



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose permit number:</b>	CPS 186/7
<b>Permit holder:</b>	Water Corporation
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Maintenance, removal and decommissioning of <i>existing water services infrastructure</i> , including within <i>ESAs</i> ; and prevention of imminent danger to human health, including within <i>ESAs</i> .
<b>Duration of permit:</b>	3 April 2006 – 3 April 2027

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<b>Purpose permit number:</b>	CPS 186/7
<b>Permit holder:</b>	Water Corporation
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintenance, removal and decommissioning of <i>existing water services infrastructure</i>, including within <i>ESAs</i>; and/or</li> <li>2. Prevention of imminent danger to human health, including within <i>ESAs</i>.</li> </ol>
<b>Duration of permit:</b>	3 April 2006 – 3 April 2027

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

## **PART I – TYPE OF CLEARING AUTHORISED**

### **1. Type of clearing authorised**

- (a) In accordance with this Permit, the permit holder may clear native vegetation:
- (i) around *existing water services infrastructure*, to the maximum extent cleared within the previous 10 years, in order to maintain the efficacy of the *existing water services infrastructure*;
  - (ii) in areas previously cleared in order to maintain the efficacy of the following *existing water services infrastructure*, to the following extents:
    - A. for a building or structure – 20m from the building or structure;
    - B. for a *drain* or fence line – 5m from the *drain* or fence line;
    - C. for a vehicle track used to access *existing water services infrastructure* – 5m track width; or
  - (iii) to prevent imminent danger to human life or health.
- (b) This Permit authorises the permit holder to clear *native vegetation* to maintain *existing water services infrastructure* to the extent that the permit holder has the power to clear *native vegetation* to maintain *existing water services infrastructure* under the *Water Corporation Act 1995* or any other *written law*.

### **2. Clearing not authorised**

- (a) This Permit does not authorise the permit holder to clear native vegetation for the purpose of maintaining the efficacy of the existing water services infrastructure where:
- (i) it does not have the power to clear native vegetation for this purpose under the *Water Corporation Act 1995* or any other *written law*;
  - (ii) the *clearing* is likely to be seriously at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*;
  - (iii) the clearing and the associated effect on the environment would be inconsistent with any approved policy (as defined in section 3 of the EP Act);
  - (iv) the maintenance of *existing water services infrastructure* is incorporated in any proposal that is referred and assessed under Part IV of the *EP Act* by the *EPA*; or
  - (v) The clearing may have a significant impact on a *matter of national environmental significance* under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

- (a) If a *proposal* incorporating maintenance of *existing water services infrastructure* has been referred to the EPA, this Permit does not authorise any *clearing* for that activity until:
- (i) the EPA has given notice under section 38G(1)(b) of the *EP Act* that it has decided not to assess the *proposal*; and
  - (ii) either:
    - A. the period within which an appeal against the EPA's decision may be lodged has expired without an appeal being lodged; or
    - B. an appeal has been lodged against the EPA's decision not to assess the *proposal* and the appeal was dismissed.
- (b) If the permit holder intends to clear *native vegetation* under this Permit for a *proposal* referred to in condition 2(a), then the permit holder must have regard to any advice or recommendations made by the EPA under section 38G(7) of the *EP Act*.

### **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.

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

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under condition 1(a)(i) or (ii) of this Permit, the permit holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Assessment Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

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

### **5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purpose of maintaining an *existing water services infrastructure*, the permit holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

### **6. Clearing in ESAs**

The permit holder must determine whether the authorised clearing:

- (a) comprises an ESA; and
- (b) is likely to cause *land degradation*; or
- (c) is likely to cause *deterioration of water quality*.

## **PART III – MANAGEMENT OF CLEARING IMPACTS**

### **7. Management Strategies**

Where the permit holder determines under condition 6 that the area to be cleared comprises an ESA and the clearing is likely to cause *land degradation* or *deterioration of water quality*, the permit holder must prepare, implement and adhere to a *management strategy* designed by an *environmental specialist*, in consultation with the Commissioner

of Soil and Land Conservation, to avoid, mitigate or manage the *land degradation* or *deterioration of water quality* that triggered the permit holder's obligation to comply with this condition.

