



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose permit number:	CPS 1918/6
Permit holder:	Electricity Networks Corporation, trading as Western Power
Purpose of clearing:	Clearing for <i>project activities</i>
Duration of permit:	10 February 2008 – 10 February 2021

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A GUIDE TO THE ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS TO CLEAR NATIVE VEGETATION UNDER PART V DIVISION 2 OF THE *ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986*

Purpose permit number:	CPS 1918/6
Permit holder:	Electricity Networks Corporation, trading as Western Power
Purpose of clearing:	Clearing for <i>project activities</i>
Duration of permit:	10 February 2008 – 10 February 2021

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the above stated purpose, subject to the conditions of this Permit, including as amended or renewed.

PART I - TYPE OF CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Type of clearing authorised

(a) In accordance with this Permit, the permit holder may clear native vegetation for *project activities*, which means any one or more of the following:

- (i) new underground distribution lines;
- (ii) new overhead distribution lines;
- (iii) new voltage regulator sites;
- (iv) new padmount transformer sites;
- (v) new ring main sites;
- (vi) new switching stations;
- (vii) radio towers and associated infrastructure;
- (viii) mono towers and associated infrastructure;
- (ix) new zone substation sites;
- (x) new terminal substation sites;
- (xi) new underground transmission lines;
- (xii) new overhead transmission lines;
- (xiii) new infrastructure such as buildings, fences, gates, posts, boards, scaffolding, hurdles, other erections and structures to support the construction or operation of electricity infrastructure;
- (xiv) new sightline or centreline clearing;
- (xv) new storage, laydown or winch/brakes site areas;
- (xvi) *project surveys* including surveying and geotechnical studies;
- (xvii) *pre-construction activities*;
- (xviii) native vegetation clearing for the purposes of upgrading any of the above activities where such activities are not exempt from requiring a *clearing permit*;
- (xix) decommissioning (removal of redundant infrastructure); and
- (xx) fire protection / hazard reduction around new and existing infrastructure.

(b) This Permit authorises the permit holder to clear native vegetation for *project activities* to the extent that the permit holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those *project activities* under the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979* or any other *written law*.

2. Clearing not authorised

(a) This Permit does not authorise the permit holder to clear native vegetation for *project activities* where:

- (i) the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*;
- (ii) 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*);
- (iii) those *project activities* are incorporated in any *proposal* that is referred to and assessed under Part IV of the *EP Act* by the *EPA*; or
- (iv) the clearing may have a significant *impact* on a *matter of national environmental significance* under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth).

- (b) If a *proposal* incorporating a *project activity* has been *referred* to the *EPA*, this Permit does not authorise any clearing for that *project activity* until:
 - (i) the *EPA* has given notice under section 39A(3) 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.
- (c) If the permit holder intends to clear native vegetation under this Permit for a *project activity* that is incorporated in a *proposal* referred to in condition 2(b), then the permit holder must have regard to any advice or recommendations made by the *EPA* under section 39A(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 authorised under this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II - ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

4. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared, 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.

5. Assessment of clearing impacts – desktop study

- (a) Once the permit holder has complied with condition 4 of this Permit, if any native vegetation is to be cleared the Permit Holder must conduct a *desktop study* assessing the clearing to be undertaken against each of the *clearing principles* in accordance with the *Department's "A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation under Part V Division 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986"* provided in Annexure 1.
- (b) The *desktop study* must be conducted having regard to:
 - (i) any approved policy (as defined in section 3 of the *EP Act*); and
 - (ii) any planning instrument (as defined in section 51O of the *EP Act*), that applies to the area of native vegetation to be cleared.
- (c) The *desktop study* must include production of a *PCIA Report* unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (d) The *PCIA Report* must set out:
 - (i) the manner in which the Permit Holder had regard to the principles set out in condition 4 of this Permit;
 - (ii) the manner in which the Permit Holder had regard to any approved policy and planning instrument in accordance with condition 5(b) of this Permit;
 - (iii) a description of the land on which the clearing is to be done;
 - (iv) the area (in hectares) of clearing required for the *project activities*;
 - (v) the boundaries of clearing required for the *project activities* recorded on a map(s);
 - (vi) how each of the *clearing principles* has been addressed through the *desktop study*;
 - (vii) whether the outcome of the *desktop study* indicates that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance, may be at variance, not likely to be at variance or not at variance with each of the *clearing principles*;
 - (viii) whether the outcome of the *desktop study* indicates that the area to be cleared may be affected by *dieback*;

