Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10599/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Alan John Giblett
Application received:	29 April 2024
Application area:	84.35 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Ecological Thinning
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 1098 on Deposited Plan 104452, Dingup
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Manjimup
Localities (suburb/s):	Dingup

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area within Lot 1098 on Deposited Plan 104452, Dingup (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The clearing proposed is for thinning of *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah) and *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) trees such that a basal area of at least 15 m² per hectare is retained to improve forest health and undertake prescribed burning to reduce fuel loading (Giblett, 2024).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Refused
Decision date:	16 October 2026

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and four submissions were received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submissions is summarised in Appendix B.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for:

- the site characteristics (see Appendix C);
- relevant datasets (see Appendix G.1);
- the findings of a site inspection;
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix D);
- relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3);
- expert advice received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (DBCA, 2025); and
- internal expert advice received from the department's Water Planning Directorate (WPD) regarding *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1914* (CAWS Act) matters (DWER, 2026).

In addition, the Delegated Officer took into consideration that the proposed clearing occurs within a property where compensation has been paid to the landowner to retain native vegetation for salinity control purposes as required under the CAWS Act. A Licence to Clear under the CAWS Act is required to clear vegetation where compensation has been paid. In this instance, a CAWS Act Licence to Clear is not supported by DWER's WPD (refer to Section 3 for further details).

The assessment identified the proposed clearing will result in:

- Clearing of significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species including:
    - Baudin's cockatoo *(Zanda baudinii*),
    - Carnaby's cockatoo *(Zanda latirostris*),
    - chuditch (*Dasyurus geofroii*),
    - forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*),
    - quenda *(Isoodon fusciventer*),
    - quokka *(Setonix brachyurus),*
    - south-western brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger),*
    - western ringtail possum *(Pseudocheirus occidentalis),* and
    - woylie (*Bettongia penicillate)*,
- The potential introduction and spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values; and
- A moderate to high risk of salinity within the CAWS Act gazetted Zone B of the Warren River Reserve.

Given the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing, further information regarding efforts to avoid and/or mitigate significant environmental impacts, amendments to the provided Forest Management Plan (FMP), a fauna survey including a nighttime survey for western ringtail possum *(Pseudocheirus occidentalis),* and mitigation of impacts and requirements addressing CAWS Act issues, was requested from the applicant.

While a response was received, only part of the requested information was provided. In addition, findings of a site visit confirmed that the application area will not support a traditional silviculture operation given past logging activities and heavy grazing and therefore will impact on conservation significant fauna species and their habitat.

Given these findings, the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing would result in unacceptable impacts to the environment and that these unacceptable impacts are unable to be adequately managed through conditions on a clearing permit. Noting that a CAWS Act Licence is also not supported, the Delegated Officer decided to refuse to grant a clearing permit.

