



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2628/1  
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Busselton Water

### 1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE ( VASSE 6280)  
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Local Government Area: Shire Of Busselton  
 Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	10	Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

## 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
Beard vegetation association 949: Low woodland; banksia	10 trees within road reserve.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	
Beard vegetation association 1000: Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low woodland; banksia / Low forest; teatree (Melaleuca spp.)			

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

To be assessed.

Methodology

### (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments

To be assessed.

Methodology

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.**

**Comments**

To be assessed.

**Methodology**

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments**

The proposed clearing of 10 trees for the purpose of water mains installation is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

The local area (10km radius) contains 9 rare and 20 priority flora species, with the closest occurrence being *Caladenia procera* (DRF) 650m south west of the western most edge of the application area. The only rare flora species associated with the same soil and vegetation types as the area under application is *Caladenia procera*, which has been recorded 1350m west south west. The removal of only 10 trees as proposed, however, is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on any rare or priority flora within the local area.

Nine rare and 4 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area, however 5 of the rare species



are associated with the nearby coastline and as such unlikely to be affected by the clearing of 10 trees as proposed. Regional advice from a nearby permit identified the potential for trees in the area to provide habitat for *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum). This proposal is for the same number of trees over a larger area, and as such the impacts would be reduced. No other rare fauna species have been recorded within 2km of the proposal area. Fauna management conditions on the permit will ensure any impacts to *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* are minimised.

The closest threatened ecological community is in remnant bush 6km south of the application area, but the proposed clearing occurs in a different vegetation and soil type, and is well outside the recommended buffer.

The vegetation to be cleared forms part of 2 Beard vegetation associations (1000 and 949). Vegetation association 1000 is not well represented either in WA (28.7% of the pre-European extent remaining) or the local bioregion (25.9% remaining) (Shepherd et al. 2001). However, given the limited extent of the proposed clearing (10 trees), it is unlikely that the proposal will have a significant impact on the biodiversity of the local area.

The proposed clearing occurs 1.2km south of Broadwater Nature Reserve, and 300m from an environmentally sensitive area (EPP Lakes), however the limited extent of this proposal means that environmental impact on either of these areas is unlikely. The proposed clearing is situated within road reserve and not considered necessary for the maintenance of the nearby conservation areas.

The area is of low to high salinity risk, but the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation or deterioration to the quality of surface or groundwater.

Due to the limited extent of the proposed clearing and the location of the trees within road reserve, the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance with any other clearing principles.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- DEC (2008)
- Northcote et al. (1968)
- Shepherd et al. (2001)

##### GIS database:

- Beard Vegetation Complexes
- DEFL feb08
- Fauna
- Sac Bio Datasets (TEC and PEC points)
- Hydrology, linear
- Groundwater Salinity, statewide
- Rainfall, annual
- Evapotranspiration, Areal Actual
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- CALM Managed Lands
- Soils, Statewide

#### Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

#### Comments

The applied area is situated within road reserve vested with the Shire of Busselton, and approval of this proposal has been granted by the Shire of Busselton.

There is a registered Native Title claim which encompasses the applied area, however as the area is zoned for road reserve, a future act is not triggered.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- Shire of Busselton submission

##### GIS database:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones
- Native Title Claims
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

#### 4. Assessor's comments

#### Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (b), and is not likely to be at variance to the any other clearing Principles.

## 5. References

- DEC (2008), Regional Advice. Trim ref DOC 59862.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Shire of Busselton advice, 2008. Trim ref DOC 58815.

## 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)