



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8856/1

File Number: DWERTV5593

Duration of Permit: From 18 July 2020 to 18 July 2022

### PERMIT HOLDER

Forest Products Commission

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 1 on Diagram 67189, Frankland River

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 59.9 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8856/1.

### 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. 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.

#### 4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 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.



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Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

25 June 2020






# Plan 8856/1

116°42'0.000"



116°42'0.000"

## Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
-  Image
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218

0 250 500 m



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

  
Date 25 June 2020  
**Mathew Gannaway**

Officer delegated under section 20 of the  
Environmental Protection Act 1986



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8856/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Forest Products Commission  
Application received date: 01 April 2020

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 1 on Diagram 67189, Frankland River  
Local Government Authority: Shire of Cranbrook  
Localities: Frankland River

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
59.9		Burning	Plantation

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 25 June 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* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance with Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance with any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through the assessment, the Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing will impact upon vegetation growing in association with a wetland and areas subject to inundation. The Delegated Officer noted the completely degraded condition of the application area that has been previously cleared and impacted by grazing and determined that impacts to riparian vegetation is minimal.

The Delegated Officer also determined that the proposed clearing may cause the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. To mitigate potential impacts to adjacent remnant vegetation, a weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the permit. The weed and dieback management condition requires earth-moving machinery to be clean of weeds when entering and exiting the clearing area, ensure that no known dieback or weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared and restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the area to be cleared.

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 59.9 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 1 on Diagram 67189, Frankland River, for the purpose of establishing a pine plantation (Figure 1).

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation proposed to be cleared was determined from photographs provided by the applicant. The application area comprises of previously cleared areas consisting of weeds, non-native grasses with scattered native reeds (Forest Products Commission, 2020).

The application is mapped as vegetation complexes Unicup UC1, Unicup UC3, and Frankland Hills FH5, which have been described as:

- UC1: Mosaic of open woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes, and open woodland of *Eucalyptus occidentalis-Eucalyptus rudis* in broad depressions in humid and subhumid zones;
- UC3: Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes in humid and subhumid zones; and
- FH5: Mosaic of low open woodland of *Melaleuca cuticularis*, tall shrubland of *Melaleuca densa* with occasional *Eucalyptus rudis* on valley floors in humid to semiarid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

**Vegetation Condition**

The application area is determined to be in a Completely Degraded condition, which is described as being no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

**Soil type**

The application area is mapped as the following land subsystems:

- 'Frankland Hills 4 Subsystem' which is described as poorly drained flats, lower slopes and footslopes including swamp depressions. Duplex sandy gravel soils are common with Loamy gravel and Semi-wet soils; and
- 'Unicup 1 Subsystem' which is described as flat to gently undulating plains. Pale deep sand is dominant with semi wet soil, pale shallow sand and duplex sandy gravel (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

**Comment**

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area.