1.5. Site map

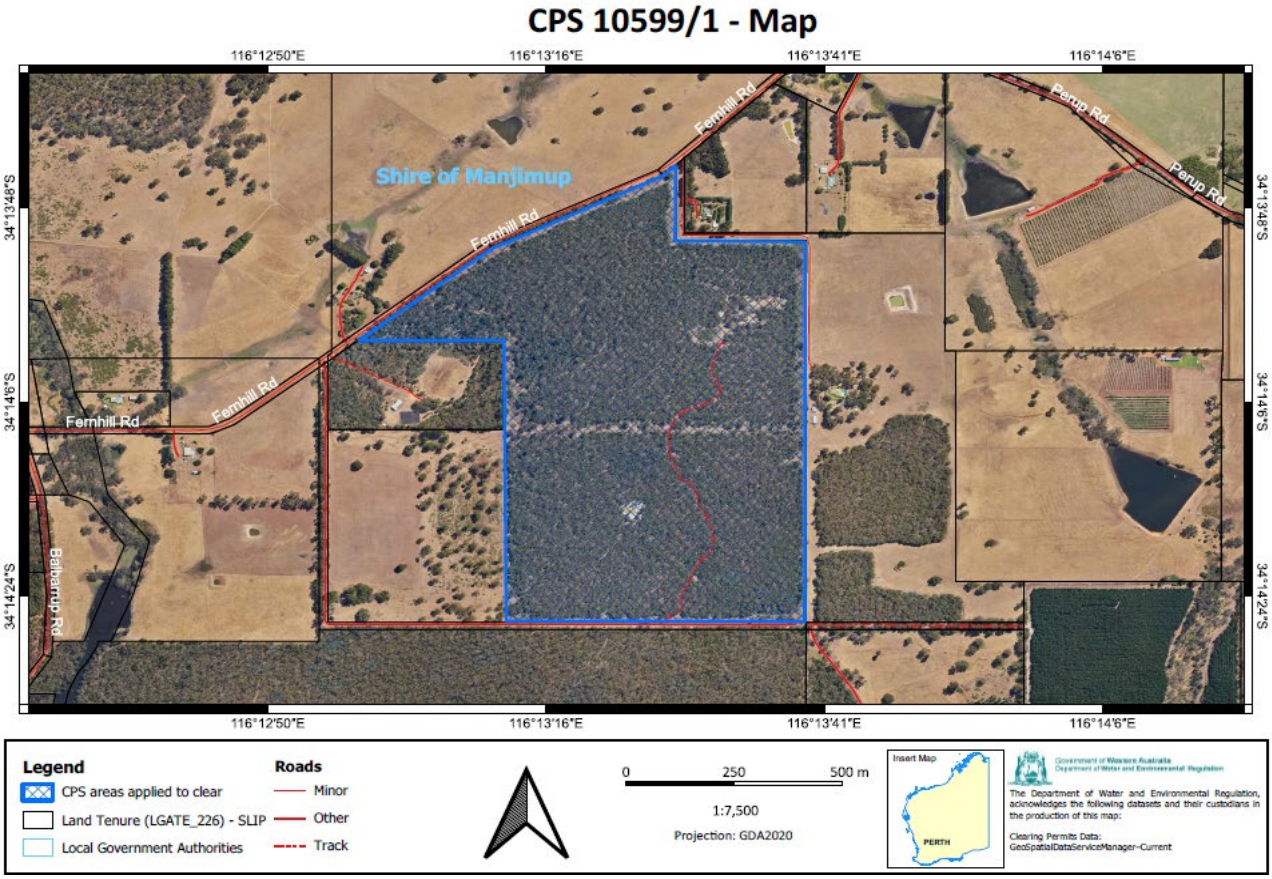


Figure 1 Map of the application area

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- CAWS Act
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (SLC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- *Silviculture Guideline for Jarrah Forest, Sustainable Forest Management Series, FEM Guideline 1* (DPAW, 2014)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has provided a FMP (JC Forestry, 2023) in support of this clearing permit application, detailing measures that will be taken during the thinning. These include the following:

- The silvicultural prescription to be adopted follows the principles contained within the "Silvicultural Guidelines for the Jarrah Forest", published as "FEM Guide No 1" by the Department of Parks and Wildlife (now DBCA) in 2014,
- In summary, the prescription for the Dingup property will be to promote the growth of selected retained trees by thinning to a target basal area of 15 m² per hectare,
- At least five habitat trees per hectare, on average, will be retained. Selection of habitat trees will target all and any sound older trees with hollows or potential hollows, for fauna,
- Harvesting machinery will be cleaned of any soil and plant matter before entering the property to minimise any risk of introducing jarrah dieback disease or undesirable weeds,
- Harvesting will be carried out by an experienced and qualified local harvesting contractor using machinery suitable for the harvesting of native forest. This will compromise a tree harvester to fell trees and cut boles into appropriate lengths. Extraction of logs will be carried out using a rubber-tyred skidder or forwarder. Logs will be loaded onto trucks using the forwarder. Biomass will be generated from low grade log and branch material extracted to bush landings by a mobile chipping machine,
- Extraction tracts will, where necessary, be created by the tree harvester and will use natural gaps between trees,
- All harvesting activity will be conducted in accordance with the WA timber industry Codes of Practice, as published from time to time by the Forest Industries Federation (WA) Inc,
- Following harvesting, the thinned areas will be burnt under cool conditions in autumn, winter or spring,
- A log landing (area where logs are stacked and then loaded onto truck) will be located along the existing property boundary and on cleared land.

