

Vocus Fibre Pty Ltd **Application for new permit or
referral to clear native vegetation**

This is the form to submit a referral of proposed clearing or apply for a clearing permit under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act).

Before you submit this form, please check you have completed all the fields for the form type and fully prepared any required supporting documents (including maps etc.). We will return / decline any forms that are not correctly completed.

To find out more about the stages of assessment for clearing permit forms, see the [Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits](#).

Part 1 – Form type

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| <p>Select your form type.</p> <p>NOTE: Where appropriate in this form, and unless stated otherwise, the terms ‘application’ and ‘applicant’ also mean ‘referral’ and ‘referrer’ respectively.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Referral of proposed clearing (s.51DA of the EP Act)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Application for an area permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application for a purpose permit (s.51E of the EP Act)</p> |
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Part 2 – Applicant details

2.1 Applicant name

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|---|--|-------|--|--|---------|--|--|------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|------|--|--|
| <p>For area permits:</p> <p>If granted, the name(s) of (all) landowner(s) will be listed as ‘permit holders’ on the permit.</p> <p>For purpose permits:</p> <p>If granted, the name(s) of (all) applicant(s) will go on the permit.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applying as an individual – complete the following:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Title</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name(s)</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applying as a body corporate or other entity formed at law – complete the following:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name</td> <td colspan="2">Vocus Fibre Pty Ltd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Australian Company Number (ACN)</td> <td colspan="2">ABN 40 150 260 156</td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applying as a government entity (e.g. government department, local government authority, or other statutory body)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> </table> | Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | Name(s) | | | Name | Vocus Fibre Pty Ltd | | Australian Company Number (ACN) | ABN 40 150 260 156 | | Name | | |
| Title | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name(s) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Vocus Fibre Pty Ltd | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australian Company Number (ACN) | ABN 40 150 260 156 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

2.2 Applicant contact details

Provide the contact details for the above (primary contact).

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Title | |
| First name | |
| Last name | |
| Position | |
| Company name | |
| Contact phone number (1) | |
| Email address | |

2.2 Applicant contact postal details

Provide the postal address for the above individual, body corporate or local government authority (primary contact).

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Address line 1 | |
| Address line 2 | |
| Suburb | |
| State | |

2.3 Applicant contact – registered business address

If applying as a company, incorporated body, local government authority or public authority, please also supply the registered business office address.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Address line 1 | |
| Address line 2 | |
| Suburb | |
| State | |
| Contact phone number (1) | |

2.4 Electronic correspondence consent

Both the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) prefer to send all correspondence via email. We request that you consent to receiving all correspondence relating to instruments and notices under Part V of the EP Act via email. Please indicate your consent in this section of the form.

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| I consent that all written correspondence between myself (the applicant) and DWER/DMIRS (as applicable) about the subject of this form will be exclusively via email, using the email address provided above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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2.5 Contact details for enquiries

If different from the applicant's contact details, enter the contact details of a person with whom DWER or DMIRS should liaise with (e.g. a consultant).

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| Same as applicant's contact details | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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If 'No' – complete the following:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Contact name | | | |
| Position (if applicable) | | | |
| Company name (if applicable) | | | |
| Contact phone number (1) | | Phone number (2) | |
| Business or postal address line 1 | | | |
| Business or postal address line 2 | | | |
| Suburb | | | |
| State | | Postcode | |
| Email address | | | |

Part 3 – Land details

- You must accurately describe the location of the land where your clearing is proposed.
- If you have a large number of properties, please provide the relevant details for each property in a separately attached supporting document.

3.1 Property details

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| I have a large number of properties and have given the relevant details in an attached supporting document. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – skip to Part 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
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If 'No' – complete the following:

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| <u>Land description</u> Provide the following details, as applicable, for all properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– volume and folio number– lot or location number(s)– crown lease or reserve number– pastoral lease number– mining tenement number | Lot: P218692 270; P218692 237. Land ID #: 3321477; 3321469. Road reserve through Lake Anneen ESA. All works are entirely within the road reserve associated with the Great Northern Highway. | | |
| Street address – Line 1 | 139 Great Northern Highway | | |
| Street address – Line 2 | | | |
| Suburb | Meekatharra | | |
| State | WA | Postcode | 6642 |
| Local government area(s) | Shire of Meekatharra | | |
| Land zoning | Road Isolation (Type 3P) | | |

Part 4 – Relationship to landowner

Tell us which of the following options best describes you as the person completing and submitting this form. If you are filling out this form on behalf of the applicant, answer this question as though you are the applicant.

