



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 185/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Water Corporation

### 1.3. Property details

Property: DOLA\_LAND\_DESCRIPTION

Local Government Area: LGA

Colloquial name: COLLOQUIAL\_NAME

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

## 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
	Clearing for project activities will occur throughout Western Australia. The proposed clearing of native vegetation is likely to impact on many vegetation associations in varied condition.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

#### Comments

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of Western Australia. The proposed clearing of native vegetation is likely to impact on many vegetation associations in varied condition.

It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will contain native vegetation that comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as containing native vegetation that comprises a high level of biological diversity, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of Western Australia. The proposed clearing of native vegetation is likely to impact on many vegetation associations in varied condition.

It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will comprise native vegetation that is the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. In particular, road reserves are often likely to constitute an ecological linkage necessary for the maintenance of fauna.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as comprising native vegetation that is the whole or a part of, or being necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

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

**Comments**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will comprise native vegetation that includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as comprising native vegetation that includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary flora surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as comprising the whole or a part of, or being necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a

separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will comprise or include native vegetation that is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as comprising or including native vegetation that is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities will comprise native vegetation that is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Where areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as comprising that is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

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

**Comments**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that the clearing of native vegetation in some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Where the clearing of native vegetation in areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as likely to cause appreciable land degradation, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

The proponent will be required under Part III of the clearing permit to implement a management strategy, developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that the clearing of native vegetation in some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

Where the clearing of native vegetation in areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as likely to have an impact on the environmental values of adjacent or nearby conservation areas, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

**(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**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that the clearing of native vegetation in some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Where the clearing of native vegetation in areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any necessary biological surveys;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

The proponent will be required under Part III of the clearing permit to implement a management strategy, developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

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

**Comments**

Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of the state. It is likely that the clearing of native vegetation in some areas proposed to be cleared for these activities is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Where the clearing of native vegetation in areas proposed to be cleared are identified by the proponent's environmental specialist as likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding, then the assessment process set out in Part II of the clearing permit will apply to require the proponent to:

- undertake environmental impact assessment, including any relevant surveys or field assessments;
- seek submissions from relevant stakeholders and government agencies; and
- implement an environmental management plan to address the impacts of the clearing.

The proponent will be required under Part III of the clearing permit to implement a management strategy, developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, to address the impacts of the clearing.

If the proposed clearing is found to be at variance to this principle, the proponent will be required to offset the area cleared in accordance with Part V of the clearing permit.

If the proposed clearing is found to be seriously at variance to this principle, the proponent must submit a separate clearing permit application to DEC's CEO.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

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

### **Comments**

The obligation to comply with Native Title Act 1993 future act processes rests with the proponent, and an endorsement to this effect has been made in the covering letter accompanying the clearing permit.

The clearing permit imposes requirements for the proponent to undertake a minimum level of environmental impact assessment as set out in the clearing permit, and reliance is placed on the proponent's existing procedures in addition to these requirements.

The clearing permit will not apply to incidental and unexpected activities. The clearing permit authorises the proponent to clear native vegetation only for those project activities stated within condition 1 of the clearing permit. The clearing permit requirements for internal and external audits, as well as recording and reporting by the proponent, of clearing and associated activities under the clearing permit, will ensure that clearing is not being undertaken for purposes other than those stated within the clearing permit. DEC is satisfied that, if the proponent is not undertaking assessments as required by the clearing permit, this will become evident as a result of reporting and audit requirements, and DEC has the power to amend, suspend or revoke the clearing permit as necessary.

DEC has considered various options for the processing of the proponent's clearing applications, and has determined that a statewide or regional purpose permit is the preferred method.

The results of the proponent's internal environmental impact assessment procedures and assessments under the clearing permit would not be open to public scrutiny. However the proponent's procedures are open to public scrutiny, and where clearing is found to be at variance to the clearing principles the proponent is required to seek and address submissions from relevant stakeholders and government organisations. DEC will scrutinise the proponent's assessments and if necessary amend, suspend or revoke the clearing permit.

**Methodology** Refer to Parts II, III, IV and V of the clearing permit.

## **4. Assessor's comments**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal		Statewide clearing for project activities.

## **5. References**

- AGPS (2001) The national objective and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- 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.
- EPA (1992) Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992. Western Australian Government Gazette, 24 December, 1992, pp 6287-93
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.
- EPA (2004) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - terrestrial fauna for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia. Report by the EPA under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. No 56 WA.
- EPA (2006) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors -level of assessment of proposals affecting natural areas within the System 6 region and Swan Coastal Plain portion of the System 1 Region. Report by the EPA under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. No 10 WA.
- Government of Western Australia (2000) Bush Forever Volumes 1 and 2. Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth WA.

- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Schoknecht N. (2002) Soil Groups of Western Australia. A simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia. Resource Management Technical Report 246. Edition 3
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2005).

## 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)