Advice from DBCA (2024) was received regarding the adequacy of the FMP and recommended the following:

- an additional six to eight secondary habitat trees (30-70 centimetres DBH) per hectare be retained in addition to the proponents advised five trees per hectare,
- the prescribed burn period to be no less than six years,
- harvesting methodology is to be undertaken in a sustainable manner to reduce damage to mid storey canopy and non-target vegetation when conditions are dry, and
- pre clearance fauna surveys are required to mitigate impacts to conservation significant fauna species.

The applicant has committed to a revised FMP outlining the management actions above as requested from DWER and DBCA, which partially satisfy the request for information requirements. However, based on further advice received from DWER's WPD (2026) and Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (CSLC) (2026), the Delegated Officer does not consider the above avoidance and mitigation measure to adequately demonstrate that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix C) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix D) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna) and land and water resources. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

The application area is located within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion. According to available databases a total of 19 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area (10-kilometre radius of the application area). Of the conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area, the application area may provide habitat for the following nine species:

- *Bettongia penicillate* (woylie) CR
- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo) VU
- *Dasyurus geoffroii* (chuditch) VU
- *Isoodon fusciventer* (quenda) P4
- *Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger* (south-western brush-tailed phascogale) CD
- *Pseudocheirus occidentalis (*western ringtail possum) CR
- *Setonix brachyurus* (quokka) VU
- *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) EN
- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) EN

This assumption is based on habitat requirements, distribution, mapped vegetation type and the condition of the vegetation. Photographs provided by the applicant identified that the vegetation type within the application area was largely consistent with the mapped vegetation types of the area, consisting of open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla* on lateritic uplands in subhumid zones (JC Forestry, 2024).

Black cockatoos

Collectively known as black cockatoo species, the forest red-tailed black-cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Carnaby's cockatoo are known to nest in hollows of live and dead trees, including marri (*Corymbia calophylla),* jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor),* wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), and other *Eucalyptus spp*. (DAWE, 2022). 'Breeding habitat' for black cockatoos includes trees of these species that either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow, where suitable DBH for nest hollows is 500 millimetres for most tree species (DAWE, 2022). While breeding, black cockatoos generally forage within a six to 12-kilometre radius of their nesting site (DAWE, 2022). According to available datasets, mapped potential black cockatoo feeding habitat is recorded within 12 kilometres of the application area, making it a suitable location for breeding if appropriate hollows are present. Given the above, and that the application area is predominantly jarrah and marri forest and occurs within the predicted breeding range of all three black cockatoo species, the proposed clearing area may provide suitable breeding habitat for these species, if suitable breeding hollows are present.

Food resources within the range of breeding sites are important to sustain populations of black cockatoos, and foraging resources should therefore be viewed in the context of the proximity to the known roosting and breeding sites to the application area. Available databases show that there are seven records of black cockatoo roost sites, within the local area with the closest being approximately 5.3 kilometres from the application area. Following breeding, they will flock in search of food, usually within six kilometres of a night roost (DAWE, 2022), but may range up to 20 kilometres. It has been demonstrated that the proximity of foraging habitat and water is critical to support roosting and breeding sites, where individual night roosts for black cockatoo species require more food and water resources within six kilometres (Le Roux, 2017). Noting that the application area includes marri and jarrah forest and is in close proximity to suitable foraging and water resources, the application area may represent suitable roosting habitat for black cockatoo species.

Black cockatoo species are noted to forage on a range of plant species, with the primary foraging resources varying between species (DAWE, 2022). Carnaby's cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts, and flowers of a variety of plants, including Proteaceous species *(Banksia spp., Hakea spp*., and *Grevillea spp*.), as well as *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus* species, marri, and a range of introduced species (Valentine and Stock, 2008). Forest red-tailed black cockatoos feed predominantly on the seeds of marri and jarrah, which comprise approximately 90 per cent of their diet (DEC, 2008). Baudin's cockatoos primarily feed on the seeds of marri but may also forage on the seeds of jarrah and Proteaceous species (DEC, 2008). Given the application area contains marri and jarrah forest and occurs within the predicted occurrence range for all the black cockatoo species, the application area is likely to provide suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoos.

