

ATTACHMENT 1
SCHEDULE 5 EP ACT
Submission
To Productivity Commission
Draft Agriculture Report
Dated 21 July 2016 by
S & J Chamarette

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986 - SCHEDULE 5

[Heading inserted by No. 54 of 2003 s. 116.]

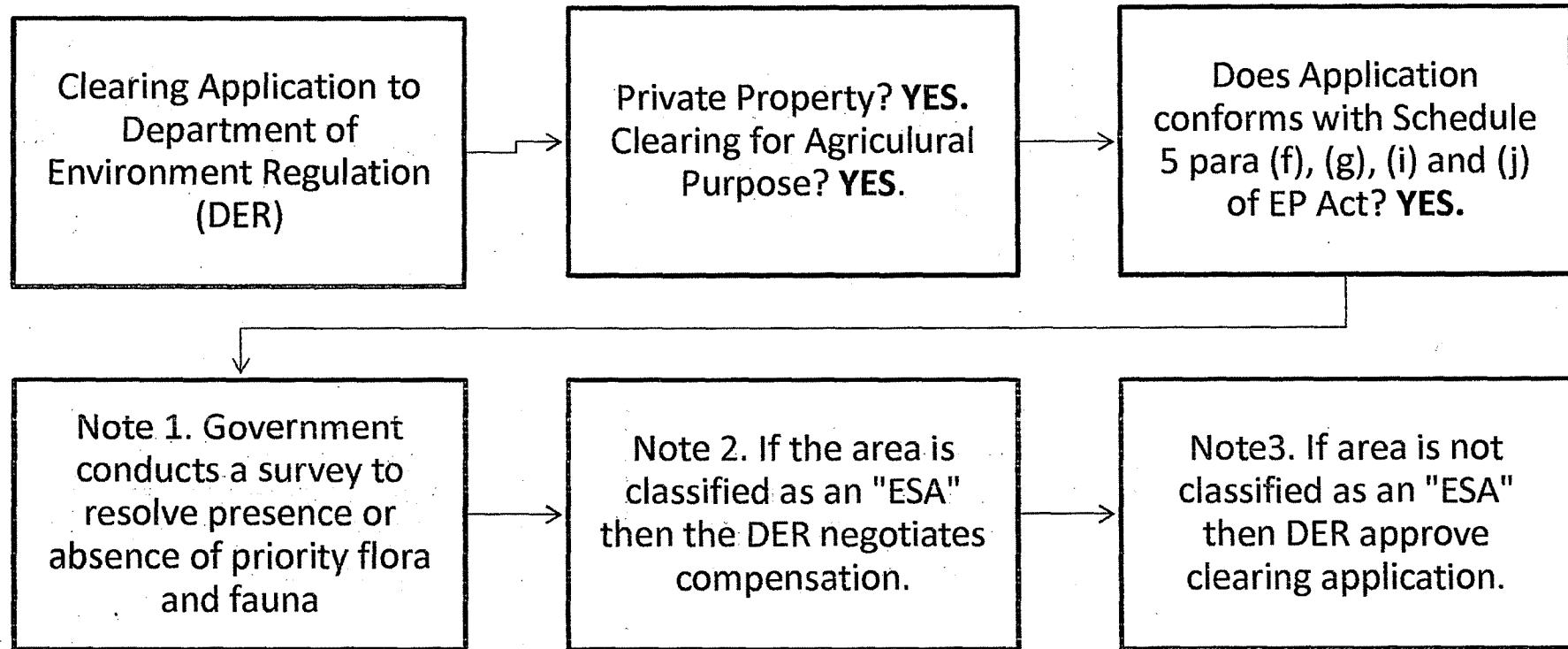
1. Principles

Native vegetation should not be cleared if

- (a) it comprises a high level of biological diversity; or
- (b) it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia; or
- (c) it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora; or
- (d) it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community; or
- (e) it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared; or
- (f) it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland; or
- (g) the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation; or
- (h) the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area; or
- (i) the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water; or
- (j) the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

**ATTACHMENT 2:
FLOW CHART TO SIMPLIFY SCHEDULE 5 OF THE EP ACT**

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Note 1: The Government (DER) conducts and funds surveys, studies or research to establish if rare or endangered flora or fauna exist in the application area.

Note 2: The Government (DER) negotiates to, lease or purchase Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESA) if lands biodiversity value is considered beneficial to the community.

Note 3: The time period from Application to decision as to whether the land is to be leased, purchase or approved for clearing is to be less than 12 months.

ATTACHMENT 3

COSTS FACED BY FARMERS WITH REMNANT VEGETATION ON THEIR PROPERTY

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COSTS FACED BY FARMERS WITH REMNANT VEGETATION ON THEIR PROPERTY

- **Farmers with arable remnant vegetation are subject to eight financial impacts.**
 1. Loss of farm asset value,
 2. Loss of farm equity value or borrowing capacity,
 3. Loss of farm profitability each and every year into the future,
 4. Loss of investment opportunities when interest rates are at record lows,
 5. Loss of productivity,
 6. Loss economies of scale
 7. Additional maintenance costs. (Feral control, chemicals and fence repairs)
 8. There is no discount or reduction of Shire Rates for remanent vegetation.
- The 2013 BankWest study of Wheatbelt farms details the value of arable land between \$650 to over \$2000 per ha depending whether the farm is in a low or high rainfall area. Assuming the average farm has 100 ha of arable land that could be cleared the asset value would be increased by \$65,000 to over \$200,000 dollars.
- BankWest also calculates profit in an average season, is about \$200 to \$300 dollars per ha. This \$200 to \$300 dollars per ha is a loss impacting on the farmer sustainability each and every year.
- The financial cost of Environmental Legislation on farmers needs on private property needs to be calculated and reported to Parliament in Departmental Annual Reports.