



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 8676/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Mr Austen Langford
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 28 February 2020 to 28 February 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 *apiary site* establishment and maintenance.

#### 2. Land on which clearing is to be done

The land on which clearing is to be done can be found within Appendix 1 of this Permit.

#### 3. Area of clearing

- The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.48 hectares of native vegetation in total.
- The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.12 hectares for each of the *apiary sites* described in condition 2 of this Permit.
- The clearing described in conditions 3(a) and 3(b) of this Permit may only occur within a 500 metre radius of the coordinates of each *apiary site* described in condition 2 of this Permit, subject to the Permit Holder having the power to clear native vegetation for those activities under any written law.

#### 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 within *apiary sites* described in condition 2 and the type of clearing in condition 3 of this Permit to the extent of activities permitted under an authority granted to the Permit Holder under Part 8A of the *Conservation and Land Management Regulations 2002*.

#### 6. Clearing not authorised

This Permit does not authorise the Permit Holder to clear trees that have a diameter, at average adult human chest height, of 10 centimetres or greater.

## **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

### **7. 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.

### **8. Method of clearing**

- (a) The Permit Holder must comply with the directions of the relevant District Apiary Officer of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Parks and Wildlife Services prior to undertaking clearing within *apiary sites* described in condition 2 of this Permit.
- (b) The Permit Holder may only clear native vegetation using minimal impact methods, such as hand mowers or raking.

### **9. Weed and Dieback 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 *weed* and *dieback*-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**

### **10. Records must be kept**

In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit; including;

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

### **11. Reporting**

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 10 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

***apiary site/s*** means the land specified in an apiary authority as the land to which an apiary licence granted under Part VIII Division 2 of the CALM Act, or an apiary permit granted under Part VIII Division 1 of the CALM Act;

**CALM Act** means the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984*;

**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;


**dry conditions** means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

**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; and

**weed/s** mean 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.

 Ryan Mincham  
2020.01.29  
17:33:52  
+08'00'

---

Ryan Mincham  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

29 January 2020

**APPENDIX 1 – Land on which clearing is to be done**

<b>APIARY SITE NUMBER</b>	<b>LONGITUDE</b>	<b>LATITUDE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>TENURE</b>
2369	115.1329	-29.5741	Moora	unallocated Crown land
2370	115.1651	-29.5894	Moora	unallocated Crown land
2953	114.9889	-30.0363	Moora	Crown land
3591	115.1913	-29.5768	Moora	unallocated Crown land

# Plan 8676/1 A

114°58'48.000"

114°59'6.000"

114°59'24.000"

114°59'42.000"

-30°1'48.000"

-30°1'48.000"

-30°2'6.000"

-30°2'6.000"

-30°2'24.000"

-30°2'24.000"

-30°2'42.000"

-30°2'42.000"

LOT 12178 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 39607

8676/1

SHIRE OF COOROW

Coorow-Green Head Rd

Road

Coorow-Green Head Rd

Road

Crown Reserve

Indian Ocean

114°58'48.000"

114°59'6.000"

114°59'24.000"

114°59'42.000"

## Legend

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



0 100 200 m



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Ryan Mincham

2020.01.29

16:53:03

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
WA Crown Copyright 2018

# Plan 8676/1 B

115°7'30.000"

115°7'48.000"

115°8'6.000"

115°8'24.000"

-29°34'12.000"

-29°34'12.000"

-29°34'30.000"

-29°34'30.000"

-29°34'48.000"

-29°34'48.000"

LOT 12453 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 221090

SHIRE OF IRWIN  
8676/1

Brand Hwy

Road

Unallocated Crown Land




115°7'30.000"

115°7'48.000"

115°8'6.000"

115°8'24.000"

## Legend

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



0 100 200 m



Ryan Mincham

2020.01.29

16:53:44

+08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
WA Crown Copyright 2018

# Plan 8676/1 C

115°9'36.000"

115°9'54.000"

115°10'12.000"

-29°35'56.000"

-29°35'56.000"

-29°35'24.000"

-29°35'24.000"

-29°35'42.000"

-29°35'42.000"

115°9'36.000"

115°9'54.000"

115°10'12.000"

