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.:	8740/1
Permit type:	Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name:	City of Albany
Application received date:	22 December 2019

1.3. Property details

Property:	Lot 2858 on Plan 138514, Road Reserve (PIN 11157518 and 11195160)
Local Government Authority:	City of Albany
Localities:	Youngs Siding

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:	Granted
Decision Date:	21 February 2020
Reasons for Decision:	The clearing permit application was received on 22 December 2019 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other relevant matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), and not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles. During assessment, it was determined the proposed clearing area includes riparian vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland (*Melaleuca pressiana* and *Melaleuca rhaphiophylla)*. No significant impacts to the environmental values of any wetland or watercourse are expected given the small scale of clearing and that no wetland or watercourse will be intersected watercourse/wetland and the small scale of clearing. In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delgetated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:	The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.03 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 2858 on Plan 138514 and Road Reserve (PIN 11157518 and 11195160) for the purpose of road realignement and widening.
Vegetation Description	The vegetation within the application area is mapped as 'Jarrah Forest' IBRA of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), and mapped as the Southern Jarrah Forest vegetation complex (Shepherd et al., 2001), described as: • 969 - Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low forest; jarrah
Vegetation Condition	As indicated by photos supplied by the applicant (City of Albany, 2019), the vegetation within the clearing area is in a degraded to good condition (Keighery, 1994), described as: - Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing; To - 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. For example, disturbance of vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.

Soil Type

The soil type within the application area is mapped as Blackwater gleyed duplex phase described as:

- 254BrBWo: Shallow gleyed duplex soils; paperbark woodland. Podzols on dunes; banksia-sheoak woodland (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments

The local area is defined as 10 kilometre (km) radius from the application area.
A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 24.7 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.

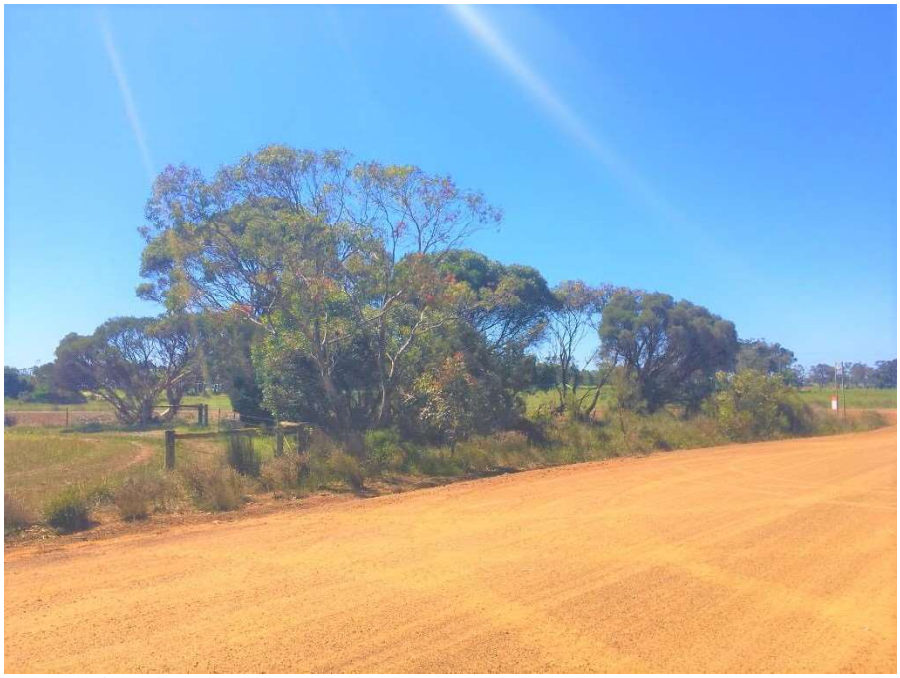

Photo 1 (City of Albany 2019)

