

14 September 2023

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Locked Bag 10 JOONDALUP WA 6919

Dear Sir/Madam,

### RE: Beechboro Road North and Marshall Road, Bennett Springs – Clearing Permit Application

On behalf of the City of Swan please find attached an application for a Purpose Permit to clear 0.192ha of native vegetation in the Beechboro Road North and Marshall Road intersection in Bennett Springs (Figure 1). The proposed clearing is required to create a roundabout at the intersection.

# 1 Application Area

The application is to clear 0.192ha of native vegetation which includes some isolated individual plants, clumps of plants and some small sections of intact vegetation.

#### 2 Vegetation

#### 2.1 Vegetation Types

PGV Environmental undertook a vegetation assessment of the application area on 27 July 2023 to assess the type and condition of areas of native vegetation within the clearing footprint. Workplan 1 (attached) shows the location of native vegetation in the application area. The native vegetation types in the application area are listed below and described or shown in the following section:

Cc – <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri)	-	one tree (322m²)
Et – <i>Eucalyptus todtiana</i> (Flooded Gum)	-	3 trees (224m²)
As– Acacia saligna	-	2 shrubs (49m²)
Ac – Adenanthos cygnorum (Woolly Bush)	-	scattered shrubs (196m <sup>2</sup> )
Xp – <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> (Grass Trees)	-	4 isolated shrubs (39m <sup>2</sup> )
Ah – Allocasuarina humilis	-	mixed stand of shrubs (68m <sup>2</sup> )
BmAf – Banksia menziesii/Allocasuarina fraseriana	-	small stand of trees (197m <sup>2</sup> )
AcXp - Adenanthos cygnorum/Xanthorrhoea preissii	-	Low Open Heath (822m <sup>2</sup> )

One Marri tree occurs on the site (Plate 1). The tree is mature, about 25m high and a DBH of 80cm. The tree does not contain any hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos to breed in. The tree is on the edge of the application area in a location where the new road batter would extend down to the tree trunk. The tree may not need to be cleared if the toe of the batter can be adjusted to not extend to

the base of the trunk. However, that may not be possible therefore the tree has been included in the application.



## Plate 1: Marri tree on site

Plate 2: Eucalyptus todtiana scattered small trees



Plate 3: Acacia saligna shrubs



Plate 4: Adenanthos cygnorum shrubs



Plate 5: Xanthorrhoea preissii shrubs



Plate 6: Allocasuarina humilis shrubland



A short section of mature *Banksia menziesii* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana* trees occurs in the road reserve on the southern side of Marshall Road at the eastern end of the application area (Plate 7). There is no native understorey. The very small size of the stand and Completely Degraded condition means the Banksia trees are not part of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community.



Plate 7: Banksia menziesii/Allocasuarina fraseriana

The Adenanthos cygnorum/Xanthorrhoea preissii Low Open Heath at the south-west corner of the current intersection has a dense ground cover of the native sedge Alexgeorgea nitens and a low density of taller native shrubs such as Acacia pulchella, Allocasuarina humilis and Bossiaea eriocarpa (Plate 8). A total of 17 native species in this small area at the end of July. Additional ephemeral species would be recorded in a spring survey. The very small size of the area to be cleared suggests the potential for Threatened plant species to occur in that area is very low.

Plate 8: Adenanthos cygnorum/Xanthorrhoea preissii Low Open Heath

# 2.2 Vegetation Condition

The vegetation condition of all vegetation types apart from the Adenanthos cygnorum/Xanthorrhoea preissii Low Open Heath is in Completely Degraded condition due to the absence of any native understorey. The Adenanthos cygnorum/Xanthorrhoea preissii Low Open Heath is in Very Good condition.

# 3 Fauna Habitat

The single Marri tree provides potential breeding habitat for Carnaby's and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos, however the tree does not have a hollow suitable for current breeding. The Marri tree and the *Banksia menziesii* and *Allocasuarina fraseriana* trees provide foraging habitat for Black Cockatoos. A total of 0.052ha of foraging habitat is in the application area.

The isolated trees in the road reserve are highly unlikely to provide habitat for any other conservation significant fauna species. The Low Open Heath at the south-west corner of the current intersection may possibly be habitat for Quenda. The native vegetation in this area is contiguous with other native vegetation to the west and a wetland about 100m to the south. Clearing the small (0.08ha) of Low Open Heath will not adversely affect any fauna that inhabit this area.

# 4 Conclusion

This cover letter describes the 0.192haof native vegetation applied to be cleared from the Beechboro Road North and Marshall Road intersection in Bennett Springs to construct a roundabout.

Please contact me if you would like any further information or if you would like some assistance on site during a site inspection.

Yours sincerely

Managing Director

# Accompanying Documentation

Purpose Permit Application Form

Shapefiles in ESRI Format

Attachments

Attachment 1: Vegetation Map



PINPOINT CARTOGRAPHICS (08) 9562 7136

