

Your ref:
Our ref: 3.000647

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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To whom it may concern

Application to Clear Native Vegetation –Boddington Mountain Bike Trails, Williams Reserve.

Please refer to an application to clear native vegetation from the Shire of Boddington for Mountain Bike Trails at Williams Reserve, Newmarket Road, Boddington.

Enclosed is the application form and supporting documents. Below is supplement information in support of part 5.3 and part 6 of the application along with an assessment against the 10 clearing principles.

5.3 Purpose

Provide the reason for proposed clearing (e.g. road construction, grazing and pasture, hazard reduction, horticulture, timber harvesting etc.).

If applicable, provide any additional project overview or explain in detail the activities on the property (e.g. provide context of work proposed and describe how clearing will contribute to overall work activities onsite etc.).

The purpose of the proposed clearing is to develop 23km of mountain bike trails within the Williams Reserve located approximately 3km south of Boddington. The reserve is approximately 240 ha and it is proposed to clear no more than 5.21ha for the trails which is about 2.1%.

It should be noted that 5.21 ha is a conservative figure and the actual amount of clearing is likely to be less than this amount. The finished width of the trails and proposed clearing footprint is referenced in attachment 4, proposed clearing summary.

The project is part of the broader Peel Regional Trails Project and is being funded thanks to a grant under the Australian Government's Priority Community Infrastructure Program. The objectives of the project are;

- Create a locally significant MTB trail network which forms part of the greater Boddington location as outlined in the Perth and Peel Mountain Bike Master Plan and the Peel Trails Strategy.
- Develop a high quality, sustainable and accessible cross country (XC) single track network suitable for a diverse range of users that enables progression for beginners to intermediate MTB riding.



- Provide a local recreation resource for local residents and a tourism resource to attract new and return visitors to Boddington.
- Design trail opportunities that encourage MTB users to stay on designated trails and reduce the impact to environmental and cultural values.

Williams Reserve or Lot 500 on deposited plan 421144 is a reserve with a purpose of public recreation under management order to the Shire of Boddington, as described in the certificate of title, deposited plan and management order which have been provided as part of the application.

Part 6 – Mitigation Hierarchy

6.1 Provide the avoidance details (e.g. retention of vegetation on property)

As part of the trail concept planning and detail design avoidance measures have been taken. These include;

- Preparation of a detailed flora and vegetation assessment
- Basic Fauna and Targeted Black Cockatoo Assessment
- Corridor evaluation to ensure trail alignments avoid areas of high impacts
- Vehicle access roads to the site to make use of existing vehicle access tracks to minimise and in most cases avoid the need for clearing. This was a conscious decision by the Project team as the concept plan initially identified access tracks being constructed which would have resulted in a lot more clearing. During the evaluation and detail design phase changes were made to utilise existing tracks which will only require grading and widening in sections. Only shrubs will be removed, with trees remaining intact. Sections of the access roads will include pull over sections to allow vehicle to pass by each other.
- For the construction of the mountain bike trail please refer to the extract from Common Ground Construction Environmental Management Plan
 - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
 - Trail Alignment Clearing
 - Prior to the commencement of excavation, it is necessary to remove all shrubs and small tree limbs from within the trail construction corridor. The trail construction corridor is defined as the horizontal space from the top of the upslope batter to the toe of the downslope batter and a vertical clearance of 2.5m. Ground covers can remain in place as these will be removed during the trail excavation.
 - Proposed new trails have been designed so that no mature trees (DBH > 100mm) or major limbs should require removal. Trail corridor limits are outlined in the drawing set (DD 60), these apply to all trails in the network, maximum construction impact width for each trail is also defined in the drawing set (summary page pre trail).
 - Fallen logs, branches and stumps are to be cleared using a chainsaw.
 - Trail bed duff and vegetation is to be cleared using a mini excavator.
 - All vegetation is to be dispersed throughout the surrounding area either side of the trail for naturalization and rehabilitation.

- Stockpiling of cut material is not permitted. Do not place vegetive materials in creek lines, drainage runs or other locations where they would prevent the free flow of water.
- No larger trees or major tree limbs are to be removed. Trees should be used to add to the rider experience and to anchor the trail and prevent shortcutting. Overhanging small branches that encroach on the trail corridor should be trimmed. Limbs are to be cut flush with the tree trunk and ensure that removal will not tear or strip bark from the tree.
- Tree roots >50mm should not be removed and are to be protected with rock armouring on both sides.

6.2 Provide the mitigation details (e.g. management of weed spread, rehabilitation)

Mitigation detail will include the following

- All duff and vegetation debris will be retained and stockpiled for naturalisation and rehabilitation.
- Landscape and naturalise any disturbed surfaces including backslopes within trail corridor to trail bed edge using stockpiled duff and vegetation.
- Retain some existing vehicle tracks for emergency and management access and rehabilitate all existing tracks which serve no purpose.
- All machinery, equipment and personnel used for construction or entering the extent of works area shall be free of soli and seeds.
- All machinery, equipment and personnel shall be washed and cleaned to the satisfaction of the Shire project manager prior to entering the extent of the works area.


