Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment Regulation**

Appendix A

Clearing permit offset proposal form

Environmental Protection Act 1986

1. Occupier's details	
Date: Clearing permit application number:	CPS Application for a Purpose Permit has been made concurrent with this proposal
Applicant:	
Phone numbers:	[redacted]
Email:	
Contact person or environmental specialist:	
Name:	[redacted]
Company:	Bowman and Partners Environmental Pty Ltd
Phone numbers:	[redacted]
Email:	
Environmental specialist's qualifications or equivalent, and relevant experience:	BSc(Hons 1st Class) Murdoch University. Adjunct Professor Murdoch University School of Environmental Science and Engineering. 35 years professional experiencein environmental assessment and management
Purpose of clearing:	Establishment of Lime Product Stockpile
Land details of the clearing application area:	Lot 9005 Rock Cliff Cirlce, Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 52008
Total area of the proposed clearing (hectares):	3.5 ha NOTE: Proposed clearing area revised to 3.29ha during validation

2. Proposed on site mitigation (if applicable)	
Area (ha) / number of trees to be planted:	approximately 1.5 ha
Other on ground management actions proposed:	Revegetation with clearing trash
Future tenure and/or zoning: (e.g. a conservation covenant will be placed on the certificate of title after sand mining and rehabilitation is undertaken)	No change in tenure or zoning

Estimated future vegetation condition (Keighery scale):	Good to Very Good
Proposed commencement date of rehabilitation and revegetation:	Mid 2023
Proposed completion date of rehabilitation and revegetation: (date by which the benefit for the species/vegetation community impacted has been achieved)	Immediate benefit after completion of vegetation clearing trash placement then over several years as regrowth occurs
Is a revegetation plan attached?	Yes
Is the spatial data for the location of on site mitigation provided (ESRI shapefile format)?	Yes
Estimated cost of mitigation (on site rehabilitation and revegetation):	$20,000.00

3: Proposed offset site (off site location)	
Land details:	Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 52008
Area (ha) or number of trees at site prior to offset being undertaken:	None
Type of offset: (rehabilitation and revegetation, on ground management or land acquisition)	rehabilitation by spreading vegetation clearing trash over sandy track
Current scheme zoning: (region or local scheme)	Special Conservation
Are there any development approvals? (for example, extractive industry license or *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* approval)	NA
Future tenure and/or zoning: (e.g. proposed to change local council reserve from recreation to conservation purposes)	No change in tenure of zoning
Current vegetation condition (Keighery scale):	Completed degraded -sandy track with no
Future predicted vegetation condition, if rehabilitation and revegetation or other on ground management are being carried out as part of the offset proposal (Keighery scale):	Good to Very Good
Proposed commencement date of rehabilitation and revegetation and/or other on ground management:	Mid 2023

Proposed completion date of rehabilitation and revegetation and/or other on ground management: (date by which the benefit for the species/vegetation community impacted has been achieved)	Immediately following completion of works
Proposed date of land acquisition or method of securing the tenure of the site:	NA
Is the environmental survey of the offset site attached?	None required - sandy track only
Is a revegetation plan attached (if required)?	Yes
Is the spatial data for the location of the offset site provided (ESRI shapefile format)?	Yes
Is the spatial data for the environmental survey of the offset site provided (ESRI shapefile format) (vegetation condition and type, locations of habitat trees)	No - not applicable
Estimated cost of the offset:	$20,000.00

4. Information demonstrating that the offset policy principles have been addressed (if you require more space for this section, please attach separate documents)

1.Environmental offsets will only be considered after avoidance and mitigation options have been pursued.

Please explain how the significant impacts of the project (as identified by DER or DMP in the preliminary assessment report provided to the applicant) have been avoided and/or minimised. You should explain how each of the mitigation hierarchy steps (avoid, minimise, rehabilitate) have been applied to address each significant impact (that is, each clearing principle that is at variance), from the original proposed clearing application area through to the current proposed clearing application area. Offsets are only applied to the significant residual impact that remains after these steps have been taken.

The offset proposal derives from a proposed clearing activity which is the subject of a Purpose Permit application
Whereas vegetation clearing trash is generally treated as a by product, to be disposed, there is an opportunity to utilise this vegetative trash as a rehabilitation material.
The overall area is former agricultural land through which a number of sandy tracks have been created by former users and owners of the land.
The proposed stockpile area has a section of sandy track which is no longer used and has no purpose located close by It is connected to the stockpile area by another old track.
Vegetation clearing trash will be taken directly from the clearing area and deposited over the rehabilitation area by machine.
This new vegetative material will accelerate natural revegetation by the provision of plant propagules, the protection of the surface soils from wind and stabilisation of the ground surfac. The vegetative materials will provide new habitat for native invertebrate species typical for the area.

2. Environmental offsets will be cost-effective, as well as relevant and proportionate to the significance of the environmental value being impacted.

You should explain how the proposed offset will address each of the impacts described under the biodiversity related clearing principle(s) that the application is at variance to (as outlined in the DER or DMP preliminary assessment report provided to the applicant). Under each principle at variance, you should provide information on each environmental value that may be removed or decline as a result of the clearing and how the offset will provide equivalent or better replacement for these values (e.g. fencing the site, other habitat provided, etc.)