- (ix) any *impacts* likely to occur as a result of the clearing, including a description of those *impacts* that are likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*;
 - (x) whether a *VMP* is likely to be required under condition 9 of this Permit;
 - (xi) whether *rehabilitation* and *revegetation* is likely to be required under condition 10 of this Permit;
 - (xii) whether a *dieback management plan* is likely to be required under condition 11 of this Permit; and
 - (xiii) whether an *offset* is likely to be required under condition 12 of this Permit.
- (e) Where the outcome of the *desktop study* indicates that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must undertake a *CIA* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (f) Where the outcome of the *desktop study* indicates that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must seek submissions in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (g) Without limiting condition 5(e) and 5(f) of this Permit, where the information available is insufficient to allow the Permit Holder to assess the proposed clearing against one or more of the *clearing principles* as part of the *desktop study*, the Permit Holder must undertake *CIA* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit and seek submissions in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

6. Assessment of clearing impacts – CIA

- (a) Where required pursuant to condition 5(e) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must conduct a *CIA* addressing those environmental values identified in the *desktop study* as likely to be affected by the clearing to an extent that is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*.
- (b) Where required pursuant to condition 5(g) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must conduct a *CIA* assessing each of those *clearing principles* for which there was insufficient information available to undertake a *desktop study*.
- (c) A *CIA* must include:
- (i) a *biological survey* if the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with *clearing principles* (a), (b), (c), (d) or (f);
 - (ii) *vegetation condition mapping* and vegetation mapping by delineating on a map the *ecological communities* formed within a given area, and the nature and extent of each combination, within the area to be cleared at the scale of the best available mapping information, if the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with *clearing principle* (e);
 - (iii) a *dieback survey* if the area to be cleared may be affected by *dieback*;
 - (iv) a *wetland field assessment* if the clearing may have a detrimental *impact* on the environmental values of a *defined wetland*; and
 - (v) any additional surveys and field assessments that are required to determine the *impacts* of the clearing on any environmental value protected by the *clearing principles*.
- (d) Any survey or field assessment carried out pursuant to condition 6(c) must be conducted by an *environmental specialist*.
- (e) Any survey or field assessment carried out pursuant to condition 6(c) that relates to flora must be conducted having regard to *EPA Guidance Statement No.51*.
- (f) Any survey or field assessment carried out pursuant to condition 6(c) that relates to fauna must be conducted having regard to *EPA Guidance Statement No.56*.

- (g) The *CIA* must include production of a *CIA Report*.
- (h) The *CIA Report* must set out:
 - (i) all of the information required to be provided in a *PCIA Report*;
 - (ii) copies of any submissions received pursuant to condition 7 of this Permit, and a statement addressing each of those submissions;
 - (iii) copies of any mapping and the methodology and results of any surveys or field assessments carried out pursuant to condition 6(c) of this Permit; and
 - (iv) whether the outcome of the *CIA* indicates that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance, may be at variance, not likely to be at variance or not at variance with each of the *clearing principles*.
- (i) Where the outcome of the *CIA* indicates that the clearing is likely to be at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must invite a submission from the *Department* in accordance with condition 8 of this Permit.
- (j) Where the outcome of the *CIA* indicates that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must apply to the CEO of the *Department* for a *clearing permit* in respect of that clearing.

