



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1517/1
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: ABB Australia Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1195 ON PLAN 202472 (BOW BRIDGE 6333)
 HAY LOCATION 1422 (PEACEFUL BAY 6333)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Denmark
 Colloquial name: Crown Reserves 46682 and 31362

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.98		Mechanical Removal Mechanical Removal	Infrastructure Maintenance Infrastructure Maintenance

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**
 The areas of the application lie within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, which is registered on the National Register of Estate.

Mattiske Consulting (2006) undertook a flora and vegetation survey of the area under application and found the vegetation to range from Very Good to Pristine condition.

The proposed clearing travels along an existing power-line route. The total length is approx 1.58ha and width of clearing will be kept to a maximum of 5m in width (ABB, 2006a).

It is acknowledged that the area under application is within National Park and therefore may have a high level of biodiversity. However it is also noted that the proposed clearing is within a currently disturbed site (existing power-line route).

Additionally a condition will be imposed on the permit to ensure all topsoil removed during clearing is retained and replaced after works have been completed.

Methodology ABB, 2006a
 Mattiske Consulting, 2006
 GIS Database:
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
 - Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
 It is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on significant fauna due to the fact it is located in a previously disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area under application.

Methodology ABB, 2006a
Mattiske Consulting, 2006

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A flora and vegetation survey has been undertaken of the proposed optic fibre cable route, and no Threatened Ecological Communities or Declared Rare or Priority Flora were found to be put at risk by the project (Mattiske Consulting, 2006).

Based on Mattiske Consulting's findings, this proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Mattiske Consulting, 2006

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A flora and vegetation survey has been undertaken of the proposed optic fibre cable route, and no Threatened Ecological Communities or Declared Rare or Priority Flora were found to be put at risk by the project (Mattiske Consulting, 2006).

Based on Mattiske Consulting's findings, this proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Mattiske Consulting, 2006

(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.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present Pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

	Pre-European (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Conservation** status	% In reserves DEC Managed Land
IBRA Bioregions*					
Warren [^]	739,273	724,014	86.6	Least Concern	N/A
Shire*					
Denmark	191,156	159,071	83.2	Least Concern	N/A
Mattiske Vegetation Complex***					
A	397,028	355,374	89.5	Least concern	N/A
BwP	325,413	287,703	88.4	Least concern	N/A
OW	11,291	9,274	82.1	Least concern	N/A
Beard Vegetation Complex*					
27	161,222	106,631	66.1	Least Concern	39.9
1150	6,658	5,244	78.8	Least Concern	57.4

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** (Mattiske Consulting 1998)

[^] Area within Intensive Land Use Zone

The Vegetation Complex in the area under application are all above the recommended minimum of 30% representation.

Based on the varying condition of vegetation, disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area this proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Due to the varying condition of vegetation, disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area under application it is unlikely disturbance of vegetation will impact on the environmental values of watercourses or wetlands.

Methodology Mattiske Consulting, 2006

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Due to the varying condition of vegetation, disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area under application it is unlikely this proposal will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology ABB, 2006a

(h) Native 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.

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

The areas of the application lie within the Walpole-Nornalup National Park, this area is also recognised under the National Register of Estate. Therefore the proposed clearing, although in a disturbed corridor and small and linear in shape, maybe be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Due to the varying condition of vegetation, disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area under application it is unlikely this proposal will impact on surface or groundwater quality.

Methodology ABB, 2006a

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

Due to the varying condition of vegetation, disturbed site and size and linear shape of the area under application this proposal will not exacerbate flooding.

Methodology ABB, 2006a

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

DEC Frankland District Manager provided recommendations and advice in relation to the proposal as follows:

- Alignment of already disturbed power line corridor will be utilised
- No flora or fauna in the National Park will be disturbed
- Hygiene of all machinery will be managed during the works and subsequent maintenance
- The Environmental Management Plan drawn up by Telstra/ABB and all District conditions be imposed are strictly adhered to with the addition of "works to occur in teh National Park areas under dry soil conditions only"

To address these issues conditions will be imposed on the permit to ensure clearing activities only occur within the months of January to March and that Dieback and Weed management is undertaken.

It is noted that the proposed clearing is for the purpose of fibre optic cable installed under the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act 1997 and follows the already disturbed corridor used for power lines.

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied	Comment
		area (ha)/ trees	

Infrastructure Mechanical 0.98
Maintenance Removal

Reserve 46682

For the installation of optical fibre cable to service the township of Peaceful Bay.

The assessment against clearing principles has found the clearing to be not at variance or not likely to be at variance.

Conditions imposed will ensure topsoil is retained and relayed, dieback and weed management is undertaken and clearing will only occur within the dry months between January and March.

Infrastructure Mechanical
Maintenance Removal

Reserve 31362

5. References

- ABB Consulting, 2006a. Environmental Management Plan, Installation of Optic Fibre Cable Peaceful Bay to Bow Bridge. (TRIM Ref: DOC7948)
- ABB Consulting, 2006b. Assessment of Matters of Environmental Significance, Telstra Project: Installation of Optic Fibre Cable Peaceful Bay to Bow Bridge. (TRIM Ref: DOC7949)
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.
- Mattiske Consulting, 2006. Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Proposed Peaceful Bay to Bow Bridge Optic fibre Cable Route. (TRIM Ref: DOC5421)
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)