



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

<b>Purpose permit number:</b>	CPS 1649/1
<b>Permit holder:</b>	Shire of Corrigin
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Road construction and maintenance
<b>Shire:</b>	Corrigin
<b>Duration of permit:</b>	6 March 2007 – 6 March 2012

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The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the above stated purposes, subject to the conditions of this Permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

#### **1. Land on which clearing is to be done**

The areas hatched in yellow on Plan 1649/1a and Plan 1649/1b for Road construction within Rabbit Proof Fence Road Reserve (1.3 ha);

#### **2. Area of Clearing**

Clearing of up to 1.3 hectares of *native vegetation*.

#### **3. Application**

This Permit allows the permit holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the permit holder, to clear *native vegetation* for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

#### **4. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1 and 3 of this Permit, the permit holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

### **PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **5. Avoid, minimise etc clearing**

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purposes of road and bridge upgrades and extractive industry 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.

## 6. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any *clearing* and *revegetation*, 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 *road building materials*, *mulches* or *fill* 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* and *revegetation*, 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 *road building materials*, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is 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.
- (c) At least once in each 12 month period for the *term* of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas *cleared* and *revegetated* under this Permit.

## 7. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking clearing within the area shaded yellow on Plan 1649/1a and Plan 1649/1b, this area shall be inspected by a *flora specialist* who shall identify *Rare Flora* and *Priority flora taxa*.
- (b) Where *Rare Flora* or *Priority Flora taxa* are identified in relation to condition 7(a) the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
- (i) All records of DRF and priority flora are submitted to the *CEO*
  - (ii) No clearing occurs within 50m of identified DRF, unless approved by the *CEO*
  - (iii) No clearing occurs with 10m of identified *Priority Flora*, unless approved by the *CEO*.

## 8. 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 8(a) and 8(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 8(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 in accordance, 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 8(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*.

### PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

#### 9. Records must be kept

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

- (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 Flora Management pursuant to condition 7:
  - (i) The location of each Rare Flora and Priority Flora recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994; and
  - (ii) The species of each Rare Flora or Priority Flora identified.
- (c) In relation to the offsets of areas pursuant to condition 8:
  - (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).

#### 10. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO*, on or before 30 August of each year, a written report of records requested under condition 9 and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

#### 11. Definitions

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

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

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

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

*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;

*EP Act* means the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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

*flora specialist* means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

*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;

*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*;

*Priority flora taxa* means those plant taxa that described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the *Declared Rare and Priority Flora List for Western Australia*, Department of Conservation and Land Management, as amended;

*Rare Flora* means flora that is declared to be rare flora under section 23F of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

*rehabilitation* means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

*revegetation* means the re-establishment of a cover of *native vegetation* in an area such that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, and can involve regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting;

*road building materials* means rock, gravel, soil, stone, timber, boulders and water;

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

*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.



Robert Atkins

A/Deputy Director General, Environment

Department of Environment and Conservation.

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

2 February 2007