



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose permit number:	CPS 1792/1
Permit holder:	Western Power
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of a 132kV Transmission Line
Shire:	City of Wanneroo
Duration of permit:	8 July 2007 to 8 July 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 shown in yellow on PLAN 1792/1a and PLAN 1792/1b.

2. Area of Clearing

Clearing of up to 13.6 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 2 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 purpose of constructing a 132kV Transmission Line 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.

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- (iii) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing and *revegetation, rehabilitation* 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* 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 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* 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. Revegetation

- (a) The Permit Holder shall retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing in accordance with this Permit.

- (b) Within one month of the area no longer being required for the purpose of installing the power line the permit holder must revegetate the area by:
 - (i) Deliberately planting and/or seeding native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area;
 - (ii) Ensuring only local provenance seeds and propagating material from within 10km of the area cleared are used to revegetate the area;
 - (iii) Lay vegetative material and topsoil retained in accordance with condition 7(a) on the area.

- (c) Within one year of undertaking revegetation in accordance with condition 7(b), the Permit Holder must:
 - (i) Determine the species composition, structure and density of the area revegetated; and
 - (ii) Where, in the opinion of a *flora specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 7 (b)(i) will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area the Permit Holder must undertake additional planting or seeding of native vegetation in accordance with the requirements of condition 7(b)(i) and (ii).

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 2:1 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 the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas in accordance with condition 7:

- (i) the location of any area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* be recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
- (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities; and
- (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares).

(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 March of each year, a written report of records required 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:

clearing principles means the principles for clearing native vegetation set out in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

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.

environmental values has the same meaning as it is given in section 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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.

offset means an *offset* required to be implemented under Condition 8 of this Permit;

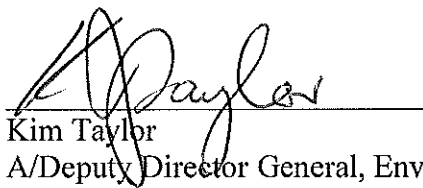
rehabilitation means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

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 material 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.



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

8 June 2007