7. Submissions – interested parties

- (a) Where required pursuant to conditions 5(f) and 5(g) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must invite submissions from the following parties about those *impacts* of the proposed clearing that are likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*:
 - (i) the local government responsible for the area that is to be cleared;
 - (ii) the owner (as defined in section 51A of the *EP Act*), or occupier (as defined in section 3 of the *EP Act*), of any land on which the clearing is proposed to be done;
 - (iii) any environment or community groups that the Permit Holder reasonably considers may have an interest in the clearing that is proposed to be done; and
 - (iv) any other party that the Permit Holder reasonably considers may have an interest in the clearing that is proposed to be done.
- (b) The Permit Holder must invite submissions from the following parties:
 - (i) the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation in the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia about those *impacts* of the proposed clearing that are likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with *clearing principles* (g), (i) or (j); and
 - (ii) the Department of Water’s Drainage and Waterways Branch about those *impacts* of the proposed clearing that are likely to be seriously at variance, at variance or may be at variance with *clearing principles* (f), (i) and (j).
- (c) The Permit Holder must provide the following information to the parties from whom it invites submissions under conditions 7(a) and 7(b) of this Permit:
 - (i) a description of the manner in which the Permit Holder has complied with condition 4 of this Permit;
 - (ii) a description of the land on which the clearing is to be done;
 - (iii) a description of the *project activities* for which the clearing is to be done;
 - (iv) the area (in hectares) of clearing required for *project activities*;
 - (v) the boundaries of clearing required for *project activities* recorded on a map;
 - (vi) in what manner the Permit Holder considers that the clearing is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance, may be at variance, not likely to be at variance or not at variance with each of the *clearing principles*;
 - (vii) an outline of any *VMP*, *rehabilitation*, *revegetation*, *dieback management plan*, or *offset proposal* proposed to be implemented in relation to the clearing;

- (viii) a summary of the results of any surveys and field assessments carried out pursuant to condition 6(c) of this Permit, if these surveys have been carried out at the time of seeking submissions; and
 - (ix) the contact details of the person to whom submissions must be sent.
- (d) The Permit Holder must allow a period of at least 21 days for submissions to be made.

8. Submissions – Department

- (a) Where required pursuant to condition 6(i) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must invite a submission from the *Department's* Functional Area responsible for the administration of clearing permits under the *EP Act*.
- (b) The Permit Holder must provide the following information to the Department when inviting a submission:
 - (i) the *CIA Report*; and
 - (ii) the boundaries of clearing required for *project activities* recorded as a *shapefile*.
- (c) In making a determination as to whether part or all of the clearing to be done is likely to be seriously at variance, at variance, may be at variance, not likely to be at variance or not at variance with each of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must implement the levels of variance described in the *Department's* submission.

PART III – MANAGEMENT

9. Vegetation management

- (a) If part or all of the clearing to be done is likely to be at variance or may be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, the Permit Holder must prepare, implement and adhere to a *VMP* designed by an *environmental specialist*, with respect to that clearing, unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (b) The *VMP* must include the following:
 - (i) the scope of the *project activities* and of the *VMP*;
 - (ii) actions to be taken by the Permit Holder to avoid, mitigate or manage the *impacts*;
 - (iii) allocation of responsibilities for implementation of the *VMP*;
 - (iv) timeframes for completion of each action;
 - (v) a monitoring program for assessing the implementation of the *VMP*; and
 - (vi) actions to be taken in the event of non-compliance with the *VMP*.
- (c) Actions to be taken by the Permit Holder pursuant to condition 9(b)(ii) to avoid, mitigate or manage *land degradation*, *water quality deterioration*, or flooding must be developed in consultation with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation in the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia.
- (d) Once the Permit Holder has developed a *VMP*, the Permit Holder must provide that *VMP* to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to undertaking any clearing of an area to which the *VMP* is related, and prior to implementing the *VMP*.
- (e) If it is necessary to modify the *VMP* approved by the CEO, then the Permit Holder must provide that modified *VMP* to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to implementing the modified *VMP*.
- (f) The Permit Holder shall implement the latest version of the *VMP* approved by the CEO.

10. Revegetation and rehabilitation

- (a) The Permit Holder must *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* areas cleared for *temporary works* as soon as possible, and within 24 months from when the area is no longer required for the purpose for which it was cleared.

