



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

**Purpose permit number:** CPS 2929/4  
**Permit holder:** Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power  
**Duration of permit:** 5 March 2009 – 5 March 2014

The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

**1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purpose of constructing a power station.

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

LOT 302 ON PLAN 51197 (CROWN RESERVE 48764)

LOT 400 ON PLAN 61352

ROAD RESERVE (NULLAGINE 6758) PIN 11450437

ROAD RESERVE (NULLAGINE 6758) PIN 11743651

ROAD RESERVE (NULLAGINE 6758) PIN 11564531

**3. Area of Clearing**

The permit holder must not clear more than 5.09 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2929/4.

**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. 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

**6. 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.

## 7. 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 *Acacia aphanoclada* (P1).
- (b) Where *priority flora taxa* are identified in relation to condition 7(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

### 8. Records to 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 7 of this Permit:
  - (i) 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
  - (ii) the species of each *priority flora taxa* identified.

### 9. 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 8 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 5 December 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 9(a) of this Permit.

## DEFINITIONS

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

*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);



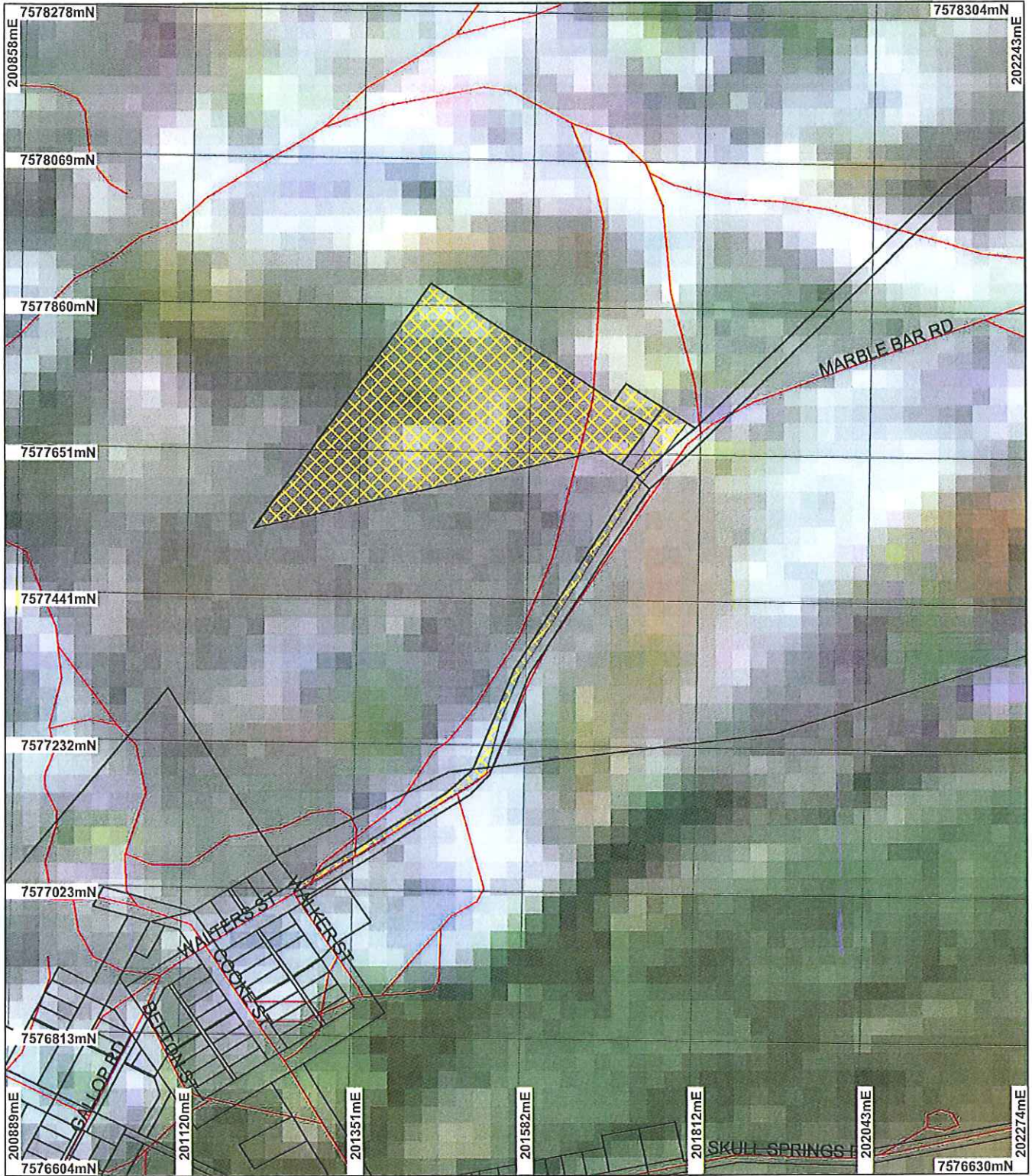
Keith Claymore  
A/ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

14 January 2010

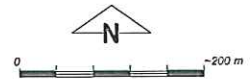
CPS 2929/4, 14 January 2010

# Plan 2929/4



## LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastral
- Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006



Scale 1:7665  
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)  
Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

*K. Claymore* Date *14/1/10*  
K Claymore

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 acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



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## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2929/4  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Regional Power Corporation t/a Horizon Power

### 1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE ( NULLAGINE 6758)  
LOT 400 ON PLAN 61352 (Lot No. 400 MARBLE BAR NULLAGINE 6758)  
LOT 302 ON PLAN 51197 ( NULLAGINE 6758)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5.09		Mechanical Removal	Construction of power station

## 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
The vegetation under application is mapped as being composed of Beard vegetation association 190: Hummock grasslands, sparse shrub steppe; <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> & <i>A. trachycarpa</i> over hard spinifex, <i>Triodia wiseana</i> , Very poor rocky country on gneiss (Shepherd et al. 2007).	The proposal is to clear 5.09 ha of native vegetation, in predominately very good to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition, for the purpose of constructing a power station (GHD, 2008). The amendment to increase the area by 1.09ha is required to allow for the installation of feeder cable, which will enable the connection of the new power station to the existing network within the Nullagine townsite.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined from the results of a flora and fauna survey conducted by GHD during November 2008 and September 2009 (GHD,2008; GHD, 2009).
	The condition of the additional vegetation under application (1.09ha) ranges from completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) to pristine (Keighery, 1994) (GHD, 2009).		
	The following vegetation types have been mapped within the application area and newly amended area and are listed in order of dominance:		
	1) Hummock grassland of mixed <i>Triodia</i> species with very scattered <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> , <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , <i>Acacia synchronicia</i> and mixed <i>Senna</i> .		

2) Sheetwash area with open hummock grassland of mixed *Triodia* species with very occasional *Acacia bivenosa*, *Melaleuca eleuterostachya*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *oligophylla*, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa*, *Stemodia grossa*, *Atriplex flabelliformis* and *Sclerolaena*.

3) Shallow drainage channel with a shrubland of *Acacia acradenia*, *Melaleuca eleuterostachya* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* with scattered *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over mixed *Triodia* species.

4) Narrow drainage line with scattered *Eucalyptus leucophloia*, over an open shrubland of mixed *Acacia* and *Senna*, *Melaleuca eleuterostachya* and *Grevillea wickhamii* over an understorey of mixed *Triodia* species and occasional *Ptilotus exaltatus* and *Maireana georgei*.

5) Minor gullies with open shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia aphanoclada*, *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *pruinosa* over mixed *Triodia* species.

6) Open hummock grassland of *Triodia angusta* with *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Aerva javanica* and *Atriplex codonocarpa* on previously cleared area adjacent to the road.

7) Open shrubland of *Acacia acradenia*, *Melaleuca eleuterostachya* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* with scattered *Eucalyptus leucophloia* over mixed *Triodia* species on drainage lines

8) Planted trees of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Eucalyptus leucophloia* and *Acacia coriacea* over *Cynodon dactylon* on road verge.

(GHD, 2008; GHD. 2009)

See above

See above

Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)

See above

See above

See above

Excellent: Vegetation

See above

See above	See above	structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	See above
See above	See above	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	See above
See above	See above	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	See above
See above	See above	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	See above

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The proposed clearing of 5.09 hectares of native vegetation is the result of an amendment to clearing permit 2929/3 which involves the clearing of native vegetation in order to construct a power station. The proposed amendment is to increase the size of the project area by 1.09ha to allow for the installation of feeder cable, which will enable the connection of the new power station to the existing network within the Nullagine town site. The clearing of 5.09 hectares of native vegetation is to occur within an envelope of 9.54 hectares.

The local area (10km radius) is highly vegetated (approximately 90% native vegetation retained) with most of the surrounding vegetation in similar or better condition to that under application (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009). This being considered, the nearby Nullagine conservation area (System 8) is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing and the vegetation under application is not considered to be of higher biodiversity than the broader surrounding landscape (GHD, 2008).

The Beard vegetation type present within the applied area (190) retains 100% of its pre-European extent (Shepherd et al. 2007), which is well above the EPA supported threshold level (30%) recommended in the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation (EPA, 2000).

A flora and fauna survey of the project site did not observe any significant fauna species or rare flora; however it did observe one priority flora species, namely *Acacia aphanoclada* within the survey area (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009). Flora conditions will be placed on the permit to mitigate the potential for clearing to impact on the aforementioned priority species.

The area under application is within the Nullagine River Catchment and within the applied area are a number of minor drainage lines. While watercourses do occur within the applied area, these systems only hold water in extreme flood events (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009); the clearing of vegetation near these watercourses is not likely to cause notable deterioration in the quality of surface and/or underground water within the local area.

Given the size of the project area (9.54ha) and the chiefly stony composition of the soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68), any erosion caused by clearing is only likely to be short term and manageable (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009).

It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will have any significant environmental impacts.

#### Methodology

References:  
- EPA (2000)  
- GHD (2008)  
- GHD (2009)  
- Northcote et al. (1960 - 1968)  
- Shepherd et al (2007)

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

#### Comments

DPI have given their approval for the applicant to access the land for the purpose of clearing native vegetation (DOC75626)

No licences are required for the construction of the power station due to the small size (1.1MW) of the proposed power station DOC75524.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06  
Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) 07/02/06

#### 4. Assessor's comments

##### Comment

The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 and has found:

- Principle (a), (f) & (g) may be at variance
  
- All other Principles are not likely to be at variance

#### 5. References

- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- GHD (2008) Horizon Power; Report for Proposed Marble Bar Power Station, Flora and Fauna Assessment, December 2008. TRIM Ref: DOC72563
- GHD (2009) Horizon Power, Report for Nullagine Power Station - Additional Clearing Areas, Flora and Fauna Assessment, November 2009. TRIM Ref: DOC108277
- 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. (2007). 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. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

#### 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 (now DEC)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)
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)