

## **CLEARING PERMIT**

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

## PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3537/1 File Number: DEC 14175

Duration of Permit: From 26 March 2010 to 26 March 2012

## PERMIT HOLDER

City of Armadale

## LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Ranford Road reserve (Harrisdale 6112)

## AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.023 hectares of native vegetation of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 3537/1.

#### **CONDITIONS**

# 1. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback:
  - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
  - (ii) shall only move soils in dry conditions;
  - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
  - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) 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.

#### **Definitions**

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

dieback means the effect of Phytophthora species on native vegetation;

dry conditions means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

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;

term means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed; and

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 Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.

Kelly Faulkner MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

25 February 2010

# Plan 3537/1







# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

## 1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

3537/1

Permit type:

Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

City of Armadale

1.3. Property details

Property:

0.023

ROAD RESERVE (HARRISDALE 6112)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

Ranford Road reserve - Between Hatch Court and Balannup Road

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

Mechanical Removal

For the purpose of:

Road construction or maintenance

#### 2. Site Information

#### 2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

#### **Vegetation Description**

Beard Vegetation Association 1001: Medium very sparse woodland; jarrah, with low woodland; banksia & casuarina.

(Shepherd, 2007; SAC Bio Datasets 15/2/2010)

Heddle Southern River Complex: Open woodland of E. calophylla -E. marginata - Banksia species with fringing woodland of E. rudis -M. rhaphiophylla along creek beds. (Heddle et al. 1980)

#### **Clearing Description**

The area under application occurs on the north-eastern side of the existing Ranford Road, and extends from the corner Hatch Court and down 230 metres along Ranford Road. The proposed clearing of 1 m wide and 230 m long is to install road shoulders.

The native vegetation is limited to Melaleuca rhaphiophylla with the understorey comprising weed species including lovegrass (DEC, 2010).

#### Vegetation Condition

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

#### Comment

The condition of the native vegetation under application was determined from the site inspection undertaken on 10 February 2010 (DEC, 2010).

# 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The area under application occurs on the north-eastern side of the existing Ranford Road, and extends from the corner Hatch Court, down 230 metres along Ranford Road. The proposed clearing of 1 m wide and 230 m long is to install road shoulders adjacent to the road surface.

The area under application is mapped within a resource enhancement wetland, known as Balannup Lake, which is located within the Gibbs Road Swamp System, an ANCA wetland of national importance (Australian Nature Conservation Agency, 1996). The southern area under application is located within Bush Forever Site 413 (Balannup Lake and adjacent bushland).

Given the proposed clearing includes vegetation within a Bush Forever site and within Balannup lake, the proposed clearing is considered may be at variance to Principles (f) and (h).

The native vegetation is limited to Melaleuca rhaphiophylla with the understorey comprising weed species including lovegrass, considered to be in good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2010). It is considered that this vegetation under application comprises limited habitat or biodiversity values and the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to any appreciable land degradation, or impact any environmental water values within the local or regional context.

Additionally, the area under application is mapped within the buffer of a priority ecological community (PEC), community type 21c: low lying Banksia attenuata woodlands or shrublands and rare flora species Caladenia huegelii and Diuris purdiel have been recorded nearby. The vegetation is not likely to support a PEC due to the different vegetation types or rare flora due to the vegetation under application being unsuitable habitat.

Given the relatively small scale of the proposed clearing and the location of the area under application immediately adjacent to the road surface, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

#### Methodology

References:

- Australian Nature Conservation Agency (1996)
- DEC (2010)

GIS databases:

- Clearing Regulations Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain
- Swan Coastal Plain Central 20 cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2009
- SAC Bio Datasets 15/02/2010

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

#### Comments

Department of Planning (DP, 2010) advised that the area under application is within Bush Forever area 413. The recommendations including removal of vegetation be restricted to that essential for the proposed works and an offset package based on a 2:1 ratio be prepared and implemented and no vegetation, earth spoil or other debris is disposed of within the boundary of the adjoining bush forever area, have been considered in the assessment of this proposal.

The Ranford Road upgrade project in Southern River/Forrestdale was to convert the current single carriageway to a dual carriageway. This upgrade was considered necessary due to increased traffic along this transport corridor, and received Commonwealth funding through the Auslink Regional Road to Recovery Programme (ATA Environmental 2007). The clearing for the carriageway occurred on the opposite side of the road to this current application under clearing applications CPS 1599/1, 1815/1, 2264/2 and 2450/1.

The area under application is located within Ranford Road reserve; and is zoned Other Regional Roads under the Metropolitan Regional Scheme.

#### Methodology

References:

- City of Armadale (2008)
- DP (2010)

GIS databases:

- Cadastre
- Metropolitan Regional Scheme

#### 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 the assessment recommendation is that the clearing as proposed may be at variance to Principle (f) and (h), and not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

# 5. References

- ANCA (1996) A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia. Second Edition. Australian Nature Conservation Agency, Canberra
- ATA Environmental (2007) Environmental Impact Assessment: Ranford Road Upgrade Stage 2B Southern River Road to Hatch Court. Version 3. July 2007. Report No. 2007/114. ATA Environmental, Western Australia.
- City of Armadale (2008) Clearing Application and Supporting Information for CPS 2450/1, Ranford Road project upgrade. TRIM Ref DOC 49688
- DEC (2010) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 3537/1 Ranford Road Reserve, City of Armadale Site inspection undertaken 10/2/2010. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref DOC 118944
- DP (2010) Direct interest submission, Department of Planning-Strategic Biodiversity Planning. Trim Ref DOC 119292
- Heddle, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- 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)