## 8. Dieback, other pathogen and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any *clearing, revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, or other activity pursuant to this Permit in any part of a *region* that has an average annual rainfall of greater than 400 millimetres and is south of the 26<sup>th</sup> parallel of latitude, 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*, soil, *mulch* 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) If movement of soil is necessary in conditions other than *dry conditions* and the clearing will impact land managed by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the permit holder must, prior to clearing, implement a *dieback* management plan endorsed by DBCA for minimising the spread of *dieback*.
- (c) If movement of soil is necessary in conditions other than *dry conditions* and the clearing will *impact* land other than DBCA managed land, if the area proposed to be cleared may introduce or spread *dieback* into *uninfested* areas, in addition to the requirements of condition 8(a), the permit holder must minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* by:
- (i) mapping *dieback* areas, including *infested, uninfested and uninterpretable*, within the area to be cleared, prior to clearing;
  - (ii) ensuring that no clearing occurs in *infested* areas during rain events where there is a risk of transporting material into *uninfested* areas;
  - (iii) demarcating all *dieback* areas, including *infested, uninterpretable and uninfested*, with flagging tape and appropriate signage prior to clearing;
  - (iv) establishing clean on entry points to ensure machines and other vehicles are clean of soil and vegetation prior to entering *dieback uninfested* and *uninterpretable* areas;
  - (v) establishing clean on exist points to ensure machines and other vehicles are clean of soil and vegetation prior to existing *dieback infested* and *uninterpretable* areas;
  - (vi) ensuring that drainage is directed away from *uninfested* areas; and
  - (vii) monitoring the implementation of *dieback* management actions through daily visual inspections and keeping an inspection log.
- (d) Where the permit holder considers, having regard to the advice of an *environmental specialist*, that the area to be cleared may be susceptible to a pathogen other than *dieback*, the permit holder must take appropriate steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of that pathogen.
- (e) When undertaking any *clearing, revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, 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*, soil, *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.
- (f) 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*, *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* under this Permit where those *weeds* are likely, having regard to the advice of an *environmental specialist*, to spread to and result in *environmental harm* to adjacent areas of *native vegetation* that are in *good or better condition*.

## 9. Revegetation and rehabilitation

Where native vegetation is cleared under conditions 1(a)(iii) of this Permit, or upon removal of *water services infrastructure*, or when areas cleared of *native vegetation* are no longer required in order to maintain *existing water services infrastructure*, the permit holder must *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area that was previously cleared pursuant to this Permit.

## PART V – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 10. Records that 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 in an *ESRI Shapefile*;
  - (ii) the date(s) that the area was cleared;
  - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
  - (iv) the total amount of clearing done (in hectares) between 1 January and 31 December of each calendar year.
- (b) in relation to each *management strategy* implemented:
  - (i) a map showing the location of any area to which a *management strategy* has been applied in accordance with condition 7, recorded in an *ESRI Shapefile*;
  - (ii) a description of the *management strategy* implemented under condition 7; and
  - (iii) the size of the area to which the *management strategy* was applied under condition 7 (in hectares);
  - (iv) the date(s) on which the *management strategy* commenced; and
  - (v) the date the *management strategy* was completed, or if the *management strategy* has not been completed, a description of the progress towards completion.
- (c) in relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas:
  - (i) a map showing the location of any area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* in accordance with condition 9, recorded in an *ESRI Shapefile*;
  - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken pursuant to condition 9;
  - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares) pursuant to condition 9;
  - (iv) the date(s) on which *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* commenced; and

- (v) the total amount of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* commenced (in hectares) between 1 January and 31 December of each year.

## 11. Reporting

- (a) The permit holder must provide to the *CEO*, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required to be maintained pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit, concerning those activities done by the permit holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) The report must set out the records required to be maintained pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit, except for those records relating to cleared areas of less than 0.5 hectares that:
  - (i) do not trigger an obligation to *revegetate* or *rehabilitate* under condition 9; and
  - (ii) do not trigger an obligation to implement a *management strategy* under condition 7.
- (c) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 30 June of each year.
- (d) Prior to 3 January 2027, the permit holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 16 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 17(a) of this Permit.

## PART VI – INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

### 12. Interpretation

The following rules of interpretation apply to this Permit:

- (a) a reference to any *written law* includes a reference to that *written law* as amended, repealed or replaced from time to time;
- (b) if a word or phrase is defined, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

### 13. Severance

It is the intent of these conditions that they shall operate so that, if a condition or part of a condition is beyond the *CEO*'s power to impose, or is otherwise ultra vires or invalid, that condition or part of a condition shall be severed and the remainder of these conditions shall nevertheless be valid to the extent that they are within the *CEO*'s power to impose and are not otherwise ultra vires or invalid.

### 14. Inconsistency

- (a) The *EP Act* prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its provisions and the conditions of this Permit.
- (b) Subject to condition 14(a), this Permit prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its conditions (including its Schedules), and the provisions of any other document referred to in this Permit.

