



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 1272 / 1

File Number: 690/06

Duration of Permit: From 20 October 2007 – 20 October 2012

### PERMIT HOLDER

Water Corporation

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

AVON LOCATION 28455 as shown on Plan 1272/1

### PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purposes of installing an underground water main and associated pipe work.

### CONDITIONS

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on Plan 1272/1.

2. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purposes of installing the underground water main the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) Avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) Minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) Reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

3. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *dieback*:
  - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
  - (ii) avoid the movement of soil in wet conditions;
  - (iii) ensure that no *dieback*-affected *mulch* or *fill* or other material are brought into an area that is not affected by *dieback*; and
  - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) When undertaking any clearing, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
  - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
  - (ii) ensure that no weed-affected *mulch* or *fill* or other material are brought into the area to be cleared; and
  - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

#### 4. Offsets

##### (a) Determination of offsets

- (i) If part or all of the clearing to be done is or may be at variance with one or more of the clearing principles, then the permit holder must implement an *offset* in accordance with Conditions 4(a) and 4(b) of this Permit with respect to that native vegetation.
- (ii) In determining the *offset* to be implemented with respect to a particular area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared under this Permit, the permit holder must have regard to the offset principles contained in condition 4(b) of this Permit.
- (iii) Once the permit holder has developed an offset proposal, the permit holder must provide that offset proposal to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to undertaking any clearing to which the offset relates, and prior to implementing the offset.
- (iv) Clearing may not commence until and unless the CEO has approved the offset proposal.
- (v) The permit holder shall implement the offset proposal approved under condition 4(a)(iii).
- (vi) Each offset proposal shall include a direct offset, timing for implementation of the offset proposal and may additionally include contributing offsets.

##### (b) Offset principles

For the purpose of this Part, the offset principles are as follows:

- (i) *direct offsets* should directly counterbalance the loss of the native vegetation;
- (ii) *contributing offsets* should complement and enhance the *direct offset*;
- (iii) *offsets* are implemented only once all avenues to avoid, minimise, rectify or reduce environmental impacts have been exhausted;
- (iv) the *environmental values*, habitat, species, ecological community, physical area, ecosystem, landscape, and hydrology of the *offset* should be the same as, or better than, that of the area of native vegetation being *offset*;
- (v) a ratio greater than 1:1 should be applied to the size of the area of native vegetation that is offset to compensate for the risk that the *offset* may fail;
- (vi) *offsets* must entail a robust and consistent assessment process;
- (vii) in determining an appropriate *offset*, consideration should be given to ecosystem function, rarity and type of *ecological community*, vegetation *condition*, habitat quality and area of native vegetation cleared;
- (viii) the *offset* should either result in no net loss of native vegetation, or lead to a net gain in native vegetation and improve the condition of the natural environment;
- (ix) *offsets* must satisfy all statutory requirements;
- (x) *offsets* must be clearly defined, documented and audited;
- (xi) *offsets* must ensure a long-term (10-30 year) benefit; and
- (xii) an *environmental specialist* must be involved in the design, assessment and monitoring of *offsets*.

#### 5. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records;

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation undertaken pursuant to the purpose of clearing:
  - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
  - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to the offsets of areas pursuant to condition 4.
  - (i) the location of any area of offsets recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
  - (ii) a description of the offset activities undertaken; and
  - (iii) the size of the offset area (in hectares).

## 6. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 5 done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

## DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

*condition* means the rating given to native vegetation using the *Keighery scale* and refers to the degree of change in the structure, density and species present in the particular vegetation in comparison to undisturbed vegetation of the same type;

*contributing offsets* has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

*dieback* means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

*direct offsets* has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

*ecological community* means a naturally occurring biological assemblage that occurs in a particular type of habitat (English and Blythe, 1997; 1999). The scale at which ecological communities are defined will depend on the level of detail in the information source, therefore no particular scale is specified. An ecological community is a naturally occurring biological assemblage that occurs in a particular type of habitat.

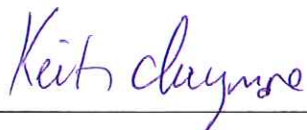
*environmental specialist* means a person who is engaged by the permit holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

*fill* means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

*mulch* means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

*offset* means an offset required to be implemented under Condition 4 of this Permit.

*weed* means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.



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Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

20 September 2007