- (b) The Permit Holder is not required to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* an area specified in condition 10(a) of this Permit if:
 - (i) the CEO advises so in writing; or
 - (ii) the Permit Holder has scheduled to use that cleared area for another project activity within 24 months of that area no longer being required for the purpose for which it was originally cleared under this Permit.
- (c) The Permit Holder must prepare a *Revegetation Plan* if required to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* an area specified in condition 10(a) of this Permit.
- (d) A *Revegetation Plan* required under condition 10(c) must be designed by an *environmental specialist*.
- (e) The *Revegetation Plan* must include the following:
 - (i) a description of the land on which the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* is required;
 - (ii) the area (in hectares) of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* required;
 - (iii) the boundaries of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* required recorded on a map(s);
 - (iv) *site preparation*;
 - (v) *weed control*;
 - (vi) *regeneration, direct seeding or planting*, at an optimal time;
 - (vii) a *vegetation establishment period*;
 - (viii) *revegetation* success completion criteria;
 - (ix) remedial actions to be undertaken if success completion criteria are not met;
 - (x) ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the area to be *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*;
 - (xi) timeframes for completion of the activities; and
 - (xii) management commitments that will be achieved.
- (f) Once the Permit Holder has developed a *Revegetation Plan*, the Permit Holder must provide that *Revegetation Plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval, prior to clearing native vegetation from the area that is to be *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*.
- (g) If it is necessary to modify the *Revegetation Plan* approved by the CEO, then the Permit Holder must provide that modified *Revegetation Plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to implementing the modified *Revegetation Plan*.
- (h) The Permit Holder shall implement the latest version of the *Revegetation Plan* approved by the CEO.
- (i) The Permit Holder is not required to comply with conditions 10(c) to 10(h) if the CEO advises so in writing, or if the area to be *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* is:
 - (i) 0.5 hectares or less;
 - (ii) not located in an *ESA*; and
 - (iii) is either not or not likely to be at variance with all of the *clearing principles*.

11. Dieback, other pathogen and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing, *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, or other activity pursuant to this Permit in an area that has an average annual rainfall of greater than 400 millimetres and is south of the 26th 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) subject to condition 11(b) of this Permit, only move soils in *dry conditions*;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback*-affected soil, *mulch, 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) If movement of soil is necessary in conditions other than *dry conditions*, the Permit Holder must prepare, implement and adhere to a *dieback management plan* unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (c) Once the Permit Holder has developed a *dieback management plan*, the Permit Holder must provide that *dieback management plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval, prior to undertaking any clearing of any area to which the *dieback management plan* is related, and prior to implementing the *dieback management plan*.
- (d) If it is necessary to modify the *dieback management plan* approved by the CEO, then the Permit Holder must provide that modified *dieback management plan* to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to implementing the modified *dieback management plan*.
- (e) The Permit Holder shall implement the latest version of the *dieback management plan* approved by the CEO.
- (f) Where the Permit Holder is notified by the *Department* or in a written report provided to the Permit Holder from an *environmental specialist*, that the area to be cleared may be susceptible to a pathogen other than *dieback*, the Permit Holder must:
 - (i) obtain the advice of an *environmental specialist*; and
 - (ii) take appropriate steps in accordance with that advice to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of that pathogen.
- (g) 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 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.
- (h) At least once in each 12 month period for five years from the commencement of clearing for a *project activity*, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit, where those *weeds* are likely, on 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*.

PART IV – OFFSETS

12. Offsets

- (a) If part or all of the clearing to be done is likely to be at variance with one or more of the *clearing principles*, then the Permit Holder must prepare an *offset proposal*, designed by an *environmental specialist*, with respect to that native vegetation, unless written advice to the contrary is provided by the CEO.
- (b) In preparing an *offset proposal* with respect to a particular area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared under this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the principles in the Government of Western Australia, WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011 and have regard to the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines, August 2014.
- (c) 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* is related, and prior to implementing the *offset*.

- (d) If it is necessary to modify the *offset proposal* approved by the CEO, then the Permit Holder must provide that modified *offset proposal* to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to implementing the modified *offset*.
- (e) The Permit Holder must implement the latest version of the *offset proposal* approved by the CEO.

