

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number:1887 / 1 File Number:DEC3210 Duration of Permit: From 1 March 2008 to 1 March 2013

PERMIT HOLDER

City of Bunbury

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 929 ON PLAN 220463 (COLLEGE GROVE 6230) LOT 1053 ON PLAN 33287 (DAVENPORT 6230)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 4.3 hectares of native vegetation, within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 1887/1.

CONDITIONS

- 1. Dieback and weed control
 - (a) When undertaking any clearing, 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, fill or other material is 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, 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, mulches, 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.

2. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking clearing within the area authorised to be cleared under this permit, the 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 2(a) the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
 - (i) all records of rare flora and priority flora are submitted to the CEO;
 - (ii) no clearing occurs within 50m of identified rare flora, unless approved by the CEO; and
 - (iii) no clearing occurs with 10m of identified priority flora, unless approved by the CEO.

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 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 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. Stormwater management

The Permit Holder shall not cause or permit the discharge of stormwater into the area cross hatched red on attached Plan 1887/1.

5. Records to be kept

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

- (a) In relation to the Flora Management pursuant to condition 2:
 - (i) The location of each rare flora and priority flora taxa recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994; and
 - (ii) The species of each rare flora and priority flora taxa identified
- (b) In relation to the offsets 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).

6. 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 5 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:

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.

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;

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;

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

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;

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

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

Keith Claymore

A/Assistant Director

Nature Conservation Division

Department of Environment and Conservation

Officer delegated under Section 20

of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

31 January 2008