## 15. Definitions

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

**CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of the *Department* responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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

**clearing principle/s** 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;

**Department** means the Western Australian government agency responsible for the implementation of the clearing provisions under Part V, Division 2 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

**deterioration of water quality** includes sedimentation, turbidity, eutrophication, salinity, or any alteration of pH affecting surface water or groundwater;

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

**direct seeding** means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

**drain** means a conduit on or under any land; or channel provided it is wholly constructed, which was or is used or intended to be used to carry surplus water, and includes any part of such conduit or channel but does not include a watercourse as defined in the *Rights in water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

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

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

**EPA** means the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority;

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

**ESA** means an environmentally sensitive area, as declared in the *Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005* under section 51B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

**ESRI Shapefile** means an ESRI Shapefile with the following properties:

- (a) Geometry type: polygon;
- (b) Geographic Coordinate System: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994/2020; and
- (c) Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994/2020.

**existing water services infrastructure** means infrastructure necessary for the provision of water supply, sewerage, drainage (to the extent that these are consistent with the definition of drain) or irrigation services as provided for under the *Water Corporation Act 1995* and any other written laws, that is in existence at the time clearing is sought to be carried out under this Permit;

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

**good or better condition** means that the vegetation is in either pristine, excellent, very good or good condition according to *Keighery scale*;

**Keighery scale** means the vegetation condition scale described in *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community (1994)* as developed by B.J. Keighery and published by the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia;

**land degradation** includes salinity, erosion, soil acidity or waterlogging;

**local provenance** means *native vegetation* seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same IBRA subregion of the area cleared;

**management strategy** means any activity, method or approach implemented pursuant to condition 7 of this Permit;

**matter of national environmental significance** is any of the following:

- (a) a declared World Heritage property
- (b) a national Heritage place
- (c) a declared Ramsar site
- (d) a listed threatened species or endangered community
- (e) a listed migratory species
- (f) the marine environment

These terms have the same meaning as they do in the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

**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*;

**planting** means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

**proposal** has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

**refer/red** means referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

**regenerate/ed/ion** means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;



**region** means one of the following regions as designated by Water Corporation at the date of issue of this Permit and depicted in the maps that form part of this Permit in Schedule 1:

- (a) Perth;
- (b) North West;
- (c) Mid West;
- (d) Agricultural;
- (e) Goldfields;
- (f) South West;
- (g) Great Southern;

**rehabilitate/ed/ion** means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

**revegetate/ed/ion** means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance native vegetation* in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to *pre-clearing* vegetation types in that area;

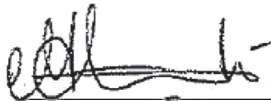
**road building materials** means rock, gravel, soil, stone, timber, boulders and water;