PART V – MONITORING, REPORTING & AUDITING

13. Monitoring

The Permit Holder must monitor:

- (a) areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* under this Permit to determine compliance with the relevant *Revegetation Plan* and the conditions of this Permit; and
- (b) areas that are the subject of an *offset* implemented under this Permit to determine compliance with the relevant approved *offset proposal* and the conditions of this Permit.

14. Recordkeeping

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records:

- (a) In relation to the assessment of clearing impacts pursuant to conditions 5 and 6 of this Permit:
 - (i) a copy of any *PCIA Report* and *CIA Report* produced; and
 - (ii) the boundaries of clearing required for *project activities* as depicted in any *PCIA Report* and *CIA Report* recorded as a *shapefile*.
- (b) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation pursuant to condition 1 of this Permit:
 - (i) the *project activities* for which the clearing was done;
 - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred for each of the *project activities* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares) for each of the *project activities*;
 - (iv) the date(s) on which the clearing was done for each of the *project activities*; and
 - (v) the total amount of clearing done (in hectares) between 1 January and 31 December of each year.
- (c) A copy of each *VMP* approved by the CEO in accordance with conditions 9(d) and 9(e) of this Permit.
- (d) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 10 of this Permit:
 - (i) a copy of each *Revegetation Plan* approved by the CEO in accordance with conditions 10(f) and 10(g) of this Permit;
 - (ii) the boundaries of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* required as depicted in each approved *Revegetation Plan* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (iii) the location where *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* occurred for each of the *project activities* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (iv) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares) for each of the *project activities*;
 - (v) the date(s) on which the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* for each of the *project activities* commenced;
 - (vi) the date the *revegetation* success completion criteria were achieved for each of the *project activities*, or if they have not been achieved, a description of the progress towards achievement; and
 - (vii) the total amount of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* commenced (in hectares) between 1 January and 31 December of each year.

- (e) In relation to the control of *dieback*, other pathogens and *weeds* pursuant to condition 11 of this Permit:
 - (i) a copy of each *dieback management plan* approved by the CEO in accordance with conditions 11(c) and 11(d) of this Permit;
 - (ii) for any pathogen other than *dieback*, the appropriate steps taken in accordance with condition 11(f) of this Permit; and
 - (iii) the date(s) on which *weed* control was undertaken in accordance with condition 11(h) of this Permit for each of the *project activities*.
- (f) In relation to *offsets* implemented pursuant to condition 12 of this Permit:
 - (i) a copy of each *offset proposal* approved by the CEO in accordance with conditions 12(c) and 12(d) of this Permit;
 - (ii) the boundaries of each *offset* required as depicted in each approved *offset proposal* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (iii) the location where each *offset* was implemented for each of the *project activities* recorded as a *shapefile*;
 - (iv) the size of each *offset* (in hectares) for each of the *project activities*;
 - (v) the date(s) on which implementation of each *offset* commenced for each of the *project activities*;
 - (vi) the date implementation of each *offset* was completed for each of the *project activities*, or if the *offset* has not been completed, a description of the progress towards completion; and
 - (vii) the total amount of *offsets* commenced (in hectares) between 1 January and 31 December of each year.

15. 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 14 of this Permit, concerning those activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding calendar year.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Prior to 10 November 2020, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 14 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 15(a) of this Permit.

16. Internal auditing

- (a) The Permit Holder must engage an *internal auditor* to conduct *internal environmental audits* for areas specified in condition 16(c) of this Permit to determine the Permit Holder's compliance with the conditions of this Permit, with particular emphasis on:
 - (i) the location and extent of native vegetation cleared;
 - (ii) the implementation status of any *offsets* imposed;
 - (iii) the effectiveness of any *VMP* implemented; and
 - (iv) the implementation status of any *revegetation* or *rehabilitation* undertaken.
- (b) The Permit Holder must conduct its first *internal environmental audit* within 6 months of the commencement date of this Permit. Subsequent *internal environmental audits* must be conducted annually for the *term* of this Permit.
- (c) The areas to be audited under condition 16(a) must be selected by the auditor using a structured and documented risk-based selection framework, and must include at least one cleared area in each *bioregion* in which clearing has been done under this Permit within the previous 12 months.
- (d) The Permit Holder must implement *corrective action* required to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit identified from the *internal environmental audits*.

