



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

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

### **PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: 1515/1

File Number: DEC821

Duration of Permit: From 23 April 2007 to 23 April 2009

### **PERMIT HOLDER**

Town of Northam

### **LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

Lot 422 on Plan 101078, Old Quarry Road, Northam

### **AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

1. Clearing of 0.37 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 1515/1 for the purpose of the construction of septage ponds.

### **CONDITIONS**

1. Avoid, minimise etc clearing  
In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purposes of septage ponds the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:
  - (i) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
  - (ii) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
  - (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.
2. 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 2(a) and 2(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 2(b).
    - (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 2(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.

3. Records to be Kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, as relevant:

- (a) In relation to the offsets of areas pursuant to condition 2:
  - (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).

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year, for the *term* of this permit, a written report of records requested under condition 3 and activities 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:

*clearing* has the meaning given to it in section 51A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

*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;

*direct offset* 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;

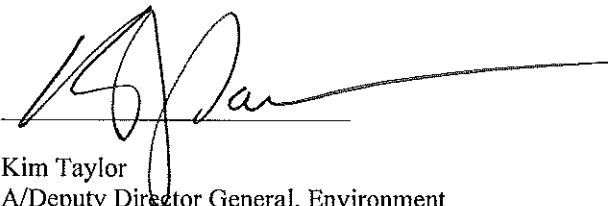
*Environmental Specialist* means a person who is engaged by the permit holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist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

*native vegetation* has the meaning given to it in sections 3 and 51A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and regulation 4 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*;

*CEO* means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment and Conservation;

*term* means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed; and

*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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Taylor', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kim Taylor  
A/Deputy Director General, Environment  
Department of Environment and Conservation.  
Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

23 March 2007