



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 2023/1

File Number: DEC 4159

Duration of Permit: From 1 June 2008 to 1 June 2013

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Wagin

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 1103 on PLAN 167559

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

Clearing of up to 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 2023/1.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. Weed and Dieback 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, 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) 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, 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.
- (c) 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 under this Permit.

#### 2. 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 2(a) and 2(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 2(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 the CEO has approved the *offset* proposal.
- (v) The permit holder shall implement the *offset* proposal approved under condition 2(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.

### 3. Records to be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities, in relation to *offsets* of areas pursuant to condition 2:

- (a) the location of any area of *offsets* recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
- (b) a description of the *offset* activities undertaken; and
- (c) the size of the *offset* area (in hectares).

### 4. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of the records required under condition 3 for activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

## 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 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;

*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 2 of this Permit;

*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.



Sarah McEvoy  
Manager

Native Vegetation Conservation Branch

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

1 May 2008