- (e) The Permit Holder must provide written reports of the *internal environmental audits* to the CEO on or before 30 December of each year for the *term* of this Permit. The reports must include details of *corrective action* taken by the Permit Holder to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit.

17. External auditing

- (a) The Permit Holder must engage an external *lead environmental auditor* to undertake *external environmental audits* of the Permit Holder's compliance with the conditions of this Permit for each of the *bioregions* in which clearing is done under this Permit.
- (b) The *external environmental audits* must be done on or before 30 November of every second year for the *term* of this Permit and/or as otherwise required by the CEO.
- (c) The Permit Holder must implement *corrective action* required to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit identified from the *external environmental audits*.
- (d) The Permit Holder must provide the *lead environmental auditor's* written reports of the *external environmental audits* to the CEO on or before 30 December of every second year for the *term* of this Permit. The reports must include details of *corrective action* taken by the Permit Holder to address any non-compliance with conditions of this Permit.

PART VI – INTERPRETATION & DEFINITIONS

18. 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; and
- (b) if a word or phrase is defined, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or phrase have corresponding meanings.

19. 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.

20. 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 20(a), this Permit prevails to the extent of any inconsistency between its conditions, and the provisions of any other document referred to in this Permit.

21. DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit and the attached Advice:

<i>authorised survey/s</i>	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>Licensed Surveyors Act 1909</i> ;
<i>biological survey</i>	means a site visit undertaken by an <i>environmental specialist</i> to: (a) verify <i>desktop study</i> information; (b) delineate key flora, fauna, soil, and groundwater and surface water values and potential sensitivity to impact; (c) undertake <i>vegetation condition mapping</i> ; and (d) undertake vegetation mapping by delineating on a map the <i>ecological communities</i> formed within a given area, and the nature and extent of each combination, within the area to be cleared at the scale of the best available mapping information;
<i>bioregion</i>	has the meaning given to it in regulation 3 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i> ;
<i>CIA</i>	means clearing <i>impact</i> assessment, as described in condition 6 of this Permit;
<i>CIA Report</i>	means the document produced under condition 6(g) of this Permit as an outcome of conducting a <i>CIA</i> ;
<i>clearing permit</i>	means a clearing permit under Part V Division 2 of the <i>EP Act</i> ;
<i>clearing principle/s</i>	means the principles for clearing native vegetation listed in Schedule 5 of the <i>EP Act</i> ;
<i>corrective action</i>	means action to eliminate the cause of non-conformity detected in an <i>internal environmental audit</i> or an <i>external environmental audit</i> ;
<i>defined wetland/s</i>	has the meaning given to it in clause 3 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005</i> ;
<i>Department</i>	means the Western Australian Department of Environment Regulation;
<i>desktop study</i>	means a literature review, including a map-based information search of all current and relevant literature sources and databases;
<i>dieback</i>	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation;
<i>dieback management plan</i>	means a management plan prepared in accordance with condition 11 of this Permit for the purpose of minimising the spread of <i>dieback</i> ;
<i>dieback survey</i>	means a site visit undertaken by an <i>environmental specialist</i> to: (a) verify <i>desktop study</i> information; (b) identify indicator species; (c) carry out soil sampling in areas significantly affected by <i>dieback</i> ; and (d) map areas of different <i>soil disease status</i> .
<i>direct seeding</i>	means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