An amendment to the FMP is required to include preclearance surveys of black cockatoos. However, as the application area will not support a traditional silvicultural operation, the impacts on black cockatoos and their habitat remains unclear. Given this, the Delegated Officer determined the impacts on black cockatoos remained unclear and therefore the precautionary principle should be applied.

Woylie

Woylie is a small marsupial that once occupied most of the Australian mainland but is now concentrated to the south west region of Western Australia. The main threats to this species include predation by foxes and cats, disease and

habitat destruction (DEC, 2012d). Woylie are known to inhabit a range of habitats including tall eucalypt forest; dense myrtaceous shrubland and kwongan or mallee heath (DEC, 2012d). According to available databases, there is 15 records of woylie in the local area. The vegetation within the application area consists of jarrah and marri forest and is considered suitable habitat for the woylie.

South-western brush-tailed phascogale (BTP)
Core habitat for BTP includes dry sclerophyll forests and open woodlands, with hollow- bearing trees (usually eucalypts) and sparse understorey. They are nocturnal and feed opportunistically on invertebrates, nectar, small birds and mammals. They utilise tree hollows for breeding (DEC, 2012b). According to available databases, there is 41 records of BTP in the local area, the closest being approximately 1.4 kilometres from the application area. Given that the application area comprises jarrah and marri forest with hollow bearing trees, the application area may contain suitable habitat for BTP.

Chuditch
Chuditch are ground dwelling marsupials, typically associated with riparian jarrah forest or other forest, woodland or shrubland habitats that contain suitable den sites, including hollow logs and tree hollows, and sufficient prey biomass that are usually associated with watercourses (DEC, 2012a). According to available databases, there is 48 records of chuditch in the local area. Given that the application area comprises jarrah and marri forest with limited understory, the application area may contain suitable habitat for chuditch.

Quenda
Quenda are a small ground dwelling marsupial endemic to the South West of Western Australia. Quenda require a dense understorey for cover and are often found digging in leaf litter for invertebrates, earthworms, beetles and plant material, generally inhabiting dense understorey vegetation of forests, woodlands, shrubland and heathland, close to water sources (DBCA, 2012c). According to available databases, there are 15 records of quenda in the local area. Given the extent of the application area and quality of the understorey it is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for quenda. It is likely that quenda utilise the application area transiently whilst moving through the landscape. Noting the proposed clearing relates to ecological thinning of jarrah and marri trees, the proposed clearing may present short term impacts to quenda habitat.

Western ringtail possum (WRP)
The WRP is an arboreal folivore and significant habitat to WRP survival is described as long unburnt mature remnants of peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) woodlands with high canopy continuity and high foliage nutrients. Other habitats comprise jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) forests and woodlands with adequate hollows (DPAW, 2017). WRP is active between dusk and dawn and typically avoids moving over bare ground, foraging almost exclusively within tree canopies. Tree hollows are important across the range of the WRP, and hollow abundance has been positively correlated with possum abundance in peppermint/tuart associations which constitutes more than 70 per cent of the refuges used by WRP in the jarrah forest (Wayne et al. 2000). According to available databases, there are 164 records of WRP in the local area. Given the habitat requirements of canopy connectivity and hollow bearing trees, the application area is likely to provide significant habitat for the WRP.

Quokka
On the mainland, quokka occupy jarrah, marri, and karri forests and woodlands in high rainfall areas. These habitats generally have thick understorey, nearby to swamps and will be close to more open, recently burnt vegetation (DEC, 2013). Given the extent of the application area and quality of the understorey it is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for quokka. It is likely that quokka utilise the application area transiently whilst moving through the landscape. According to available databases, there are seven records of quokka in the local area. Noting the proposed clearing relates to ecological thinning of jarrah and marri trees, the proposed clearing may present short term impacts to quokka habitat.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, significant impacts are likely to occur to suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna species as a result of the clearing, and that in the absence of further clarifying information, it is not possible to have confidence that these impacts can be mitigated and managed to an acceptable level.

Proposed clearing may facilitate the introduction or spread of weed species and/or dieback disease that may compromise the condition of adjacent fauna habitat in better condition than that of the application area. Actions to minimise the risk of the introduction and/or spread of weeds and dieback will assist to mitigate this potential impact.

