GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 8888/1
File Number: DWERVT5678
Duration of Permit: 17 July 2020 to 17 July 2022

PERMIT HOLDER
Mr Frank Zambonetti and Victoria Jeanette Zambonetti

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Location 5799 on Deposited Plan 165194, Napier

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 33 trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8888/1.

CONDITIONS

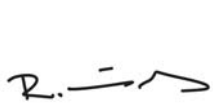
1. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
(a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
(b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

2. Record keeping
The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:
(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
(i) 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;
(ii) the date(s) that the area was cleared;
(iii) the size of the area cleared (in trees);

3. Reporting
The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 2 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*;



Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

24 June 2020

Plan 8888/1

Legend

CPS layers
CPS areas approved to clear

base layers
Road Centrelines

LGA Boundaries (LGATE-233)

N

0 50 100 150 200 m

Ryan Mincham
2020.06.24
09:50:59 +08'00'

Officer delegated under section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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.: 8888/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mr Frank Zambonetti
Application received date: 25 May 2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 5799 on Plan 165194
Local Government Authority: Shire of Albany
Localities: Napier

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	33	Mechanical Removal	Cropping

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 24 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 not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

The assessment has identified that the application area contains suitable foraging habitat and potential roosting habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksia naso*) (black cockatoos), however, the impacts on foraging and roosting habitat have not been assessed as significant. While the application area includes several trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than 500 millimetres, site photographs indicate there are no hollows present within the trees proposed to be cleared.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have unacceptable impacts to environmental values.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:

The application is to clear 33 native trees and saplings on Lot 5799 on Plan 165194, Napier, for the purpose of cropping a more productive high yielding crop with new automated machinery (Figure 1).

The applicant provided photographs and relevant details of the trees applied to be cleared. Within the front paddock there is a total of 13 trees, 8 being marri which appear to be stressed (three of which are nearly dead) and 5 re-growth jarrah trees which also appear to be stressed. Within the middle paddock, there are a total of 20 trees comprising of marri trees and young jarrah re-growth which also appear to be deteriorating in health. A number of scattered trees were blown over from major storm events in June 2018 and May 2019.

Vegetation Description:

One broad vegetation association has been mapped within the application area:

- Vegetation association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al. 2001).

The vegetation within the application area consists of scattered mature marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) and jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) trees over cleared paddock.

Vegetation Condition:

Completely degraded; the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species.

The vegetation condition of the application area has been determined based on site photographs supplied by the applicant (Figures 2 to 6) and aerial imagery.

Soil type:

There are two soil types mapped within the application area (DPIRD, 2019):

- 242KgDMc – Dempster Crest Phase: Sands and laterite on elongate crests; Jarrah-Albany Blackbutt-Marri forest (Schoknecht *et al.* 2001).

- 242ReRD – Redmond subsystem: Broadly undulating plateau; scattered lakes and depressions. Yellow duplex soils and laterite plains. Marri-Jarrah-Albany Blackbutt forest. Yellow solonetzic soils in depressions; paperbark woodland (Schoknecht *et al*. 2001).

Comments:

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 20 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.

The vegetation description has been determined based on site photographs supplied by the applicant and aerial mapping systems.

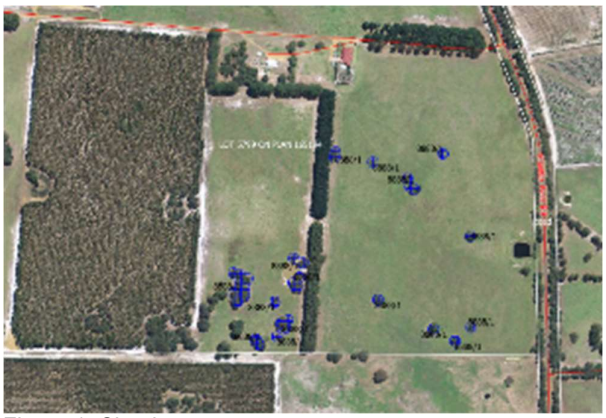


Figure 1: Clearing area

Figure 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6: Site photographs of application area

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that they intend to plant around 700 gum trees (lemon-scented gum and spotted gum) this winter alongside the main driveway. The area was previously pine plantation and is situated within 500 metres of the 33 trees applied to clear.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of isolated marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) and jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) trees on cleared paddock which have been subject to surrounding grazing pressures. The vegetation is considered to be in Completely Degraded condition (Keighery, 1994), the vegetation structure if no longer intact and no understorey species are remaining. The condition of the trees range from poor to good. It is evident on a number of the trees applied to be cleared that stock have damaged the bark on the lower part of the trunks, as well as the overall health of some trees is deteriorating. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and lack of native understorey, the application area is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity.