<i>dry conditions</i>	means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;
<i>ecological community/ies</i>	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;
<i>engineering survey/s</i>	means any inspection or measurement taken by a surveyor engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of planning, investigating and design for a <i>project activity</i> ;
<i>environmental specialist</i>	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;
<i>EP Act</i>	means the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ;
<i>EPA</i>	means the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority;
<i>EPA Guidance Statement No.51</i>	means the publication “ <i>Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors (in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986): Terrestrial flora and vegetation surveys for environmental impact assessment in Western Australia, No.51</i> ”, Environmental Protection Authority, (2004);
<i>EPA Guidance Statement No.56</i>	means the publication “ <i>Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors (in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1986): Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No.56</i> ”, Environmental Protection Authority (2004);
<i>ESA</i>	means an environmentally sensitive area, as declared by a notice under section 51B of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ;
<i>external environmental audit/s</i>	means an audit conducted by a <i>lead environmental auditor</i> in accordance with condition 17 of this Permit;
<i>fill</i>	means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;
<i>geological survey/s</i>	means a survey conducted in order to obtain information about the suitability of the ground for a <i>project activity</i> , and includes geotechnical surveys;
<i>good or better condition</i>	means that the vegetation is in either pristine, excellent, very good or good condition according to the <i>Keighery scale</i> ;
<i>impact/impacts</i>	means any impact of clearing on environmental values;
<i>internal auditor</i>	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of audit required under this Permit;

<i>internal environmental audit/s</i>	means an audit conducted by an <i>internal auditor</i> in accordance with condition 16 of this Permit;
<i>Keighery scale</i>	means the <i>vegetation condition</i> scale described in <i>Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community (1994)</i> as developed by B.J. Keighery and published by the Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia;
<i>land degradation</i>	includes salinity, erosion, nutrient export, soil acidity and waterlogging;
<i>lead environmental auditor</i>	means an individual certified as a lead environmental auditor by either: (a) RABQSA International; or (b) an organisation accredited to ISO/IEC 17024 by, or by a body recognised by, the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand);
<i>matter of national environmental significance</i>	A 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 <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cth).
<i>mulch/es</i>	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;
<i>offset/s</i>	means a direct offset as described in the Government of Western Australia, WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011;
<i>offset proposal</i>	means a documented plan that addresses the principles outlined in the Government of Western Australia, WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011;
<i>PCIA Report</i>	means the document produced as an outcome of conducting a <i>desktop study</i> in accordance with conditions 5(a) and 5(d) of this Permit;
<i>planting</i>	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;
<i>pre-construction activities</i>	means establishing storage, laydown and vehicle/machinery parking areas, erecting fences and doing similar activities that are required to be done prior to, and in association with, the carrying out of a project activity;
<i>project activity/ies</i>	means those activities described in condition 1(a) of this Permit;
<i>project surveys</i>	means <i>authorised surveys, engineering surveys and geological surveys</i> ;

<i>proposal</i>	has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the <i>EP Act</i> ;
<i>referred</i>	means referred to the Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> ;
<i>regenerate/ed/ion</i>	means <i>revegetation</i> that can be established from in situ seed banks contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing <i>mulch</i> ;
<i>rehabilitate/ed/ion</i>	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;
<i>revegetate/ed/ion</i>	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 <i>regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting</i> ;
<i>Revegetation Plan</i>	means a plan developed by the Permit Holder for the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> of a site in accordance with condition 10 of this Permit;
<i>shapefile</i>	means a shapefile consisting of polygons using the Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA) coordinate system.
<i>soil disease status</i>	means soil types either infested, not infested, uninterpretable or not interpreted with a pathogen.
<i>site preparation</i>	means management of existing site topsoil and preparation of the finished soil surface, for example by ripping or tilling the soil surface and respreading site topsoil and chipped native vegetation;
<i>temporary works</i>	means works associated with a <i>project activity</i> that are temporary in nature including, but not limited to, decommissioning, tracks, spoil areas, site offices, storage areas, laydown areas, <i>project surveys</i> and <i>pre-construction activities</i> ;
<i>term</i>	means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed;
<i>vegetation condition</i>	means the rating given to native vegetation using the <i>Keighery scale</i> 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;
<i>vegetation condition mapping</i>	means to delineate on a map the condition attributes of vegetation within an area, according to the <i>Keighery scale</i> ;
<i>vegetation establishment period</i>	means a period of at least two summers after the <i>revegetation</i> during which time replacement and infill <i>revegetation</i> works may be required for areas in which <i>revegetation</i> has been unsuccessful, and involves regular inspections of <i>revegetation</i> sites to monitor the success of <i>revegetation</i> ;
<i>VMP</i>	means vegetation management plan, as described in condition 9 of this Permit;
<i>water quality deterioration</i>	includes sedimentation, turbidity, eutrophication, salinity, or alteration of pH affecting surface water or groundwater;

