



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8658/1

File Number: DWERVT3378

Duration of Permit: From 18 December 2019 to 18 December 2021

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Waroona

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 1701 on Deposited Plan 214632, Waroona

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.18 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8658/1.

### 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. 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.

#### 3. 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.

#### 4. 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 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 extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and

- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit.

**5. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 4 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*;

***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*

18 November 2019

# Plan 8658/1

115°49'40.800"E

115°49'44.400"E

32°51'57.600"S

32°51'57.600"S

32°52'1.200"S



32°52'1.200"S





115°49'40.800"E

115°49'44.400"E

## Legend

-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  CPS areas approved to clear


## Image

-  Local Government Authorities
-  Road Centrelines



0 10 20 30 40 m



  
Mathew  
Gannaway  
2019.11.18  
14:32:02 +08'00'

Officer delegated under section 20 of the  
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8658/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Waroona  
Application received date: 27 August 2019

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 1701 on Deposited Plan 214632, Waroona  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Waroona  
Localities: Waroona

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.18		Mechanical Removal	Waste disposal/management

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 18 November 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 with any of the clearing principles.

The applicant has avoided and minimised impacts through the utilisation of land supporting degraded vegetation adjacent to an established rubbish disposal site.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to weed and dieback management conditions.

## 2. Site Information

### Clearing Description

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.18 ha native vegetation within Lot 1701 on Deposited Plan 214632, Waroona, for the purpose of the construction of a transfer station for rubbish disposal.

### Vegetation Description

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Southern River Complex 42, which is described as an open woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - Banksia species with fringing woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum) - *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark) along creek beds. (Hedde et al., 1980).

Photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Waroona, 2019) indicate the vegetation within the application area consists of *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, *Agonis flexuosa*, a single occurrence of *Banksia attenuata* and scattered non-native Eucalypts. The midstory is absent with a ground layer of predominantly introduced weed species.

### Vegetation Condition

The vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, which is described as containing a basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. There is scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

### Soil Type

The soil type within the application area is mapped as Bassendean B1 Phase subsystem which is described as extremely low to very low relief dunes, undulating sandplain and discrete sand rises with deep bleached grey sands sometimes with a pale yellow B horizon or a weak iron-organic hardpan at depths generally greater than 2 m; banksia dominant (DPIRD, 2019)

### Comments

The proposed clearing occurs within an established rubbish disposal site and a road in a rural area.

The local area is defined as 10 kilometre radius from the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 9.5 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.