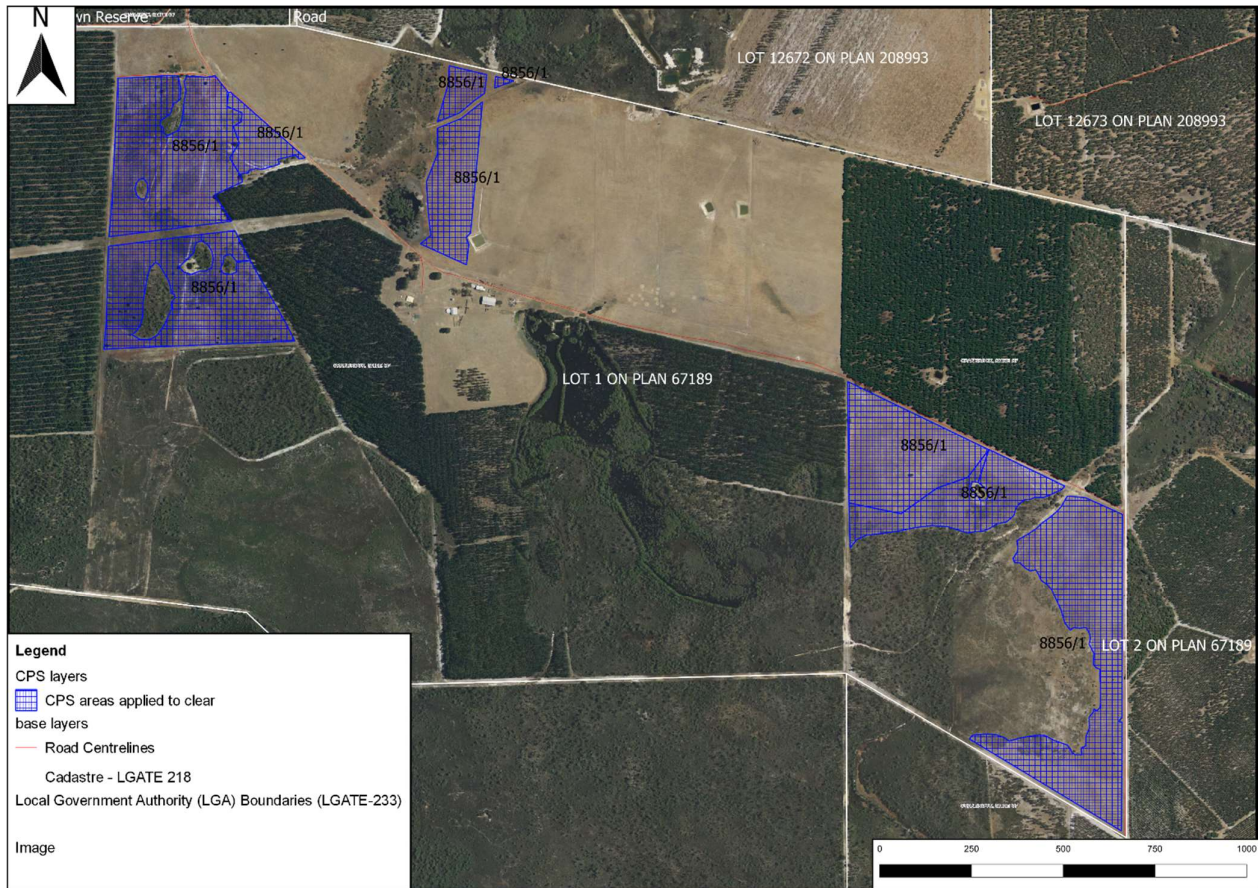


Figure 1: Application Area cross hatched blue



Figure 2: Photograph of application area (Forest Products Commission, 2020)



Figure 3: Photograph of application area (Forest Products Commission, 2020)

### 3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has avoided areas of intact vegetation located within Lot 1 and has proposed to clear areas in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition only.

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Given the completed degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area that has been previously grazed and the mapped soil type, 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, is not likely to comprise significant habitat for fauna and is not considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

The vegetation within the application has been identified as vegetation complexes 'Unicup UC1', 'Unicup UC2' and 'Frankland Hills FH5' of which there is approximately 63, 31 and 51 per cent of their pre-European native vegetation extents remaining, respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The local area retains approximately 60 per cent native vegetation. Given this, the application area is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

A swamp and areas subject of inundation have been mapped within the application area. A minor watercourse has been mapped adjacent to the application area that separates two areas under application. From photographs provided by the applicant, it has been determined that the application area comprises of riparian vegetation and therefore the application is considered to be growing in association with a wetland or watercourse. Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on any watercourse or wetlands located within the vicinity of the application area.

The proposed clearing may indirectly impact nearby watercourses or wetlands through run off and sedimentation. However, given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area impacts are likely to be minimal and short term and the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

The closest conservation area 'Kodjinup Nature Reserve' is located approximately 140 metres north of the application area. Coverup Nature Reserve is located approximately 700 metres south of the application area. Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area and the distance to the closest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to directly impact upon any conservation areas. No ecological linkages are likely to be severed as a result of the proposed clearing and therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon fauna movement between conservation areas located within the local area.

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 land degradation, deteriorate the quality of underground water, cause or exacerbate flooding than that which is currently present.

The application area is located adjacent to remnant native vegetation. The proposed clearing may indirectly impact this vegetation through the spread of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will help mitigate this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining 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 April 2020 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Lot 1 has previously been under investigation by DWER for unlawful clearing undertaken by the previous landowner. The investigation has now been closed. This application has been submitted by the new landowner and the assessment has been undertaken taking into consideration the application areas current state post any unlawful clearing investigations.

### 5. References

- 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>
- Forest Products Commission (2020) Supporting Information for Clearing Permit Application CPS 88561. DWER Ref: A1881232 and A1881248.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment 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.

**GIS Databases:**

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DBCA Managed Estate
- Geomorphic Wetlands Swan Coastal Plain
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, hierarchy
- Hydrography, linear
- Land Degradation datasets
- SAC Bio Datasets
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Vegetation Complexes South West