It is preferable that the design of an offset leads to a net gain in size, density and diversity of native vegetation and an overall improvement in the condition of the natural environment and the specific environmental values requiring offsetting. Please include information on how your offset has given consideration to ecosystem function, rarity, connectivity, vegetation condition, habitat quality and the type of ecological community cleared.

The requirement for 'equivalent or better replacement' is the key to successfully addressing this offset principle. For example, if breeding habitat (trees with hollows) for Carnaby's cockatoo is cleared then it is not appropriate to propose feeding habitat as an offset.

You may also provide information detailing expertise and demonstrated success in rehabilitation of the same vegetation type.

The Purpose Permit clearing application assesses the proposal against the Principles for clearing set out in government publications.

Assessment found that the proposal is compliant with all principals for clearing and should be the subject of approval by the DWER.

Minimisation and mitigation principles have been applied to the stockpile area clearing proposal set out the application.

This offset proposal will cause an area of approximately 1.5 ha of existing but unused sand track to be rehabilitated.

3. Environmental offsets will be based on sound environmental information and knowledge.

Describe how the environmental specialist has been involved in the design of the offset proposal and how and when an environmental specialist will be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the offset.

An environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the permit holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that is required under the clearing permit and offset proposal.

You must describe the methodology for determining the components of an offset proposal. For example, this may include the identification of a suitable site based on landform, soil, proximity, species composition and relationship to the environmental values impacted.

If your offset includes rehabilitation and revegetation, please provide evidence of how the completion criteria were determined as appropriate and evidence of your ability to successfully meet those criteria. (Note. You may refer to the revegetation plan rather than repeat information)

The offset proposal is based on simple, sound and well accepted principles in rehabilition/revegetation in sandy dune terrain.
The selected offset site is located very close to the proposed clearing area.
It has equivalent landscape setting, soil types and original vegetation type to the source location for the vegetation clearing trash.
The application of vegetation clearing trash to the dis-used sandy track will provide plant propagules, protection from wind, increased soil moisture retention and invertebrate habit to a location which is presently unvegetated and comprises only of bare sand.
These processes will accelerate natural revegetation.
The completion criteria will comprise visual confirmation that the vegetative trash has been effectively and evenly placed thoughout the track area so as to give optimum benefit to the rehabilitation area.
Observations of the land over the last several decades has shown that the native vegetation in this location is robust and can quickly and succesfully recolonise cleared areas.
Local history and experience in addition to the information which can be derived from time sequence aerial photography of the land shows that regrowth of cleared areas proceeds naturally once the cause of disturbance (ie vehicular transit) ceases.
The proposed rehabilitation offset will accelerate this natural process.

4. Environmental offsets will be applied within a framework of adaptive management.

Adaptive management involves defining the problem, establishing goals, implementing the action (including monitoring plans), evaluating the results and adapting in response to new information. For environmental offsets, this principle primarily relates to rehabilitation and revegetation or on ground management of native vegetation.

An adaptive management approach requires that contingency measures are in place to respond if monitoring determines an offset is not on track to meet completion criteria.

You should briefly describe the following (detailed information should be provided in the revegetation plan):

- Objectives
- Brief description of how the offset will be implemented (including timeframes)
- Monitoring techniques and timeframes
- Contingencies (e.g. monitoring results may trigger infill planting to ensure rehabilitation is successful).

Objective. To utilise vegetation clearing trash as a revegetation material to rehabilitate a local un-used sandy track.
Implementation will be conducted concurrent with the vegetation clearing process for the lime stockpile area, and will be complete once the clearing has been completed and all vegetation trash transferred to the offset site and spread as per the plans.
No formal monitoring is proposed, however inspection of the area will occur as part of ongoing operation of the stockpile area.There are reporting requirements associated with the excavation license issued by the City of Albany which could include updatdes on rehabilitation sucess.
There are no contingencies to the success of the operation which require planning for.

5. Environmental offsets will be focused on longer term strategic outcomes.

Before an offset can be approved, you must ensure that any other licences or approvals that are required have been obtained, and provide evidence of these. Examples include a letter of support from the landowner of an offset acquisition, a copy of the applicant's licence to collect seed or a licence to relocate fauna.

Explain what management processes will be implemented to ensure that there is an environmental benefit achieved over the longer term. You must be able to demonstrate that the tenure of the offset is secure and provides a long term conservation benefit for the environmental value/s impacted by the clearing. For example, an offset may be based on the types of actions proposed in a species recovery plan but additional to work already undertaken by the Department of Parks and Wildlife or land manager and not part of normal responsibilities.

The applicant for the clearing permit will be responsible for the implementing the offset and is the owner of all land the subject of both the clearing permit applicaiton and the offset proposal.

5. Ongoing commitments and consultation	
Monitoring commitment (including costs): (Note: you may refer to the revegetation plan here, if applicable, rather than repeat information.)	
Management commitment (including costs): (Note: you may refer to the revegetation plan here, if applicable, rather than repeat information.)	
Agencies or other organisations consulted and submissions received:	None

6. Other	
Please note that contaminated site/s classified under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (past refuse disposal facilitates, maintenance yards) are not considered to be suitable offset sites	☑ Noted
You must ensure all laws are complied with (e.g. *Native Title Act 1993*) and that necessary approvals are obtained (e.g. from landowner/s on which the offset will occur in the event that the subject land is not vested with the applicant) prior to submission.	☑ Noted
The agreed offset proposal document and revegetation plan may be published on the WA Environmental Offsets Register.	☑ Noted