LOT 12453 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 221090

SHIRE OF IRWIN




8676/1

Road

Brand Hwy

Unallocated Crown Land

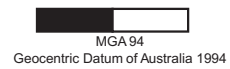
## Legend


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

Image



0 100 200 m



  
Ryan Mincham  
2020.01.29  
16:54:14 +08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
WA Crown Copyright 2018

# Plan 8676/1 D

115°11'6.000"

115°11'24.000"

115°11'42.000"

115°12'0.000"

-29°34'12.000"

-29°34'12.000"

-29°34'30.000"

-29°34'30.000"

-29°34'48.000"

-29°34'48.000"

LOT 12453 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 221090

8676/1


115°11'6.000"

115°11'24.000"

115°11'42.000"

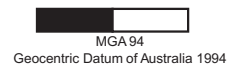
115°12'0.000"


## Legend

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



0 100 200 m



  
Ryan Mincham  
2020.01.29  
16:54:47 +08'00'

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



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
WA Crown Copyright 2018





# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8676/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mr Austen Langford  
Application received date: 13 September 2019

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 12178 on Plan 39607, Leeman  
Lot 12453 on Plan 221090, Arrowsmith  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Coorow and Shire of Irwin  
Localities: Leeman and Arrowsmith

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 29 January 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*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the proposed clearing may impact the environmental values of Beekeepers Nature Reserve (R 24496) through the direct clearing of native vegetation and possibly the introduction, or spread of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management measures will mitigate impacts to this conservation area.

The Delegated Officer determined that given the small extent of the proposed clearing within extensive areas of remnant vegetation, the clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

In order to minimise the impact of the clearing, the Delegated Officer has imposed the standard conditions for apiculture clearing permits, including weed and dieback management conditions and prohibiting the clearing of native trees with a diameter, at adult average human chest height, of greater than ten centimetres.

## 2. Site Information

### Clearing Description

The application proposes to clear 0.48 hectares of native vegetation across four sites for the purpose of apiculture (beekeeping). Up to 0.12 hectares of clearing may be necessary within each site for vehicle access and placement of beehives.

The sites are permitted for apiculture under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act) by Apiary permits 2369, 2370, 2953 and 3591.

Site 2953 is located within Lot 12178 on Deposited Plan 39607 (Crown Reserve R 24496), Leeman (Figure 1); sites 2369, 2370 and 3591 are located approximately 52 kilometres to the north-east, within Lot 12453 on Deposited Plan 221090, Arrowsmith (Figure 2-4) (the Application area).

### Vegetation Description

The Application area occurs within the 'Geraldton Sandplains' Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion, and is mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (Shepherd et al., 2001):

- Site 2953: 1026 described as mosaic: Shrublands; *Acacia rostellifera*, *A. cyclops* (in the south) & *Melaleuca cardiophylla* (in the north) thicket / Shrublands; *Acacia lasiocarpa* & *Melaleuca acerosa* heath; and
- Sites 2369, 2370 and 3591: 378 described as shrublands; scrub-heath with scattered *Banksia* spp, *Eucalyptus todtiana* & *Xylomelum angustifolium* on deep sandy flats in the Geraldton Sandplain Region

### Vegetation Condition

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

- Very good: vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994); to
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance, scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994)

The condition of the vegetation within the Application area was determined based on the aerial imagery.

### Soil type

The Application area is mapped as the following land subsystems (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2019):

- Site 2953: Quindalup Central 6 Subsystem - Flat coastal plain; shallow grey calcareous sands over calcrete (over sands, shells etc); and
- Sites 2369, 2370 and 3591: Correy 1 Subsystem - Alluvial plain; Pale deep sands dominate with yellow deep sands and shallow and deep sandy duplexes

### Comment

The local area is defined as a five kilometre radius from each application area.



Figure 1 - Application area cross-hatched blue – Site 2953



Figure 2 - Application area cross-hatched blue – Site 2369



Figure 3 - Application area cross-hatched blue – Site 2370



Figure 4 - Application area cross-hatched blue 3591

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

All four sites have been assessed and approved for use for apiculture by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) under the CALM Act. The assessment conducted by DBCA includes the consideration of any issues with clearing, if the site requires clearing of native vegetation and how much, the presence of threatened flora, priority 1 or 2 species or threatened ecological communities, the condition and structure of the vegetation, vegetation community and dominant flora species prior. The assessment of these environment values is undertaken prior to the issuing of an apiary permit.