Proof of ownership may include:

- a certificate of title (that is less than 6 months old)
- a pastoral or mining lease
- public authority that has care, control or management of the land
- other form of lease, land tenure or specific arrangement.

| Relationship to landowner (select one of the following options) | Complete the following |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am the landowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am lodging a form on behalf of the landowner (e.g. a consultant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am acting on the landowner's behalf and will be jointly responsible for the clearing permit (i.e. joint form) | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach an 'Acting on behalf and jointly responsible' letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am likely to become the landowner | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach the Certificate of Title <input type="checkbox"/> Attach evidence of the pending transfer of ownership and/or contract of sale ('offer and acceptance') |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I will undertake the clearing activities with the landowner's authority and will be the permit holder | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach an 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A person with multiple land parcels | <input type="checkbox"/> Attach proof of ownership <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and attach 'Authority to access and clear native vegetation' letter (if the applicant is not the landowner) |

Part 5 – Proposed clearing

5.1 Maps and/or spatial data

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| <p>Select which map type(s) you will attach with your form.</p> <p>Note: We will decline / return forms (as applicable) if you do not provide sufficient information for this question.</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An ESRI shapefile with the following properties (<i>preferred</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry type: polygon shape Coordinate system: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) 2020 (geographic latitude / longitude) Datum: GDA 2020 <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An aerial photograph or map with a north arrow, clearly marking the proposed clearing area</p> <p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An ESRI shapefile must use one of the following filename extensions: .shp, .shx, .dbf, and/or .prj You must provide an ESRI shapefile if the form requires an assessment under an <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth) (EPBC Act) accredited process. See Part 8 of this form for more information. |
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5.2 Size

- If you propose to clear a patch(s) of vegetation, enter a hectare value for the total size of the area (mark number of trees as zero).
- If you propose to remove only individual trees from the area(s) (i.e. the shrubs, grasses, groundcover plants will remain intact), provide the number of trees (and mark total area as estimated hectares).
Note: If any shrubs, grasses, and/or groundcover plants MAY be damaged in the clearing process, add this to the total area.
- If you propose to clear an area of vegetation within a larger footprint, enter the hectare value for the total size of the area to be cleared (mark number of trees as zero) and the size of the footprint. For example, 5 hectares of clearing within a 10 hectare footprint. This option is only available for **purpose permit** applications.
- Enter values for BOTH number of trees and the size of the area if you are clearing individual trees in one area AND a patch of vegetation in a different area.
- Please note the following area conversions/calculations:

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| 1 hectare = 10,000 m ² | Area of circle = 3.14 x radius ² |
| 1 acre = 0.4 hectares / 4,000 m ² | Area of a rectangle = length x width |
| 1 tree = 0.01 hectares / 100 m ² | Area of a triangle = ½ length x perpendicular height |

| | |
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| Total area of clearing proposed (hectares) | 1.14 ha footprint (based on a 5 metre wide dozer footprint*) <small>*actual vegetation losses will be less than the entire 5 metre wide footprint</small> |
| Footprint of clearing (hectares) (purpose permit only) | 5 metre wide footprint x 2279.86m |
| Number of individual trees to be removed | 0 trees |

Note: Calculate the area of a tree based on the area encompassed by the tree's drip line; that being the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy.

5.3 Purpose

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| Provide the reason for proposed clearing (e.g. road construction, grazing and pasture, hazard reduction, horticulture, timber harvesting etc.) | Telecommunications installation. Installation method requires impacts to vegetation to allow fibre optic cable to be installed by machinery at a depth of 800-1000mm below the surface. Within waterways the depth will be installed at approximately 1200mm. |
| Specify what the final land use will be after clearing | The land use will not change, and the damage (rip line) will be rehabilitated after the cable is installed. |

5.4 Method

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| Proposed method of clearing (i.e. burning, cutting, draining, flooding, grazing, mechanical clearing/bulldozing or other – specify) | Installation of cable with a ripping tine fitted to the rear of a bulldozer, then rip line rehabilitated with a second dozer, and then rip line to be flattened and compacted with a roller fitted to the rear of a third bulldozer. |
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5.5 Timeframe

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| Period within which you propose to do the clearing (e.g. 1/7/2022 to 30/8/2024) | Start date: 03/11/2023 End date: 28/06/2024 |
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Note: The clearing referral process is not suitable for any clearing that is expected to take longer than two years.

5.6 Avoidance and mitigation

Explain how you have, or will, put avoidance and mitigation measures in place to eliminate, reduce, or otherwise mitigate the need for and scale of the proposed clearing of native vegetation.

Attach supporting documents to substantiate your explanation.

Your explanation should demonstrate you have planned the project so that the least clearing possible is to be undertaken. The following questions may help you frame your explanation:

- Why did you select this location and amount of clearing?
- What alternatives to clearing – e.g. engineering solutions – did you consider?
- What changes, if any, did you make to the location or amount of clearing to reduce the impacts of the clearing?

Note: If you do not demonstrate adequate efforts to avoid and mitigate clearing, we will ask you to do so during the validation of this form.