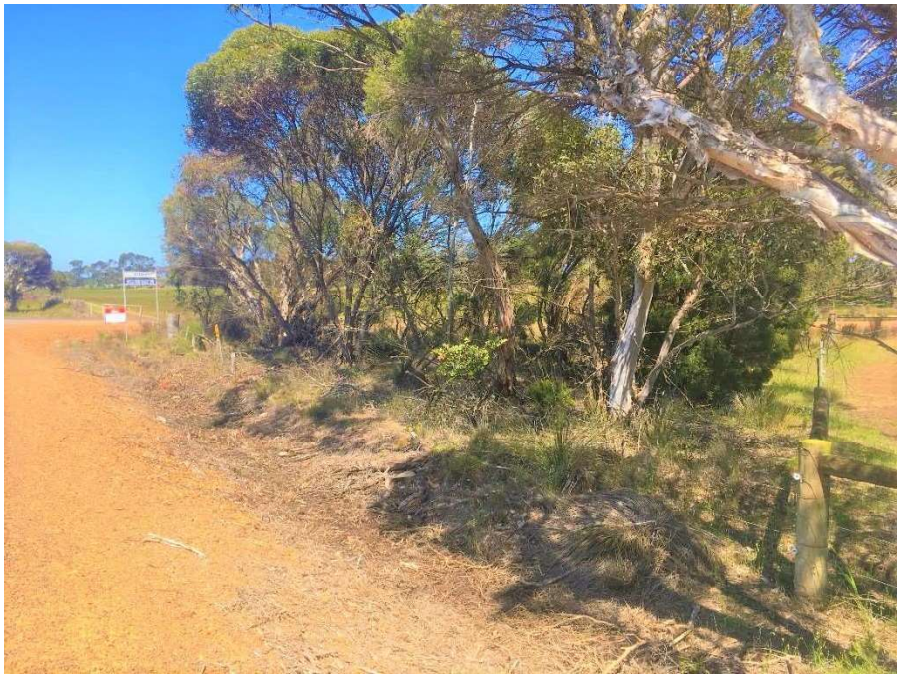

Photo 2 (City of Albany 2019)

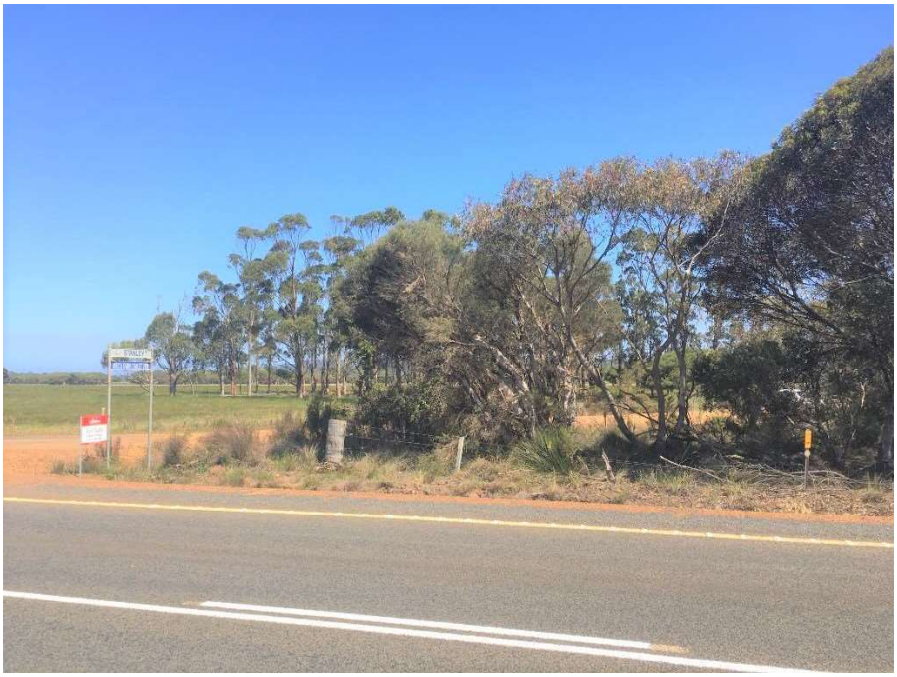

Photo 3 (City of Albany 2019)