Given the species identified within the Application area, lack of understorey, its small size, and that the sites have been approved for apiculture use by DBCA, 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 biodiversity.

The Application area does not contain any hollows or significant foraging or breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

As the mapped vegetation types and the local area around each proposed clearing location retain more than 30 per cent of the pre-European clearing extent of native vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2019), and given the relatively small size of the Application area and the lack of conservation significant flora and fauna, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

No watercourses or wetlands have been recorded within 900 metres of the Application 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 surface or ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding than that which is currently present.

Site 2953 is located in Beekeepers Nature Reserve (R 24496) which is managed by DBCA as a reserve for the protection of flora. Accessing and working within the apiary site may increase the risk of introduction and spread of weeds and dieback to the surrounding conservation area, and therefore, may be at variance to principle (h). A weed and dieback management condition will mitigate any potential impacts to this conservation area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (h) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

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

Apiarists generally have a preference to use existing cleared areas for apiary site locations and existing tracks/firebreaks to access them and to keep maintenance to a minimum. However, in some cases apiary sites may need to be established in new locations, or an existing site may not have been used for a number of years and clearing of regrowth may be required.

Approvals to establish apiary sites are managed under the CALM Act. As part of this process, authority to access lands is obtained from the relevant land managers.

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Services' 'General Conditions for using Apiary Authorities on Crown Land in Western Australia' state that an apiarist must liaise with the local DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Services' apiary officer to gain final approval prior to using or entering a nominated apiary site, and that if an apiary site is no longer suitable for use, the local DBCA officer can request the apiarist to relocate (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2013).

Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (2019) advised that the affected Crown reserve is set aside for nature reserve/national park purposes under the Shire of Coorow *Local Planning Scheme No. 3*, and the affected unallocated crown land is zoned General Farming under the Shire of Irwin *Local Planning Scheme No. 5*. The proposed use of the sites for apiculture is compatible with the purpose and operation of the reserve, and consistent with the objectives of the general farming zone. As such, the proposal does not raise any land use planning issues.

There are no subdivision approvals that would affect use of the sites as proposed. Under both Shire's schemes, planning approval is not required prior to the granting of a clearing permit, however, planning approval is required prior to undertaking development on zoned or reserved land.

The Shire of Irwin advised it has no comment of objection to the proposed clearing (Shire of Irwin, 2019).

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

Sites 2369 and 2370 are located in within an environmentally sensitive area (ESA) that is included on the Register of the National Estate because of its natural heritage value, under the Commonwealth *Australian Heritage Council Act 2003*.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 3 December 2019 with a 14 day submission period. During the submission period, one public submission was received. The submitter raised concerns that no biological information was provided and there is no information regarding how the applicant will gain access to these sites, that is whether pre-existing tracks are available and thus whether the beehive sites are the only areas to be impacted by this activity. In addition, the submitter contended that no information was provided regarding how the applicant will ensure that pathogens and weeds are not introduced into the areas in which they wish to install their beehives. The submitter also claimed that a lack of more detailed information and assurance that significant conservation values will not be affected by these activities which may impact populations of rare flora and fauna habitat that may be present within the Application area.

In response to the submission, the Applicant (2019) advised that the sites 2369, 2370 and 2953 are close to roads and the site 3591 is close to a track that services a gas pipeline. Given this, the sites have been used over the past years so there is already access to them. Furthermore, the Applicant (2019) advised that when accessing sites, any vehicles and machinery entering the Application area will be cleaned. The remaining concerns raised were addressed by taking into account sources as referenced below, including current available biological databases.

#### **4. References**

- Applicant. (2019). Additional advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8676/1. DWER Ref: A1857778.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2013) General Conditions for using Apiary Authorities on Crown Land in Western Australia. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 10 December 2019).
- Department of Planning Land and Heritage. (2019). Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8676/1. DWER Ref: A1849492).
- Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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 Irwin. (2019). Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8676/1. DWER Ref: A1853105.

**GIS databases:**

CPS Areas applied to clear  
NatureMap (conservation significant fauna)  
DAFWA Subsystems V5  
Soils of WA  
Beard vegetation associations  
Managed Tenure  
Environmentally Sensitive Areas  
TPFL Data October 2019  
WAHerb Data October 2019  
Aboriginal Sites Register  
IBRA Vegetation WA  
WA TECPEC  
Land Degradation Hazards