Assessment against the Clearing Principles

Principle	Level of Variance	Assessment
Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity	May be at variance	<p>A desktop assessment completed by Emerge Associates identified that two threatened and 24 priority flora species have potential to occur within the site and that targeted surveys is required to determine whether any of these flora species occur within the site.</p> <p>A Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment completed by Emerge Associates which included field surveys on 17 August, 26-29 September and 9 November 2023 and 14 and 29 October 2024 reported the following;</p> <p>A total of 215 native and 22 non-native (weed) species were recorded in the site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three priority flora species were recorded within the site: <i>Gastrolobium</i> sp. prostate Boddington (M. Hislop 2130) (P1) (42 individuals), <i>Goodenia katabudjar</i> (P3) (5,319 individuals) and <i>Lasiopetalum cardiophyllum</i> (P4) (223 individuals). • No other threatened or priority flora species were recorded in the site or are considered likely to occur,

		<p>given that the survey effort was comprehensive and that the survey was undertaken at a suitable time of year for detecting species for which timing is critical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One species listed as a declared pest was recorded but no management is required as no control category is assigned under the BAM Act. • The vegetation within the site was classified into eight vegetation units as described in the report. • The vegetation in the site is present in 'very good' to 'completely degraded' condition. The majority of the vegetation is in 'very good' and 'very good – good' condition (76.59% of the site). • No threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities occur within the site. <p>Assessed outcome. No threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities occur within the site. No threatened species occur within the site and of a possible 24 priority species only three were identified as being present.</p> <p>Advice from Common Ground and Emerge associates indicate the quantity of priority flora to be impacted is;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="598 1003 1386 1547"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="598 1003 858 1104">Priority Flora</th> <th data-bbox="858 1003 1123 1104">Quantity recorded in survey work</th> <th data-bbox="1123 1003 1386 1104">Quantity likely to be impacted by trail works</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="598 1104 858 1308">P1 - Gastrolobium sp. prostrate Boddington (M. Hislop 2130)</td> <td data-bbox="858 1104 1123 1308">42</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1104 1386 1308">13</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="598 1308 858 1411">P3 - Goodenia katabudjar</td> <td data-bbox="858 1308 1123 1411">7.164</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1308 1386 1411">541</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="598 1411 858 1547">P4 - Lasiopetalum cardiophyllum</td> <td data-bbox="858 1411 1123 1547">223</td> <td data-bbox="1123 1411 1386 1547">30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It is noted that 215 native flora were recorded in the site indicating relatively high biodiversity in Williams Reserve. While only a small proportion of species would be impacted, and these would further likely be otherwise common and widespread within the Reserve, clearing may be at variance with this principle.</p>	Priority Flora	Quantity recorded in survey work	Quantity likely to be impacted by trail works	P1 - Gastrolobium sp. prostrate Boddington (M. Hislop 2130)	42	13	P3 - Goodenia katabudjar	7.164	541	P4 - Lasiopetalum cardiophyllum	223	30
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Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the	Not at variance	<p>A basic fauna and targeted black cockatoo was completed by Emerge Associates.</p> <p>A desktop assessment found that a total of 437 fauna species were identified as from database searches as occurring or potentially occurring with 20km of the site.</p>												