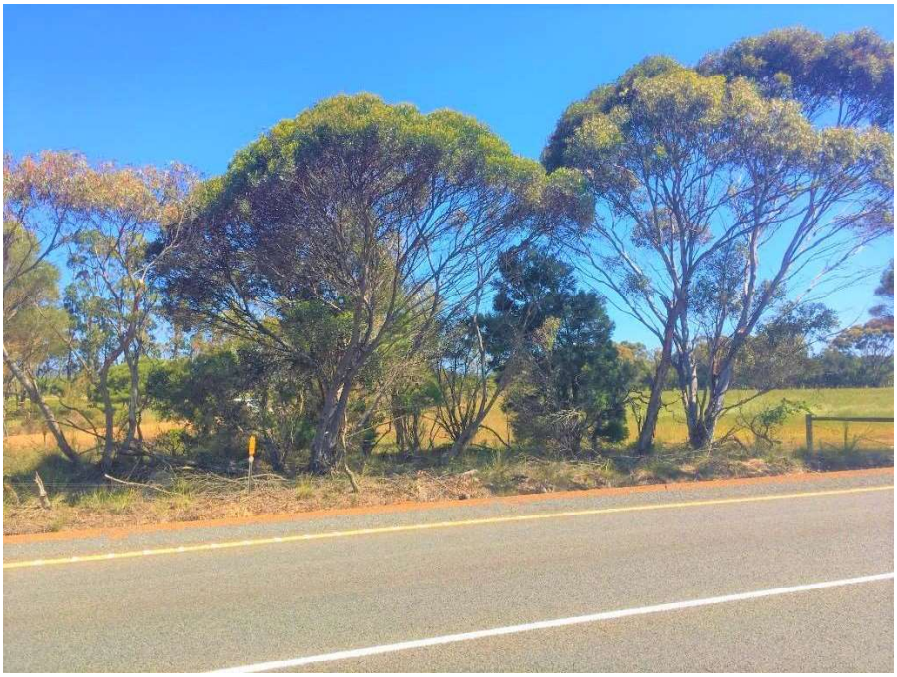

Photo 4 (City of Albany 2019)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

The application proposes the clearing of 0.03 hectares of native vegetation on the property Lot 2858 on Plan 138514, of which a small portion of has been purchased by the City of Albany to be re-zoned to road reserve (City of Albany, 2019). The application area also includes part of Road Reserves (PIN 11157518 and 11195160).

Based on the available databases, forty-three fauna species listed as conservation significant under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) within the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* have been recorded within the local area. The mallee formation of the the Eucalyptus species in the application area (City of Albany, 2020) indicate the vegetation is unlikely to be utilised by Black Cockatoo's as foraging, roosting or breeding habitat. The relatively small application area, roadside location, lack of key habitat tree species and degraded to good condition (Keighery, 1994) indicate the application area is unlikely to offer significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

After reviewing the available databases, 2 threatened flora species and 18 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. The closest of these is located 5 kilometres from the application area. Two Threatened and one Priority 3 species

(*Banksia goodii*, *Microtis globula* and *Synaphea incurva* respectively), declared under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* could possibly occur in the application area. A site inspection by the City of Albany (2020) did not identify these species in the application area. Combined with the modified surrounding pastrual landscape, disturbed roadside location and relatively small scale of clearing, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on these species.

According to DWER available databases, there are no mapped state or federally listed TEC's in the clearing area or the vegetation surrounding the clearing area. The nearest mapped TEC is 3.5 km away (*Melaceuca spathulata/Melaleuca viminea* Swamp Heath).

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of the present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area falls within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion and comprises vegetation broadly mapped as Southern Jarrah Forest (969) - Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low forest; jarrah (Shepherd et al, 2001), retaining 53.25 percent and 32.50 percent of their state-wide pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains 24.7 percent of its remnant vegetation. Given the two ecological communities retain > 30 percent of their pre-European vegetation, do not support any TEC/PEC's, indicate a lack of habitat for conservation significant fauna, are unlikely to support conservation significant flora and the small scale of clearing, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available datasets, no watercourses or wetlands intersect the application area. The nearest watercourse is the Sleeman River which is greater than 4 km away. The nearest wetland is Wilson Inlet Ridge Swale, mapped greater than 7 km west of the application area. Although the application area is not within any wetlands or watercourses, the application area contains riparian vegetation (*Melaleuca rhaphiophylla* and *Melaleuca pressiana*), and therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f). However, the small scale of clearing and lack of intersecting watercourse is unlikely to cause significant environmental impacts.

Noting the small scale and location of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to exacerbate or contribute to further land degradation, impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas, deteriorate the quality of surface or groundwater or cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f), and not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 9 January 2020, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped within the application area.

4. References

City of Albany (2019). Application documents in relation to clearing permit application CPS 87401/1. Received on 22 December 2019. DWER Ref: A1855165.

City of Albany (2020). Application documents in relation to clearing permit application CPS 87401/1. Received on 5 January 2020. DWER Ref: A1864989.

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

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 January 2020).

Government of Western Australia. (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.

Government of Western Australia. (2019a). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.

Government of Western Australia. (2019b). 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.

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 et al. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in south-Western Australia: an overview of methodology and outputs, Department of Agriculture and Food, Perth.

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.

GIS Databases:

- Soil and Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Carnaby's Cockatoo Areas requiring investigation as feeding habitat in the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) IBRA Region (DBCA-057)

- Remnant Vegetation
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- TECs and PECs
- Black Cockatoo roost sites
- SCP Vegetation Complex Statistics