According to available databases 84 conservation significant flora have been recorded in the local area (20 kilometre radius). The closest known record of Threatened flora is *Banksia goodii* (Vulnerable) located approximately 3 kilometres north-west of the application of area. One Priority flora species, *Astartea transversa* (Priority 2) has been recorded less than 500 m from the application area. However, the area of this record has since been cleared for establishment of a pine plantation. Given the application area consists of isolated trees over cleared paddock, no threatened or priority flora species are considered likely to occur within the application area.

A total of 61 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the local area. Based on the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area and the habitat requirements and current known range extents of these species, the application area may comprise suitable habitat for three Threatened species, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*). An assessment of the trees applied to be cleared was undertaken by the applicant which identified that ten of the 33 trees have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than 50 centimetres, however, no hollows were observed within any of these trees. Site photographs supplied by the applicant also indicate that there are no hollows apparent within the larger trees proposed to be cleared, and the overall health of a number of the trees applied to be cleared is considered to be deteriorating.

The closest confirmed black cockatoo roosting site is located approximately 12 km from the application area. The application area falls within the known breeding range for Baudin's cockatoo and Carnaby's cockatoo. The closest known black cockatoo breeding site is located over 50 km north of the application area. While no suitable breeding trees appear to be present within the application area, the marri and jarrah trees are considered suitable foraging and roosting habitat for black cockatoo's. Roosting sites are usually found within 2 kilometres of a water source. There are no natural permanent water sources within 2 kilometres of the application area, however there are a number of farm dams in the area. Within the local area (20 kilometre radius), approximately 27 per cent of suitable foraging habitat remains. Additionally, there are a number of pine and introduced eucalypt (bluegum) plantations in the local area which also provide suitable roosting and foraging habitat for black cockatoos. Noting the above, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for threatened black cockatoo species. The application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including species of conservation significance.

According to available databases, no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped conservation significant ecological community is a PEC (and part Endangered TEC – EPBC Act), known as '*Banksia coccinea* Shrubland/*Eucalyptus staeri*/Sheoak Open Woodland ('Community type 14a'), located approximately 10 kilometres from the application area. The application area is not likely to comprise or be necessary for the maintenance of a threatened or priority ecological community.

The application area does not form part of an ecological linkage. The application area is located within Zone C of the South West Macro Corridor, between 130 to 600 metres west of the nearest mapped roadside conservation area (Chester Pass Road) and 3.7 kilometres from the closest mapped South Coast Linkage. Based on aerial imagery of the application area and surrounds, the clearing of this area is not likely to prevent the movement of fauna through the local area.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area is located within the Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion, which retains approximately 53 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia 2019). The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 3 which currently retains approximately 67 per cent of its pre-European extent within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion and 32 per cent of its pre-European extent within the City of Albany (Government of Western Australia 2019). Within the local area, approximately 27 per cent of the area that was vegetated pre-1750 remains. Based on the extent of remnant native vegetation in the local area, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. However based on the small size and condition of the application area, and that the application area is unlikely to contain conservation significant flora or ecological communities, contain a high level of biodiversity, contribute to a wildlife corridor or comprise of significant habitat for indigenous fauna, the application area is not considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape.

According to available databases, there are no wetlands or watercourses located within, or in close proximity to the application area. The closest minor non-perennial watercourse is mapped approximately 140 metres south of the application area. The vegetation associated with this watercourse has been cleared. No riparian vegetation has been identified within the application area.

There are numerous conservation areas within the local area; namely Porongorup National Park, Mill Brook Nature Reserve and Napier Nature Reserve. The closest conservation area to the application area is Napier Nature Reserve which is located approximately 4.7 kilometres north. Based on the distance from the conservation areas and the size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation area.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the mapped soil types within the application area, and that the application area is surrounded by cleared agricultural land, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

The application area is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA), proclaimed ground water area or surface water area. Average annual rainfall in the area is 900 mm. The small scale of clearing proposed is unlikely to cause the deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, and is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the ten 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 26 May 2020 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were received.

5. References

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

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. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

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, 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.

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.

Publicly available GIS Databases used (data.wa.gov.au):

- Soil and Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- 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)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Salinity Risk (DPIRD-009)
- 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)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- TECs and PECs
- Black Cockatoo roost sites
- SCP Vegetation Complex Statistics