3.2.2. Biological values (flora and ecological communities) - Clearing Principles (a) and (c)

Assessment

The desktop assessment identified that a total of 13 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area. With consideration for the relevant datasets (see Appendix G), the habitat preferences and conservation statuses of the aforementioned species, the distribution and extent of existing records, and the extent of grazing already undertaken, the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat for threatened or priority flora species.

In addition, whilst the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat for threatened or priority flora species, the primary method of clearing is thinning of jarrah and marri forest, which will not target mid- or understorey species. The extent of impacts to mid- and understorey species are likely to be indirect through incidental clearing during thinning activities or through altered environmental conditions resulting from the clearing of canopy species and fire hazard reduction burning. Given the nature of the proposed clearing, a vegetation management condition would be required if a permit was granted, requiring the applicant to monitor understorey species composition, structure, and density within the application area during thinning and bushfire mitigation activities and to undertake remedial action where there is evidence that understorey will not recover and develop towards its pre-clearing condition. Therefore, while it is unlikely that conservation significant flora species occur within the application area due to the degraded nature of its understorey, it is also not expected that the proposed clearing will significantly alter the condition of the vegetation or the potential for these species to occur in the future.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing area is not considered likely to represent significant habitat for any threatened or priority flora species or to be critical for the continuation of these species. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that impacts to conservation significant flora species are unlikely to result from the proposed clearing and that this does not constitute a significant residual impact.

3.2.3. Land and Water Resources - Clearing Principle (i)

The proposed clearing area lies within the CAWS Act Warren River Water Reserve Area which has been subject to native vegetation controls since November 1976, to prevent salinisation of water resources. The proposed clearing is located within Zone B of the catchment which is a high salinity risk zone of the water reserve.

The clearing of deep-rooted native vegetation is likely to contribute to the salinity risk within the catchment. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed clearing may increase the risk of salinisation and cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Advice received from DWER's WPD advised that there is a medium risk of salinity impacts to the Wilgarup River if the proposed clearing were authorised to proceed under the current FMP submitted to DWER, which has not been updated with the requested amendments to date. This includes insufficient details concerning tree marking, size requirements, resource recovery (ie. biochip/log products), remnant stand densities and protection of the forest post-thinning under an agreement to reserve.

In addition, the proposed clearing would require approval under a CAWS Act licence, which would be conditional on the establishment of an Agreement to Reserve (ATR) over the remaining compensated vegetation on the property (DWER, 2026) to manage the risk of groundwater salinity. Advise from the CSLC stated that an ATR is not supported, in this case due to the environmental impacts associated with the proposed clearing.

Conclusion

Due to the potential significant impact of the increased risk of salinity within this catchment, it was determined that the conservation of the vegetation on the property would be required to address these impacts (DWER, 2025). As the ATR would not be supported in this case, the environmental impacts associated with this proposed clearing are considered unacceptable (DWER, 2026). For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the risk of land degradation is unlikely to be reduced through management plans or permit conditioning. Given this, the Delegated Officer determined that the risk of appreciable land degradation, including impacts to groundwater salinity, resulting from the proposed clearing represents an unacceptable risk to the environment.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit was advertised on the DWER's website on 8 July 2023, inviting submissions from the public within a 21-day period and four submissions were received.

The Shire of Manjimup advised DWER that local government approvals are not required, and that the proposed clearing is consistent with the Shire's Local Planning Scheme. The Shire did not have any objections to the proposed clearing (Shire of Manjimup, 2024).

The proposed clearing area lies within the CAWS Act Warren River Water Reserve Area which has been subject to native vegetation controls since November 1976, to prevent salinisation of water resources. The proposed clearing in located within Zone B of the catchment which is a high salinity risk zone of the water reserve.

DWER's WPD advised that a compensation claim was settled for the refusal of a CAWS Act Licence in 1980, and therefore the remaining vegetation within Lot 1098 was subject to the settlement (DWER, 2024).

DWER's WPD then provided the following advice regarding silvicultural thinning within CAWS Act compensated vegetation (DWER, 2025):

- an application for a CAWS Act licence is required to be submitted to the department,
- an ATR under the SLC Act over the silvicultural area is required, if the licence is to be approved.

A site inspection undertaken by DWER's WPD in November 2025 noted that the application area had already been subject to heavy grazing and historical logging and that the area would not support a traditional silvicultural logging operation due to the small size of the remaining trees (less than 30 centimetres DBH) (DWER, 2025).