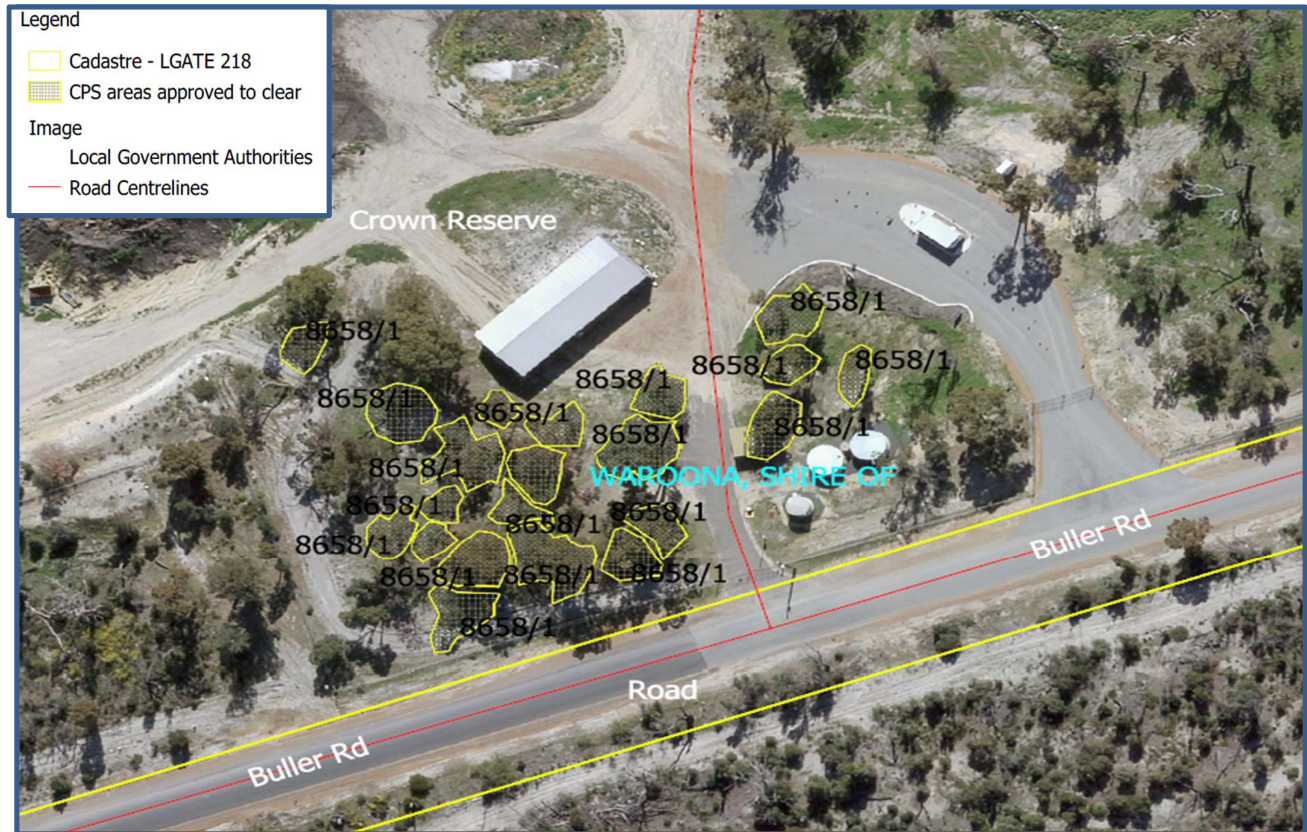


Figure 1. Application area (cross hatched yellow) in relation to roads and established rubbish disposal site (DWER 2019).



Figure 2. Representative photograph of the proposed clearing area, facing south east. Shows the absence of understory and dominance of introduced weed species in the ground layer (Shire of Waroona, 2019).



Figure 3. Shows the presence of introduced tree species (Shire of Waroona, 2019)

### 3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The proposed construction of a transfer station area hardstands and tip shop are the most efficient and best use of the site, taking into consideration existing infrastructure and existing cleared areas. The Shire has been in long term consultation in regards to the design of the site and believe this design will have the least impact on the existing natural characterises of the site (Shire of Waroona, 2019).

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the minimal extent of clearing proposed, and the photographic evidence provided by the applicant (Shire of Waroona 2019a) that shows the complete absence of native understory species, the application area is not likely to contain any threatened or priority flora species.

According to available datasets, the vegetation within the application area is mapped as the 'Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain' Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia, (IBRA) region. This ecological community is listed as a Priority 3 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Banksia woodlands is listed as an Endangered Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The Banksia Woodlands TEC is restricted to areas in and immediately adjacent to the Swan Coastal Plain Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, including the Dandaragan plateau (DotEE, 2016). This ecological community has Undergone a decline of about 60 per cent of its original extent and almost all of the ecological community that remains, occurs as highly fragmented patches less than 10 hectares in size (DotEE, 2016).

The Approved Conservation Advice for the Banksia Woodlands TEC states that to be considered representative of the TEC, a remnant in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion must include at least one of four key species—*Banksia attenuata* (candlestick banksia), *B. menziesii* (firewood banksia), *B. prionotes* (acorn banksia) and/or *B. ilicifolia* (holly-leaved banksia), must include an emergent tree layer often including marri, jarrah, or tuart, and other medium trees including *Eucalyptus tottiana* (pricklybark), *Nuytsia floribunda* (WACHristmas tree), western sheoak, *Callitris arenaria* (sandplain cypress), *Callitris pyramidalis* (swamp cypress) or *Xylomelum occidentale* (woody pear) and must include an often highly species-rich understory (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016). The vegetation within the application area has no emergent tree layer, is dominated by *Allocasuarina* sp., has a complete absence of understory and a ground layer dominated by weed species. Therefore the vegetation occurring with the proposed clearing area is not representative of the PEC/TEC mapped as Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain.

Noting the size and species present within the application area, the application area does not contain any hollows or significant foraging or breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

The South West Regional Ecological Linkage (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 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 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 approximately 250 metres west of Area 2 and 320 metres west of Area 1.

There is native vegetation contiguous from the mapped SWREL linkage to Buller Nature Reserve (26 metres south), Myalup State Forest (9.2 kilometres west) and Hamel State forest (8.9 kilometres east) (Molloy et al., 2009). Given the application area is located within this contiguous native vegetation, the application area falls within proximity analysis group 1(a) as the patch of vegetation which it is part of has an edge touching the linkage. Whilst the application area forms part of this ecological linkage, noting the size of the proposed clearing within the broader patch, and the application area is in a degraded condition devoid of native understorey vegetation, the proposed clearing area does not assist in the maintenance of the ecological function of this linkage.

Considering the above, the vegetation within the application area is not likely to comprise of a high level of biodiversity.

According to available databases, no watercourses, wetlands, or conservation areas intersect the application area. The closest watercourse is an inundation area located approximately 150 meters from the application area. Topographical mapping does not indicate that the proposed clearing area and the inundation area are connected with the application area.

The application area is located approximately 26 metres from Buller Nature Reserve. The application area is positioned between an established rubbish disposal site and a road. Given the distance from the nearest conservation areas, minimal extent of clearing and degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

While the local area retains just under 9.5 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent, given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, minimal extent of clearing proposed and the lack of conservation significant flora, fauna and communities, the proposed clearing is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape.

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application, minimal extent of clearing proposed, and absence of nearby significant hydrological features, the proposed clearing 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 with any of the clearing principles.

### **Planning instruments and other relevant matters**

No Aboriginal Site of Significance have been identified during the desktop assessment. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) website on 20 September 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

### **5. References**

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed November 2019).

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.

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.

Shire of Waroona 2019 Internal report supplied with application.

Shire of Waroona (2019a) Application for clearing permit (CPS 8658/1). DWER reference: CPS 8658/1

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Subsystems
- Groundwater salinity

CPS 8658/1

- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed November 2019)
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands