

# CLEARING PERMIT Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose permit number:

CPS 2773/4

Permit holder:

Electricity Generation Corporation T/A Verve Energy

**Duration of permit:** 

1 July 2009 to 1 July 2014

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the above stated purposes, subject to the conditions of this Permit.

## PART I - CLEARING AUTHORISED

## 1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of access, cable connection and firebreaks for a wind farm, re-alignment of the Bibbulmun track and construction of Bibbulmun track campsites.

## 2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 500 on PLAN 60582 (SANDPATCH, 6330)

LOT 501 on PLAN 60582 (CROWN RESERVE 13773, SANDPATCH, 6330)

LOT 503 on PLAN 60582 (CROWN RESERVE 2903, SANDPATCH, 6330)

LOT 11 on PLAN 3568 (House No. 413 Robinson Road, ROBINSON, 6330)

LOT 20 on PLAN 3568 (House No. 46 Sand Pit Road, ROBINSON, 6330)

LOT 1 on DIAGRAM 23900 (47796 South Coast Hwy, MCKAIL, 6330)

LOT 2 on DIAGRAM 23900 (47790 South Coast Hwy, MCKAIL, 6330)

LOT 507 on PLAN 256573 (204 Lancaster Rd, MCKAIL, 6330)

LOT 123 on DIAGRAM 11949 (36088 Albany Hwy, MCKAIL, 6330)

LOT 7793 on PLAN 240420 (CROWN RESERVE 4732, ELLEKER, 6330)

IMPERAL ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, MCKAIL, 6330)

GLADVILLE ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, MCKAIL, 6330)

LANCASTER ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, MAKAIL, 6330)

TIMEWELL ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, MCKAIL, 6330)

BEAUDON ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, MCKAIL, 6330)

SOUTH COAST HWY (ROAD RESERVE, MCKAIL, 6330)

CHARLES STREET (ROAD RESERVE, GLEDHOW, 6330)

LOWANNA DRIVE (ROAD RESERVE, GLEDHOW, 6330)

GEORGE STREET (ROAD RESERVE, GLEDHOW, 6330)

OLD ELLEKER ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, ROBINSON, 6330)

GLEDHOW WEST ROAD (ROAD RESERVE, ROBINSON, 6330)

ROBINSON ROAD RESERVE (ROAD RESERVE, ROBINSON, 6330)

TWEEDLE ROAD RESERVE (ROAD RESERVE, ROBINSON, 6330)

## 3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 11.44 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 2773/4a, Plan 2773/4b, Plan 2773/4c, Plan 2773/4d, Plan 2773/4e, Plan 2773/4f, Plan 2773/4g and Plan 2773/4h.

## 4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

## 5. Type of clearing authorised

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.

## 6. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

## PART II - ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

## 7. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, 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.

## 8. Flora Management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the site shall be inspected by a *flora specialist* for the presence of the following *priority flora taxa*:
  - (i) Thomasia quercifolia (priority 2),
  - (ii) Spyridium spadiceum (priority 2), and
  - (iii) Melaleuca ringens (priority 3)
- (b) Where priority flora taxa are identified in relation to condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that:
  - (i) all records of priority flora taxa are submitted to the CEO; and
  - (ii) no clearing occurs with 10 metres of identified *priority flora taxa*, unless approved by the CEO.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

## 9. Records must be kept

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

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
  - (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
  - (ii) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
  - (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
  - (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
  - (i) the species of each *priority flora taxa* identified.
  - (ii) the location of each *priority flora taxa* recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; and

## 10. 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 9 and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 1 April 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a).

## **Definitions**

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

Department means the Department of Environment and Conservation (Western Australia);

flora specialist means a person with specific training and/or experience in the ecology and taxonomy of Western Australian flora;

priority flora taxa means those plant taxa that described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3 or 4 in the Department's Declared Rare and Priority Flora List for Western Australia (as amended);

Kelly Faulkner MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

16 November 2011

# Plan 2773/4a





Clearing Instruments Areas Approved to Clear

Noad Centrelines ☐ Cadastre



Scale 1:15221

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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# Plan 2773/4b





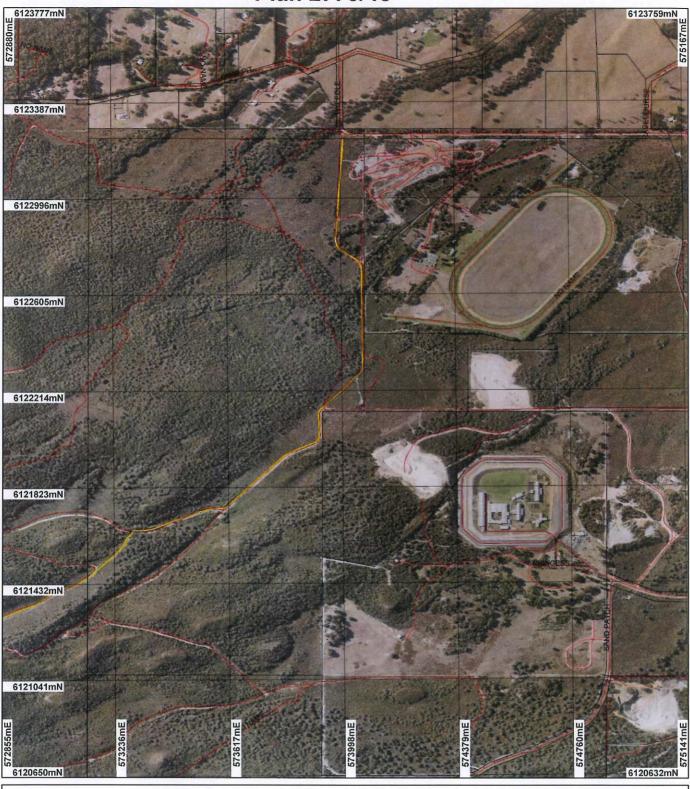
Albany Mount Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2002



Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.



# Plan 2773/4c





Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear ✓ Road Centrelines

☐ Cadastre

Albany Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.

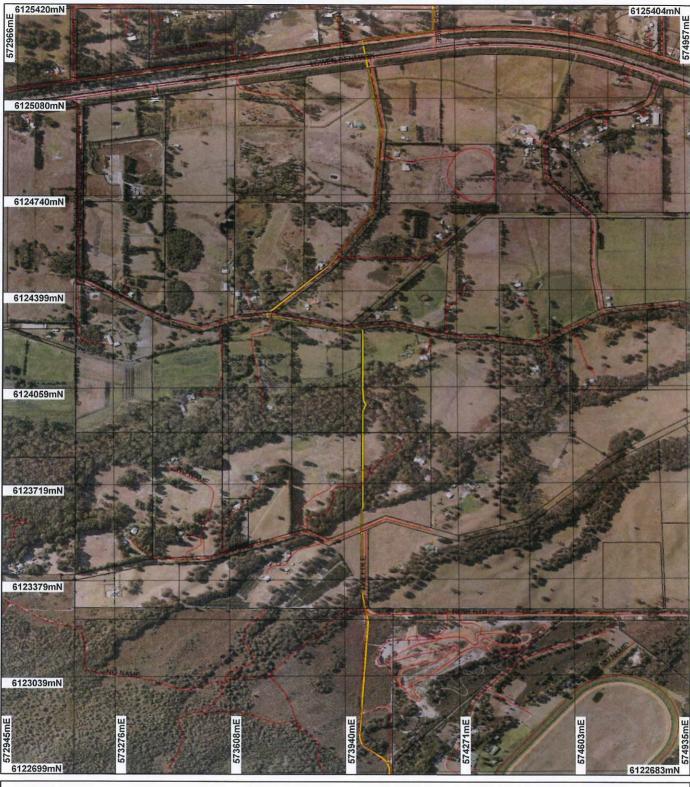


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# Plan 2773/4d





Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear

✓ Road Centrelines

☐ Cadastre

Albany Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - Landgate



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Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.



# Plan 2773/4e





Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clea Noad Centrelines

☐ Cadastre



Scale 1:11922

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric

K. Faulkner

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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## Plan 2773/4f





Clearing Instruments



Albany Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - Landgate



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Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Plan 2773/4g



# LEGEND | Road Centrelines | Lease / Reserve | L

# Plan 2773/4h



# LEGEND / Road Centrelines Cadastre for labelling | Freehold | Lease on State Forest / Timber Reserve | Crown Reserve | Materiorest / Timber Reserve | Mate



# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

## 1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

2773/4

Permit type:

Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

**Electricity Generation Corp TA Verve Energy** 

## 1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 501 ON PLAN 60582 ( SANDPATCH 6330)

LOT 500 ON PLAN 60582 (SANDPATCH 6330)

LOT 11 ON PLAN 3568 (House No. 413 ROBINSON ROBINSON 6330) LOT 20 ON PLAN 3568 (House No. 46 SAND PIT ROBINSON 6330)

ROAD RESERVE (ROBINSON 6330) ROAD RESERVE (GLEDHOW 6330)

LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 23900 (House No. 47790 SOUTH COAST MCKAIL 6330)

LOT 507 ON PLAN 256573 (House No. 204 LANCASTER MCKAIL 6330) LOT 123 ON DIAGRAM 11949 (House No. 36088 ALBANY MCKAIL 6330)

ROAD RESERVE (MCKAIL 6330)

LOT 1 ON DIAGRAM 23900 (House No. 47796 SOUTH COAST MCKAIL 6330)

LOT 7793 ON PLAN 240420 (ELLEKER 6330) LOT 7793 ON PLAN 240420 (ELLEKER 6330) LOT 503 ON PLAN 60582 (SANDPATCH 6330)

**Local Government Area:** 

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) 11.44 No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of: Building or Structure

Mechanical Removal

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:

Grant

Decision Date:

16 November 2011

## 2. Site Information

## 2.1. Existing environment and information

## 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

## Vegetation Description

Four Beard vegetation associations have been identified within the clearing footprint (3, 49, 423 and 978). These vegetation associations have been described by Shepherd (2009) as:

Association 3: Medium forest; Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) - Corymbia calophylla (Marri).

Association 49 - Shrublands; mixed heath Association 423 - Shrublands; Acacia scrubheath (unknown spp.)

Association 978 - Low forest; jarrah, Eucalyptus staeri & Allocasuarina fraseriana

## **Clearing Description**

The amended proposal is to clear 11.44 hectares of native vegetation, for the purpose of developing the Grasmere Wind Farm and for the construction of two Bibbulumun track campsites.

## **Vegetation Condition**

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)

## Comment

The vegetation condition was determined through aerial mapping and has been supported by a site visit (DEC, 2008), and a Flora and Vegetation Survey conducted by Ecologia in June 2008 and November 2008 (Ecologia, 2008).

As above

The vegetation occurring within the proposed campsite areas occur in an Excellent (Keighery 1994) condition and consist of Peppermint Low Forest, Coastal Health and Costal Limestone Heath (Sandiford 2011).

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)

A flora survey of the proposed campsite areas were conducted by Sandiford (2011) within September and October 2011. The condition of these two campsite areas were established through this survey.

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

## Comments

This amendment increases the amount of proposed clearing by 0.6 hectares, bringing the total amount of clearing up to 11.44 hectares. The addition clearing is required to construct two Bibblumun track campsites.

The vegetation occurring within the proposed campsite areas occur in an Excellent (Keighery 1994) condition and consist of Peppermint Low Forest, Coastal Health and Costal Limestone Heath (Sandiford 2011).

One priority flora species has been identified within the proposed clearing within Sandpatch reserve being Thomasia quercifolia (p2). Thomasia quercifolia was identified in other parts of the approved clearing area for CPS 2773/3. It is considered for the conditions already placed on Permit CPS 2773/3 sufficient to reduce any potential impact on priority flora species.

All vegetation units found within the additional proposed clearing area are well reserved within local conservation reserves and it is not considered for these areas to contain significant fauna habitat.

Therefore the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed and can be found in the Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 2773/2.

## Methodology

References

- -Keighery (1994)
- -Sandiford (2011)

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

### Comments

The amended proposal is to clear 11.44 hectares of native vegetation, for the purpose of developing the Grasmere Wind Farm and for the construction of two Bibbulmun track campsites on Sandpacth and Muttonbird Reserves.

Proposed clearing of 0.3 ha for the sandpatch campsite (Lot 503 on Plan 60582) occurs within a Priority 1 Public Drinking Water Source Area. Department of Water has advised that the recreation within a Priority 1 area is usually not supported due to the sensitive nature of the area and risk of drinking water contamination. However, impacts could be mitigated depending on the type of materials used and activities to occur. The applicant will be notified to contact Department of Water prior to any clearing.

The City of Albany has given planning consent for the two campsite huts on Sandpatch Reserve and Muttonbird Reserve. In November 2008 planning scheme consent (P275082) was granted to Verve Energy for the expansion of the Albany Wind Farm and a condition of this consent required the provision of two new accommodation huts along the Sandpatch section of the Bibbulmun track. Dieback protocols are required during construction (City of Albany 2011).

## Methodology

References

-City of Albany (2011)

## 4. References

City of Albany (2011) Permission to Construct Two Bibbulmun Track Huts on Sandpatch Reserve (R2903) and Muttonbird Reserve (R4732). DEC ref A446093

DEC (2008) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2773/1, Road Reserves within City of Albany, and Crown Reserve 13773. Site inspection undertaken 01/12/2008.

Ecologica (2008) Verve Energy, Grasmere Wind Farm Extension Area and Cable Route: Vegetation and Flora Survey, Version 2, June 2008, Trim Ref DOC57652

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Sandiford E.M, (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Proposed Clearing for the Bibbulmun Track and Hut Realignment, Grasmere Wind Farm and Addendum. Prepared for Verve Energy, Perth and Department of Environment and Conservation, Albany. DEC ref A446099

Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

## 5. Glossary

Term Meaning

**BCS** Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC

CALM Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)

**DAFWA** Department of Agriculture and Food

Department of Environment and Conservation DEC DEP Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)

DoE

Department of Environment
Department of Industry and Resources DoIR

Declared Rare Flora **DRF** 

**Environmental Protection Policy EPP** GIS Geographical Information System Hectare (10,000 square metres) ha TEC Threatened Ecological Community

Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC) WRC