DWER sought advice from the CSLC on whether an ATR under the SLC Act would be supported over the application area that was noted to be subject to heavy grazing and historical logging. It was advised that the ATR would not be supported in this case and the CLSC would require a conservation covenant to meet the requirements under the SLC Act (CLSC, 2026).

Given the above, the department's WPD has recommended that the CAWS Act licence to clear is refused, based on the following (DWER, 2026):

- the CLSC does not support the lodgement of the ATR over the subject vegetation post thinning and therefore there is no secure mechanism to protect the vegetation in addition to CAWS Act compensation provisions. The lodgement of an ATR is a key obligation for the ability to undertake silvicultural activities within CAWS Act compensated vegetation, and
- there is a medium to high risk of salinity impacts to the Wilgarup River if the clearing were authorised to proceed under the current FMP submitted to the department, which has not been updated with new information and operational details upon request. This includes insufficient details concerning tree marking, size requirements, resource recovery, remnant stand densities and protection of the forest post thinning.

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On the 6 January 2025 the applicant provided a partial response to the formal request for further information issued by DWER. This included a revised FMP	See Section 3.1
On the 27 June 2025 the applicant provided a partial response to the formal request for further information issued by DWER.	See Section 3.1

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Four submissions were received raising six grounds in total, with supporting information provided as comments under each ground of submission. Where the comments within the grounds of submission raised similar concerns, they have been combined in the summary table below to provide a streamlined approach.

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Ceasing of commercial harvesting	DWER has considered the necessity of clearing in Section 1.4.
No biodiversity surveys and poor mitigation	DWER requested additional information in the form of an amended FMP, with only a partial response (See Section 3.1)
Inconsistent with objectives of ecological thinning	DWER requested an amendment to the FMP (See Section 3.1)
Forest Management Plan is insufficient: • Lack of weed and livestock management, • Lack of land degradation and water management, • Thinning for burning not required and poor fire management	DWER requested an amendment to the FMP (See Section 3.1)
Lack of clarity as to how the impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) will be determined. As this application is within the Regional Forest Agreement (RFA, 2019) area, it is our understanding that the clearing is exempt from assessment under the EPBC Act, and that MNES must be assessed and protected through the Western Australian planning system, as agreed in the RFA, including taking into account relevant Commonwealth principles, policies and plans.	DWER considers MNES have been addressed in the assessment against the clearing principles (a), (b), (c) and (d) (See Appendix D).
Cumulative impacts of thinning permits in the local area	DWER's assessment identified that the proposed clearing may impact significant fauna habitat which will lead to unacceptable impacts on those environmental values (See Section 3.2.1)

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to DWER at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix D.

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is 84.35 hectares of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is adjacent to Tone State Forest, remnant patches of native vegetation and agricultural land. Spatial data indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 49.35 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area does not intersect any formal mapped ecological linkages. South West Regional Linkage 160 is located approximately 800 metres west of the application area.

Characteristic	Details
Conservation areas	No conservation areas are mapped within the application area. The closest conservation area is Tone State Forest which is located adjacent to the application area.
Vegetation description	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of *Eucalyptus marginata, Corymbia calophylla* and some *Eucalyptus patens* occurrence. Representative photos are available in Appendix F. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation types: • Bevan 2 complex, which is described as open forest to woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* with some *Corymbia calophylla* on lateritic uplands in humid and subhumid zones. • Wheatley Complex, which is described as Woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata- Eucalyptus wandoo* on slopes with woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* on valley floors in the humid zone. The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 88.07 and 56.10 per cent of the original extent respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good to Very Good (Keighery, 1994 –) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E. Representative photos are available in Appendix F.
Climate and landform	The southwest of Western Australia experiences a Mediterranean climate of hot dry summers and cool wet winters. An average of 987 millimetres of rainfall is recorded annually from the Manjimup weather station.
Soil description	The soils within the application area are mapped as: • Bevan subsystem (Dwalganup) (254DwBE) which is described as Broad, gently sloping (3-15%) divides on laterite, soils are sandy gravels and loamy gravels, • Wheatley subsystem (Dwalganup) (254DwWH) which is described as Shallow (20-40 m) minor valleys with low side slopes (5-20%) and narrow swampy floors with a slightly incise stream channel. Soils are loamy gravels, sandy gravels and loamy earths.
Land degradation risk	The soils within the application area are mapped as having a high risk of wind erosion and subsurface acidification (DPIRD, 2025)
Waterbodies and hydrogeography	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse intersects the application area. The application area is located within Warren River and Tributaries Surface Water area which is proclaimed under the RIWI Act. The application area occurs within CAWS Act gazetted Zone B of the Warren River Water Reserve The mapped groundwater salinity is approximately 500-100 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified that 13 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area, comprising two threatened flora species and 11 priority flora species (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of *Deyeuxia inaequalis* approximately 5.5 kilometres from the application area.