<p>whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia</p>		<p>Field surveys found that a total of 45 native fauna species were directly or indirectly recorded. Three threatened and one priority fauna species were recorded with the site. Carnaby's black cockatoo (EN), Baudin's black cockatoo (EN), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (VU) and western brush wallaby (P4). No specially protected fauna were recorded.</p> <p>Outcomes of the targeted black cockatoo survey include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carnaby's black cockatoo, Baudin's black cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo were recorded in the site during the field survey. • The site contains 1,759 habitat trees of which 104 potentially contain hollows suitable for use by black cockatoos for breeding when viewed from the ground level. Therefore, the site currently provides suitable breeding habitat for all three species of black cockatoo. • No roosts or evidence of roosting by any species of black cockatoo was recorded within the site during the field survey. Tall native and non-native trees within the site represent suitable roosting habitat for black cockatoos. • A total of 104.36 ha of foraging habitat for Carnaby's black cockatoo was mapped within the site, all of which comprises native primary plants. • A total of 104.36 ha of foraging habitat for Baudin's black cockatoo was mapped within the site of which 55.71 ha (53.38 %) comprises native primary plants and 47.00 ha (46.60 %) comprises native secondary plants. • A total of 95.39 ha of foraging habitat for forest red-tailed black cockatoo was mapped within the site, all of which comprises native primary plants. • Additional areas of breeding, foraging and roosting habitat of similar or higher value occur adjacent to the site and in the wider local area. <p>Assessed Outcome – The site currently provides suitable breeding habitat for all three species of black cockatoo. No roosts or evidence of roosting was recorded within the site during the field survey. Avoidance measure will be taken to mitigate any impact on the black cockatoos. All suitable and potential nesting trees will not be cleared noting that any tree with a DBH > 100mm or 10cm will not be removed. All of the suitable and potential nesting trees are larger than this. This principle is not at variance because black cockatoo habitat won't be cleared (it will be avoided). Also the scale of clearing is unlikely to affect other fauna including wester brush wallaby or other significant species with potential to occur.</p>
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Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora	Not at variance	<p>No threatened flora species were recorded on the site and not likely to occur, given that the survey effort was comprehensive and that the survey was undertaken at a suitable time of year.</p> <p>Assessed Outcome - The proposed clearing is not considered to be at variance with this principle.</p>
Principle (d) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).	Not at variance	<p>No threatened ecological communities or priority ecological communities occur with the site.</p> <p>Assessed Outcome - The proposed clearing is not considered to be at variance with this principle.</p>
Principle (e) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared	Not likely to be at variance	<p>Eight vegetation units were identified with the site ranging in condition from Very Good to Completely Degraded. The reserves is 240Ha and the amount of clearing proposed is 5.21ha which equates to about 2.1% of the entire site. It is noted that the Williams Reserve is significant as a remnant vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. However the 5.21ha of clearing is not considered to be significant as a remnant in its own right. Particularly because the clearing will not act to reduce the values of the Williams Reserve in any significant way.</p> <p>The extent of vegetation complex remaining is greater than 30% as stated in Section 2.1.6 Regional Vegetation in the Emerge Associates Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment.</p>
Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland	Not likely to be at variance	<p>The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) hydrography linear dataset (DWER 2018b) records the following six wetland or water related features within the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three watercourses (minor, non-perennial) • Two drains (major) • One lake (perennial). <p>Assessed Outcome – The lake is actually the Shire’s Town dam and is used for reticulation and direct supply to a standpipe for non-potable uses. The three minor watercourses are non-perennial and did not contain standing water at the time of the survey, however the soil was slightly damp.</p>

		<p>Extensive site visits by the Project team no water has been identified in the minor waterways.</p> <p>The trail network has been designed to cross a minor watercourse in only one location, which is unavoidable. The location chosen is an existing crossing which most likely was created and modified by the previous land manager being the Water Corporation. It should be noted this location has been heavily modified and includes a stone wall which most likely were installed to divert surface water to the dam. This area was chosen as it has already been cleared, (Refer photo) therefore avoiding any impact and the trail alignments have been designed to avoid any clearing of wetland vegetation or if it is to occur the clearing is very minor in scale. Therefore the clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.</p> 
<p>Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation</p>	<p>Not likely be at variance</p>	<p>The amount of clearing is approximately 2.1% of the reserve area, with the majority of vegetation on-site being in good to very good condition. The introduction of the mountain bike trails will require some clearing as this is unavoidable as this is required to create the trails. The trails themselves will be designed to minimise any risk of land degradation, and adequate control will be in place during construction and ongoing to ensure that erosion and sedimentation impacts will not arise. It is also noted the main soil types on-site are gravel and clays which is at lower risk of water and wind erosion than unconsolidated sand.</p> <p>Assessed outcome: The amount of clearing is minimal, and is unlikely to cause land degradation, and therefore will not likely be at variance with this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (h) – Native</p>	<p>Not at variance</p>	<p>There are no mapped ecological linkages within or in close proximity to the site. There are no known conservation areas within proximity of the site.</p>

<p>vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area</p>		<p>The nearest known conservation park is the Monadnocks Conservation Park approximately 45km north of the subject site.</p> <p>The site itself is reserve bower the clearing of the vegetation is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of the Reserve or any adjacent conservation area.</p> <p>Assessed outcome: The propose clearing is not considered to be at variance with this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (i) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water</p>	<p>Not at variance</p>	<p>The survey are does not intersect any major watercourse or water bodies.</p> <p>The mountain bike trails will be constructed to allow for natural cross slope drainage. Erosion and drainage features are installed to stop trail and feature degradation and minimise possibility of down trail water channelling.</p> <p>The main water body on-site is the Shire’s dam which utilise a large hardstand area which will be minimally impacted.</p> <p>Assessed outcome: Given the absence of any significant waterbodies across the survey area side from the Shire’s Town dam and the minimal amount of clearing proposed is not considered at variance to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding</p>	<p>Not at variance</p>	<p>The survey area does not intersect any major watercourse or water bodies. The survey area is not located on flood prone or flood fringe land contained in the Shire as documented in Shire of Boddington Floodplain Management Study. The proposed clearing within the Survey area is unlikely to cause, exacerbate the incidence of flooding in the local area.</p> <p>Assessed Outcome: The proposed clearing is not considered to be at variance with this principle.</p>

Should you require further information or have any queries regarding any of the information provided please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED]

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