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

**weed/s** means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned; and

**written law** has the same meaning as it is given in section 5 of the *Interpretation Act 1984*.

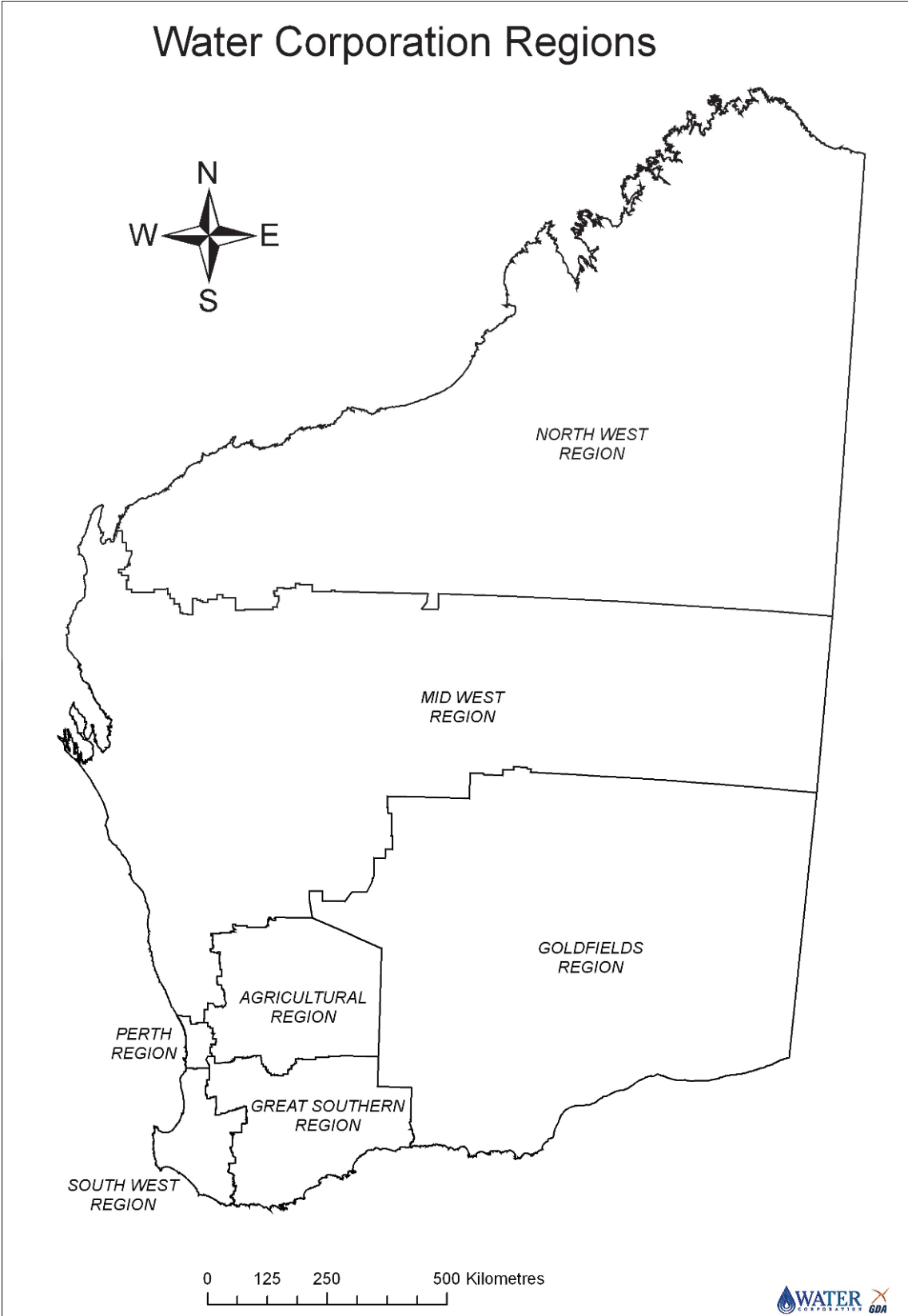


Meenu Vitarana  
A/MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

31 March 2022

SCHEDULE 1: WATER CORPORATION REGIONS





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 186/7  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Water Corporation  
Application received date: 17 February 2022

### 1.3. Property details

Property: The State of Western Australia  
Localities: Statewide

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
N/A		Mechanical Removal	Infrastructure Maintenance

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 31 March 2022

Reasons for Decision: This clearing permit amendment application was received on 17 February 2022 and has been made in order to extend the permit duration from 3 April 2022 to 3 April 2027.

In addition to extending the permit duration, the Delegated Officer determined that the following amendments to the existing permit conditions were also required to bring them in line with current departmental policies and procedures:

- The addition of condition 2(a)(iii), indicating that the permit does not authorise the permit holder to clear native vegetation for the purpose of maintaining the efficacy of the existing water services infrastructure where the clearing and the associated effect on the environment would be inconsistent with any approved policy (as defined in section 3 of the EP Act),
- Updates to conditions 2(b)-(c) to reflect changes in sections of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act Amendment Bill 2020*,
- The removal condition 8(a)(iii) and addition of condition 8(b), to specify that a dieback management plan developed in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is only required on DBCA managed land, in line with current departmental procedures,
- The addition of condition 8(c) to standardise the weed and dieback management measures implemented outside of DBCA managed land and align with current departmental procedures,
- Additional records that must be kept included under condition 10, to reflect current departmental procedures for record keeping,
- The addition of condition 11(c), requiring the permit holder to provide a written report where no clearing has been carried out in a financial year, in accordance with current departmental procedures and policies,
- The addition of condition 11(d), requiring the permit holder to provide a written report within three months prior to the expiry of the permit, where the records had not already been provided to the Department, in line with current departmental procedures and policies, and
- Minor updates to definitions to align with current departmental procedures and policies.

The Delegated Officer took into consideration the requirement for Water Corporation to maintain water services infrastructure and to act as necessary to prevent imminent danger to human life or health. The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that majority of the clearing undertaken under this permit occurs within previously cleared areas around existing water services infrastructure, in order to maintain the efficacy of the infrastructure.

