GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# CLEARING PERMIT

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

| | |
|---|---|
| **Purpose permit number:** | CPS 2930/4 |
| **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 501 ON PLAN 61357 (CROWN RESERVE 2906)
   LOT 500 ON PLAN 61357
   LOT 502 ON PLAN 61357
   ROAD RESERVE (MARBLE BAR 6760) PIN 11412375
   ROAD RESERVE (MARBLE BAR 6760) PIN 11412378

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The permit holder must not clear more than 5.95 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2930/4.

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.

**PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

7. **Records must be kept**
   The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
   (a) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
   (b) 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;
   (c) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

8. **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 7 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

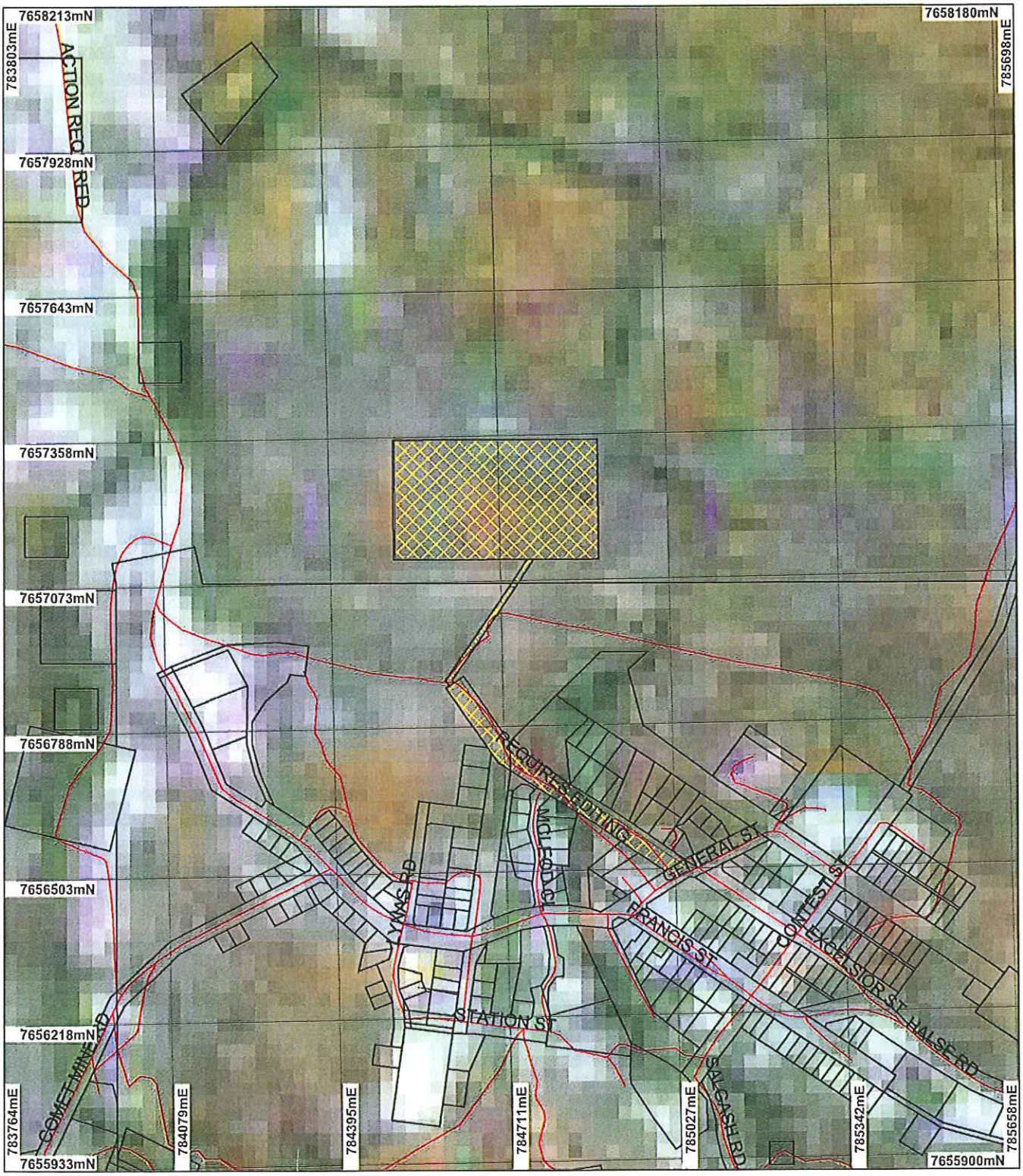
   (b) Prior to 5 December 2013, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 8(a) of this Permit.

Keith Claymore
A/ ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION

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

14 January 2010

# Plan 2930/4




## LEGEND

**Clearing Instruments**

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre

Western Australia Landsat Mosaic 25m - AGO 2006

N

0 ~300 m

Scale 1:10457
(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 acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.

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# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

**Permit application No.:** 2930/4
**Permit type:** Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

**Proponent's name:** **Regional Power Corporation**

### 1.3. Property details

**Property:** LOT 502 ON PLAN 61357 ( MARBLE BAR 6760)
LOT 500 ON PLAN 61357 ( MARBLE BAR 6760)
LOT 501 ON PLAN 61357 ( MARBLE BAR 6760)
ROAD RESERVE ( MARBLE BAR 6760)

**Local Government Area:**

**Colloquial name:**

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5.95 | | Mechanical Removal | Construction of a 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 consisting of Beard vegetation association 82 which is described as Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over Triodia wiseana (Shepherd, 2007). | The majority of the vegetation under application is considered to be in excellent to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition. Disturbance was limited to rubbish dumping and past grazing activities, however there are areas that area completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) such as access tracks (GHD, 2008).<br><br>There following vegetation types were identified within the application area and are listed in order of dominance:<br><br>1) Hummock grassland of Triodia epactia with occasional Corymbia hammersleyana, Acacia bivenosa, Acacia inaequilatera, Acacia orthocarpa, Acacia eriopoda, Acacia pyrifolia, Grevillea pyramidalis predominately on drainage lines with scattered Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa, Rhynchosia minima, Corchorus sp., Stemodia grossa and Goodenia scaevolina.<br><br>2) Hummock grassland of Triodia epactia with occasional Corymbia | Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994) | The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined via the results of a flora and fauna survey conducted by GHD during November 2008 and September 2009. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | hammersleyana, Acacia bivenosa, Acacia inaequilatera, Acacia pyrifolia and Grevillea pyramidalis with scattered Senna glutinosa and Stemodia grossa on low stony rises<br><br>3) Degraded areas with high proportion of disturbance response species. Triodia epactia, Senna notabilis, Salsola tragus, Ptilotus polystachyus, Ptilotus rotundifolius, Euphorbia australis, Corchorus sp., Solanum diversiflorum, Pluchea dunlopii, Cenchrus ciliaris,<br><br>4) Open woodland of Eucalyptus victrix and Acacia ampliceps over an open shrubland of Acacia trachycarpa and Melaleuca lasiandra over understorey of Cenchrus ciliaris, Cyperus vaginatus and Stemodia grossa on drainage line.<br><br>5) Degraded areas with high proportion of disturbance response species. Triodia epactia, Senna notabilis, Salsola tragus, Ptilotus polystachyus, Ptilotus rotundifolius, Euphorbia australis, Corchorus laniflorus, Solanum dioicum, Pluchea tetranthera, Cenchrus ciliaris, Aerva javanica and Tribulus terrestris.<br><br>(GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009) | | |
| See above | See above | Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (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 5.95 hectares of native vegetation is the result of an amendment to clearing permit 2930/3, which approved the clearing of 4 hectares. The purpose of the clearing is for the construction of a power station. The proposed amendment is to increase the size of the project area by 1.95ha 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 and the creation of an access road. The clearing of 5.95 hectares of native vegetation is to occur within an envelope of 10.8 hectares. The previous clearing envelope was 9 hectares.

The majority of the vegetation under application is considered to be in excellent to pristine (Keighery, 1994) condition. Disturbance was limited to rubbish dumping and past grazing activities, however there are areas that area completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) such as access tracks (GHD, 2008).

The local area (20km radius) is highly vegetated (approximately 85% native vegetation retained) with most of the surrounding vegetation in similar or better conditions as that under application and the vegetation type mapped as occurring within the applied area (Beard association 82) retains 100% of pre-European levels (Shepherd et al. 2007).

A flora and fauna survey of the project site did not observe any significant fauna species or suitable habitat and it did not observe any rare or priority flora species within the applied area (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009).

No permanent watercourses or wetland within the applied area. A number of small intermittent drainage lines dissected the site, flowing only after rainfall events and ultimately flowing into the Coogan River (GHD, 2008; GHD, 2009). There is also a minor non perennial watercourse located to the east of the applied area. It is not expected that the clearing of vegetation will cause any adverse downstream impacts; however, it is considered that vegetation growing in association with these drainage lines (riparian vegetation) is likely to be impacted by the clearing to some extent.

In view of the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

**Methodology**

### 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).

The application area is within a Priority 1 section of a Public Drinking Water Source Area which is yet to be assessed.

**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 (f) is at variance

- All other principles are not likely to be at variance

## 5. References

GHD (2008) Horizon Power; Report for Proposed Marble Bar Power Station, Flora and Fauna Assessment December 2008, TRIM Ref: DOC72572

GHD (2009) Horizon Power; Report for Proposed Marble Bar Power Station Access Road and Cable Corridor, Flora and Fauna Assessment November 2009, TRIM Ref: DOC108280

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

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) |