



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 1958 / 1

File Number: DEC3786

Duration of Permit: From 26 July 2008 to 26 July 2013

PERMIT HOLDER

Water Corporation

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 1 ON DIAGRAM 71887

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 2.82 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 1958/1.

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 the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *dieback* and *weed*-affected *road building materials, 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.

2. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing within the yellow cross-hatched area on attached Plan 1958/1, the area shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify habitat suitable to be utilised by the fauna species listed below:
- (i) Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*)
 - (ii) Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*)
 - (iii) Baudin's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*)
- (b) Prior to clearing, any habitat identified by condition 2(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of fauna.
- (c) Prior to clearing the Permit Holder shall ensure that any fauna identified by condition 2(b) shall be removed and relocated by a *fauna clearing person*, in accordance with a licence issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

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 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) For the purpose of this condition, 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. Records must be kept

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

- (a) In relation to Fauna Management pursuant to condition 2:
 - (i) the number and species of any habitat tree identified;
 - (ii) the species of fauna reasonably likely to utilise, or that have been observed utilising habitat;
 - (iii) the species and number of each species relocated;
 - (iv) a description of the relocation activities; and
 - (v) the location and date where relocated fauna was released, using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994.
- (b) In relation to the offsets of areas 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).

5. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 4 and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Before the expiry of the permit, the permit holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 4 where these records have not already been provided under condition 5 (a).

Definitions

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 offset/s 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 offset/s 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;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

fauna clearing person means a person who has obtained a licence issued pursuant to the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* and the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970* (as amended) authorising them to take fauna;

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;

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

weeds 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; and



Sarah McEvoy

MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

26 June 2008