



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

### PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 1763/1

File Number: DEC2432

Duration of Permit: From 4 November 2007 to 4 November 2012

### PERMIT HOLDER

Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group (Inc.)

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 141 on Plan 302153 (Buntine 6613)  
Lot 140 on Plan 302153 (Jibberding 6612)  
Lot 4487 on Plan 135983 (Jibberding 6612)  
Lot 3867 on Plan 135979 (Jibberding 6612)  
Lot 4448 on Plan 232378 (Jibberding 6612)  
Lot 1 on Diagram 57504 (Wubin 6612)  
Lot 4447 on Plan 232379 (Wubin 6612)

### PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

1. Clearing for the purpose of drainage.

### CONDITIONS

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 19 ha of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on Plans 1763/1a and 1763/1b.
2. Avoid, minimise etc clearing
  - (a) In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purpose of drainage 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.
3. 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 3(a) and 3(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 3(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 must not commence until and unless the CEO has approved the offset proposal.
    - (v) The permit holder shall implement the offset proposal approved under condition 3(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*.

4. 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 condition 1:
  - (i) The location where the clearing occurred, recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
  - (ii) The date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iii) The size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) in relation to *offset* areas pursuant to condition 3:
  - (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).

5. 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 4 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:

*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 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;

*offset* means an offset required to be implemented under Condition 3 of this Permit;

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



---

Keith Claymore  
A/ Director  
Nature Conservation Division  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

4 October 2007