Characteristic	Details
	With consideration for the relevant datasets (see Appendix G), the habitat preferences and conservation statuses of the aforementioned species, the distribution and extent of existing records, the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat for threatened or priority flora species (see Section 3.2.2).
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) are mapped within the application area. The Open Jarrah Forest and Woodland on young exposed quartzite on Ridge Road PEC is located approximately 18 kilometres south-west of the application area. With consideration for site characteristics and relevant datasets (see Appendix G), the application area is unlikely to provide vegetation representative of a TEC or PEC and did not require further investigation.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified that 19 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area including 11 threatened fauna species, seven priority fauna species and one other specially protected fauna species. None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest being an occurrence of *Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger* approximately 1.4 kilometres from the application area. With consideration of the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix G), and the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, the application area is considered to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species and impacts to these fauna species have been detailed under Section 3.2.1.

C.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Jarrah Forest	4506660.25	2399838.15	53.25	1673614.25	37.14
Vegetation complex					
Bevan 2 Complex *	45828.05	40360.14	88.07	38982.75	85.06
Wheatley Complex *	6443.50	3614.78	56.10	2820.41	43.77
Local area					
10km radius	35418.01	17480.43	49.35	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

C.3. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Bettongia penicillate (woylie)	CR	Y	Y	15	N/A
Calyptorhynchus banksii naso (forest red-tailed black cockatoo)	VU	Y	Y	28	N/A
Dasyurus geoffroii (chuditch)	VU	Y	Y	48	N/A

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Isoodon fusciventer (quenda)	P4	Y	Y	15	N/A
Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger (south western brush-tailed phascogale)	CD	Y	Y	41	N/A
Pseudocheirus occidentalis (western ringtail possum)	CR	Y	Y	164	N/A
Setonix brachyurus (quokka)	VU	Y	Y	7	N/A
Zanda baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	40*	N/A
Zanda latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	12*	N/A
Zanda sp. 'white-tailed black cockatoo' (white-tailed black cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	47	N/A

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The application area is unlikely to contain significant flora assemblages, but contains significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's black cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo and suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The application area contains significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's black cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo and suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The application area is unlikely to contain habitat for Threatened flora species.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The application area is unlikely to be representative of any TEC listed under the BC Act or the EPBC Act.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The mapped vegetation type and vegetation extent in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the application area is adjacent to the Tone State Forest, the proposed clearing may have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas. However, given the separation by road, and the amended FMP was proposed to contain a weed and dieback management plan, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given a non-perennial minor river intersects the application area at the western side, the proposed clearing may impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality. However, noting the retention of 50-70 trees per hectare, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in long term impacts to hydrology.	May be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion and subsurface acidification. Noting the retention of 50-70 trees per hectare and the type of clearing (selective removal of trees and prescribed burning), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given one water course is recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing may impact surface water quality. As the application area is located within Zone B of the Warren River Reserve catchment, it is likely that the removal of deep rooted vegetation may increase the risk of salinisation and cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding or to contribute to waterlogging.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix E. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
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.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix F. Photographs of the vegetation (JC Forestry, 2024)



Figure 2. Regrowth of jarrah and marri forest in the southern part of the stand (JC Forestry, 2024)



Figure 3. Regrowth of jarrah and marri forest in the middle part of the stand, Basal area approximately 35m2 (JC Forestry, 2024)

Appendix G. Sources of information

G.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)

- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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