lakes Road Reserve (PIN 1362216)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Murray
Localities: North Dandalup

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 22 October 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.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable impacts to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 3 scattered native trees within Lakes Road (PIN 1362216), North Dandalup (the Application Area), for the purpose of road widening (Figure 1-3).

Vegetation Description The Application Area occurs within the 'Swan Coastal Plain' Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion, and is mapped as the following Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex (Hedde et al., 1980):

- 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 raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark).

Based on the supporting information provided by the Applicant (Shire of Murray, 2019), the proposed clearing consists of two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees (Figure 1 and 2) and one *Melaleuca preissiana* over introduced mixed grasses (Figure 3).

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the Application area is considered to be:

- Completely degraded: no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994)

The vegetation condition was determined based on aerial imagery and supporting information provided by the Applicant (Shire of Murray, 2019).

Soil type The Application Area is mapped as the following land subsystems (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Pinjarra P1a Phase subsystem described as Flat to very gently undulating plain with deep acidic mottled yellow duplex (or ineffective duplexi) soils. Shallow pale sand to sandy loam over clay; imperfect to poorly drained and generally not susceptible to salinity.

Comments The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius around the perimeter of the Application Area.



Figure 1: *Eucalyptus rudis* proposed to be cleared (Shire of Murray, 2019).



Figure 2: *Eucalyptus rudis* proposed to be cleared (Shire of Murray, 2019).



Figure 3: *Melaleuca preissiana* proposed to be cleared (Shire of Murray, 2019).

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

In relation to whether alternatives had been considered to avoid or minimise the need for clearing, the Applicant advised that the road widening design has been undertaken in such a way to cause a minimal impact on trees (Shire of Murray, 2019).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, species identified within the application area (Shire of Murray, 2019), lack of understorey, and its small size, the application area is not likely to contain any threatened or priority flora species, is unlikely to comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a priority ecological community or threatened ecological community and is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity.

Based on the information supplied by the applicant, the application area contains suitable habitat for the three threatened black cockatoo species, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*). Photographs of individual trees within the application area were provided (Shire of Murray, 2019) and it was determined that none of the trees contain hollows suitable for the threatened

black cockatoo species. The dominant species in the application area is *Eucalyptus rudis* which may provide foraging habitat for black cockatoo species (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). However, noting the size of the application area and that a number of *Eucalyptus rudis* trees will remain within the road reserve and in surrounding areas, the application area is not likely to form significant foraging habitat for threatened black cockatoo species.

Noting the minimal extent of the proposed clearing and that vegetation will remain within the road reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to reduce the effectiveness of the road reserve acting as a wildlife corridor. Given the above, no significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species is likely to occur within the application 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 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The Swan Coastal Plain IBRA bioregion retains approximately 32.5 per cent of the pre-European extent, and the mapped Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex Guildford 32 retains approximately 5 per cent (approximately 4,607 hectares), of the pre-European extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Based on the photographs provided by the applicant, the vegetation within the application area does not resemble the extensively cleared Guildford 32 vegetation complex. The local area retains approximately 22.5 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, given the size of the proposed clearing of vegetation in a completely degraded condition, that it does not contain a high level of biodiversity, will not impact on a wildlife corridor and does not comprise conservation significant flora, fauna or ecological communities, the application area is not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape.

No watercourses, wetlands, threatened or priority ecological communities or conservation areas are recorded within close proximity to the application area and the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on any such areas.

The closest conservation area to the application area is Dwellingup State Forest (PIN 425101) located more than 6.8 kilometres east from the application area. Given the distance between the application area and the nearest conservation area, the application area is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to exacerbate or contribute to further land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding than that which is currently present.

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 30 August 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia. (2012). EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra
- 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>
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.
- 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 Murray. (2019). Application form and supporting information in relation to the clearing permit application CPS 8638/1. DWER Ref: DWERDT187254.

GIS Databases:

- CPS Areas applied to clear
- NatureMap (conservation significant fauna)
- DAFWA Subsystems V5
- Soils of WA
- Vegetation Complexes – Swan Coastal Plain
- Managed Tenure
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- TPFL Data July 2019
- WAHerb Data July 2019
- Aboriginal Sites Register
- IBRA Vegetation WA
- WA TECPEC
- Land Degradation Hazards