



## WILDFLOWER SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

30 July 2024

Native Vegetation Regulation  
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation  
Locked Bag 10  
Joondalup DC, WA 6919

By email: [info@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dwer.wa.gov.au)

### **Re: CPS 10629/1 - 379 Ladycroft Road, Manjimup.**

The Wildflower Society of WA (hereafter described as the Society) is opposed to the proposed clearing as proposed in the application. Although a Forest Management Plan has been provided, there is insufficient assessment of impact on adjacent forestry reserves and parks and the associated native flora and fauna. More detail within the application on nature of the forest, its flora and fauna composition in the proposed clearing area is requested, along with risk mitigation strategies.

The application itself is very thin on detail and has no surveys, assessments, impact or information of flora and fauna composition, density, rarity.

The applicant has provided a high level forest management plan for the proposed clearing.

The Shire of Manjimup zoning data indicates that the land (379 Ladycroft Road) is zoned by Local Planning Scheme No. 4 as "Priority Agriculture" and planning approval for clearing of vegetation is not required, and that silviculture thinning does not require local government planning approval (Shire of Manjimup, 2020).

The Shire may not have any objections to the proposed clearing.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to Baudin's black cockatoo, Carnaby's cockatoo, and forest red-tailed black cockatoo and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012).

The property lies within a group of reserves and national parks, adjacent to agricultural land and so impact on the adjacent reserves, parks and native forest needs to be reviewed. In particular nesting, foraging and associated native fauna activities.



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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).

The proposal description describes the action to be taken as “ecological thinning” without defining what the objectives, actions and outcomes of that procedure entails. The proposed action should be fully discussed as part of the proposal to allow the assessing officer to fully understand what is proposed and not have to make assumptions regarding this matter.

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also to have 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)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC 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)
  - Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
  - Forest Management Plan 2024–2033 (Conservation and Parks Commission of Western Australia, 2023)

Having considered the detail provided with the application, the Society believes that the applicant has not provided adequate information on the impacts within and around the area to be “ecologically thinned” to allow for a proper assessment of the proposed action. The Society considers that the proponent should, at least be requested to provide the additional information required, to the standard set out in the EPA guidelines and include advice from DCCEEW regarding EPBC Act requirements and any further assessment required. Without such information the Society would oppose granting of the clearing permit requested.



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<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>

Reference