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| Provide the avoidance and mitigation details | <p>See attached T-8 Section Ecological Assessment Report (sections 6.2; 6.2.1; 7.1.1).</p> <p>The location was selected as the cable is being installed following the Great Northern Highway, as there are CEV units to be placed along the highway at regular intervals to allow the operation and maintenance of the optic fibre cable. Diverting around the Lake Anneen ESA was not a viable option as roads would need to be constructed to allow access to the cable alignment. Aligning telecommunications infrastructure parallel with roads is best practice, whereas running cables through country away from existing linear easements is a significant risk in terms of increased biodiversity impacts and accidental unearthing/cutting of cables.</p> <p>Impacts will be kept within the road reserve. The alignment initially was proposed to run along the western side of the highway. However, after a cultural heritage assessment, Aboriginal cultural heritage was located on that alignment, and the alignment has since been changed to follow the eastern side of the highway for most of the ESA, then it will under bore back to the western side once the sand dunes (ACH) have been cleared. Subterranean installation is required for telecommunications equipment such as fibre optic cable. Ripping and rehabilitating the rip line is considered to be a lesser impact to native vegetation than the trenching method.</p> <p>Consideration was given to aligning the cable closer to the roadside, however Department of Main Roads have limitations on how close infrastructure can be placed to roads. In addition to this, the run-off zone of the highway tends to contain high diversity of species, due to greater moisture levels, and this run-off area is warranted for avoidance for this reason.</p> <p>Impacts will be kept within the road reserve, approximately 40-65 metres from the road edge. Subterranean installation is required for telecommunications equipment such as fibre optic cable</p> <p>The final alignment through the ESA is being micro-sited by ecologists to ensure the route follows the areas of highest existing impact and lowest ecological value during cable installation, minimizing impacts as much as possible.</p> <p>Please see the Appendices for more supporting information.</p> |
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Part 6 – Offset

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| Do you want to submit a clearing offset proposal with your form? For more information on environmental offsets, refer to DWER's website and Fact Sheet 11: Environmental offsets for native vegetation clearing permits . | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If 'Yes' – please complete and attach Appendix A of the Clearing of native vegetation offsets procedure guideline as a supporting document for your form. | <input type="checkbox"/> Appendix A attached |

Part 7 – Surveys for assessments (IBSA and IMSA)

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| Do you want to submit marine or biodiversity surveys in support of your form? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – skip to Part 8 |
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7.1 Biodiversity surveys

If you want to submit any biodiversity surveys to support this form, you must follow the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) [Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments](#) (IBSA). If you do not meet the IBSA requirements, DWER/DMIRS (as applicable) may decline/return your form. For further information on IBSA, refer to [DWER's website](#).

Please provide the IBSA number(s) – or submission number(s) if the IBSA number has not yet been issued – in the space provided. Note that a submission number is not confirmation that a biodiversity survey has been accepted and is not the same as an IBSA number. IBSA numbers are only issued once a survey has been accepted. Once an IBSA number is issued, please notify DWER / DMIRS (as applicable). Please note DWER / DMIRS will suspend the assessment timeframes for your form until you provide the IBSA number(s).

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| Have you submitted all the biodiversity surveys that support this form to the IBSA portal, via ibsasubmissions.dwer.wa.gov.au ? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
| Provide an IBSA number (preferred) or a submission number(s) | |

7.2 Marine surveys

If you want to submit any marine surveys to support this form, you must follow the EPA's [Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments](#) (IMSA). If you do not meet the IMSA requirements, DWER may decline / return your form. For more information on IMSA, refer to [DWER's website](#).

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| Have you prepared all the marine surveys that support this form in accordance with the EPA's <i>Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessments</i> ? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable |
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Part 8 – Assessment Bilateral Agreement

The native vegetation clearing processes under Part V of the EP Act have been accredited by the Commonwealth of Australia under the EPBC Act and so can be assessed under an assessment bilateral agreement.

To be assessed this way, the proposed clearing action must have been referred to the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act and deemed a **‘controlled action’** before you submit this form.

For further information, see [DWER’s website guidance on the assessment bilateral agreement](#).

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| Is your proposed clearing a controlled action? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – skip to Part 9 |
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If ‘Yes’ – complete the following:

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| Please make sure you have entered all the mandatory details in the Annex C7 form | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Annex C7 form</i> attached |
| List the controlling provisions identified in the notification of the controlled action decision | |

Part 9 – Other approvals

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| <p>Which department are you submitting this form to?</p> <p>If the clearing is for mineral and petroleum activities authorised under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i>, the various Petroleum Acts, and/or a State Agreement Act, select ‘Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety’.</p> <p>For all other clearing activities, select ‘Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department of Water and Environmental Regulation</p> |
|---|---|

9.1 Environmental impact assessment (Part IV of the EP Act)

Clearing may be referred to the EPA if it is considered to be part of a ‘significant proposal’, as defined by s.37B(1) of the EP Act, or will likely to be part of a larger development. An example is when the clearing is for a road to a future mine.

Section 37B(1) of the EP Act defines a ‘significant proposal’ as “a proposal likely, if implemented, to have a significant effect on the environment”. If a decision-making authority (e.g. DWER or DMIRS) considers the proposal in this form is likely to constitute a ‘significant proposal’, under s.38(5) of the EP Act they must refer the proposal to the EPA or for assessment under Part IV, if such a referral has not already been made.