The Delegated Officer determined that majority of the clearing activities undertaken through the permit would not likely be at variance to any of the clearing principles and that any environmental impacts associated with clearing activities can be appropriately managed through the conditions imposed on the permit.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The proposed amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 186/6 is for the purpose of extending the permit duration to 3 April 2027 and relates to clearing of native vegetation for the maintenance, removal and decommissioning of existing water services infrastructure, and prevention of imminent danger to human health, including within ESAs.

**Vegetation Condition** As clearing is to occur state-wide, the condition of native vegetation to be cleared under this permit is likely to range from Completely Degraded to Excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as:

- Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact, and the area is completely or almost without native species;
- Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted but disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management;
- Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retain basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate to it;
- Very Good: Vegetation structure altered, obvious signs of disturbance; and
- Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994).

However, noting majority of the clearing undertaken under this permit occurs within previously cleared areas around existing water services infrastructure, the native vegetation to be cleared is less likely to be in Very Good to Excellent condition.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

This assessment recognises the requirement for Water Corporation to maintain water services infrastructure as provided for under the *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984*. It is considered that majority of the clearing undertaken under this permit occurs within previously cleared areas around existing water services infrastructure, in order to maintain the efficacy of the infrastructure.

Further, in determining the amount of native vegetation required to be cleared for maintaining an existing water services infrastructure, the Water Corporation is required to have regard to three principles as outlined under condition 5 of the permit, being, avoid the clearing of native vegetation, minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared and reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

Given the above, it is considered that majority of the clearing activities undertaken for maintenance of water services infrastructure would not likely be at variance to any of the clearing principles. However, as clearing for project activities will occur state-wide, it is likely that some areas proposed to be cleared will be in close proximity to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values designated within mapped Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

Where areas proposed to be cleared occur within a mapped ESA, and the proposed clearing activities are identified by Water Corporation's environmental assessment as being likely to cause land degradation or deterioration in water quality, Water Corporation is required to prepare, implement and adhere to a management strategy in accordance with condition 7 of the clearing permit. The management strategy must be designed by an environmental specialist, in consultation with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, to avoid, mitigate or manage the land degradation or deterioration in water quality that has been identified.

Under conditions 8 and 9 of the clearing permit, Water Corporation will also be required to undertake weed and dieback management measures, including implementing specific dieback management measures or a dieback management plan developed in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions where movement of soil in wet conditions is necessary, and to revegetate and rehabilitate areas that have been temporarily cleared, to reduce impacts.

The assessment acknowledges that some of the clearing undertaken under this permit may be for the purpose of preventing imminent danger to human life or health that will also be in close proximity to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values designated within mapped ESAs. The assessment recognises the requirement for Water Corporation to act as necessary where significant risks to human life or health are presented. It is noted that any clearing undertaken to prevent imminent danger to human life or health are subject to the conditions of the clearing permit, including the requirements to implement a management strategy, adhere to weed and dieback management measures, and to revegetate and rehabilitate cleared areas.

The permit does not authorise clearing for any project activities if the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance with one or more of the clearing principles. If Water Corporation's environmental impact assessment determines that part or all of the clearing for a project is likely to be seriously at variance with one or more of the clearing principles, Water Corporation is required to apply to the CEO for a clearing permit in respect of that clearing.

The permit also does not authorise clearing for new water services infrastructure or related project activities. The assessment of risks to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values associated with new project activities is facilitated by Clearing Permit CPS 185/9 or via a standalone clearing permit application.

In considering the above, the Delegated Officer considered that the environmental impacts associated with clearing activities undertaken through the permit can be appropriately managed through the amended and existing permit conditions.

## Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Clearing Permit CPS 186/1 was granted to the Water Corporation on 3 March 2006 by the then Department of Environment. The clearing permit authorises the clearing of native vegetation for maintenance, removal and decommissioning of existing water services infrastructure, including within ESAs; and prevention of imminent danger to human health, including within ESAs. The permit has since been amended five times, with CPS 186/6 being the latest amendment.

CPS 186/6 was due to expire on 3 April 2022. This amendment was made by the applicant to extend the permit duration until 3 April 2023. The Delegated Officer considered that, as the majority of the clearing activities authorised under this permit occur within previously cleared areas around existing water services infrastructure and would not likely be at variance to any of the clearing principles, the risk of significant environmental impacts resulting from the proposed clearing were low. Therefore, the Delegated Officer determined that a requirement to conduct an annual review and amendment to the conditions of CPS 186/7 was unlikely to be necessary at this time and that an extension to the duration of the permit by five years to 3 April 2027 is appropriate to enable Water Corporation to effectively maintain water services infrastructure as provided for under the *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984*.

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on the DWER website on 15 March 2022 with a 14-day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

## 4. References

Keighery, B. J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.