- 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 Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or
 - (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.
- wetland field assessment* means a site visit by an *environmental specialist* to:
- (a) verify *desktop study* information; and
 - (b) delineate key flora and fauna values of *defined wetlands* and their potential sensitivity to *impact*.
- written law* has the same meaning as it is given in section 5 of the *Interpretation Act 1984*.



Jane Clarkson
A/SENIOR MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

4 February 2016

ADVICE

1. Monitoring by the CEO

The CEO may monitor the implementation of clearing and other activities done under this Permit in order to determine whether the Permit Holder is complying with the conditions of this Permit. In the event that the CEO determines that the Permit Holder is not complying with one or more conditions of this Permit, the CEO may amend, suspend or revoke this Permit as the CEO considers necessary.

2. Reports

Reports provided by the Permit Holder to the CEO under Part V of this Permit may be made publicly available.

3. Clearing likely to have a significant impact on the environment

The Permit Holder must ensure that it complies with any obligation under section 38(5) of the *EP Act* to refer to the *EPA* a *proposal* that appears to the Permit Holder to be likely, if implemented, to have a significant effect on the environment.

4. Cumulative impacts of clearing

In accordance with the intent of the *clearing principles* in Schedule 5 of the *EP Act*, the Permit Holder must consider the cumulative *impacts* of clearing of native vegetation done under this Permit and other clearing done in that *bioregion*. The cumulative *impacts* of clearing done under this Permit will be considered by the CEO annually upon receipt of the Permit Holder's reports pursuant to Part V of this Permit, and this Permit may be amended as necessary.

5. Temporary clearing

The Permit Holder must ensure that, wherever possible, new *temporary works* are located in areas that have already been cleared of native vegetation.

6. External Audit

When conducting an *external environmental audit* under condition 17 of this Permit, the *lead environmental auditor* will determine which conditions of this Permit in respect of which he or she will conduct the audit.

**Annexure 1 – A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation under Part V
Division 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986**



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1918/6
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Electricity Networks Corporation, trading as Western Power

1.3. Property details

Property: Various
Local Government Authority: Various

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
N/A		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 04 February 2016
Reasons for Decision: The previous version of the permit was no longer consistent with current departmental policies and procedures and therefore this amendment will ensure any new clearing under the permit is adequately regulated.

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
N/A	Clearing for project activities will occur throughout the southwest of Western Australia for Western Power's 'South West Interconnected Network' (north to Kalbarri, east to Kalgoorlie and south to Ravensthorpe).	N/A	The proposed clearing of native vegetation is likely to impact on many vegetation types in varied condition.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments This amendment has been made to extend the permit duration and amend the permit conditions to bring them in line with current departmental policies and procedures. The main amendments include:

- restructuring of permit conditions;
- revised terminology for impact assessment reports (i.e. from Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment to Preliminary Clearing Impact Assessment and Clearing Impact Assessment respectively);
- removal of reference to a combined Assessment Report;
- revised requirements for Preliminary Clearing Impact Assessments and Clearing Impact Assessments;
- changes to the list of parties from whom submissions must be sought;
- revisions to the Permit Holder's requirements for inviting a submission from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER);
- consolidation of the Environmental management plan and Management strategy conditions into a Vegetation Management Plan condition;
- inclusion of requirements for Revegetation Plans and dieback management plans to be approved by the CEO of DER;
- revised offset conditions to bring the conditions in line with the WA Environmental Offsets Policy, September 2011 and the WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines, August 2014;
- revisions to the recordkeeping and reporting conditions; and
- inclusion of corrective action requirements within the auditing conditions.

The assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 1918/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The assessment against Planning and Other Matters has not changed and can be found in Decision Report CPS 1918/1.

4. References

Nil