

Report to accompany clearing permit application by Gems Brook Pty Ltd

1. Introduction

Gems Brook Pty Ltd has recently purchased location 12291 at Boorara Brook, WA.

This 61.3 hectare property was partially cleared and developed for agricultural purposes some 80 years ago. Over the past 20 years the property has been leased and maintenance of the property has lapsed, resulting in loss of productivity.

The owners now wish to carry out some clearing of remnant native vegetation on the property to allow it to fulfill its potential for primary production, primarily the raising of beef cattle.

2. Areas proposed for clearing

The total area proposed for clearing is approximately 20 hectares, made up of approximately 15 hectares of mixed eucalypt bush in the southern half of the property, approximately two hectares of regrowth karri towards the north-east corner of the property, and approximately three hectares of mixed understorey species alongside the creek which runs from north-east to south-west through the property.

In addition, areas already cleared and which have been over-run with bracken fern and blackberry will be converted back to pasture.

2.1 Mixed eucalypt bush area (approx. 15 ha)

The dominant species in this area are jarrah, marri and some blackbutt, with understorey species typical of the Warren Botanical Subdistrict. There is evidence of past timber harvesting over this area.



Photo 1: Mixed species bushland in southern portion of property

2.2 Regrowth karri area (approx. 2 ha)

A small pocket of regrowth karri exists south of the creek in the north-east corner of the property, most likely resulting from initial clearing of the property about 80 years ago.



Photo 2: Regrowth karri

2.3 Mixed understorey species area (approx 3 ha)

Growing alongside the creek zone is a dense thicket of mostly Warren River Cedar (*Agonis juniperina*) and WA peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), with incursion of blackberry (*Rubis fruticosus*).

The owners wish to clear a portion of this vegetation, at the same time maintaining the creek riparian zone, yet allowing access to control and ultimately eliminate the blackberry from the creek system altogether.



Photo 3: Creek zone choked with blackberry. Agonis spp in background.

3. Fence-line and bracken clearing

The owners will be re-fencing the property where necessary, particularly where it borders State forest. This will require some fence-line clearing. Although not a formal part of this application, the owners wish to advise DWER of their intentions in this regard.

There is some speculation that some parts of the boundary fence-line may not be correctly aligned. The owners therefore intend to have the property boundaries surveyed before any fence-line development work is undertaken.

The owners will also be controlling the preponderance of bracken fern over previously cleared areas. Again, although not part of the formal clearing permit application, the owners wish to advise DWER of their intentions to remove excess bracken fern.



Photo 4: Northern boundary fenceline.



Photo 5: Previously cleared areas showing dominant bracken fern.