

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 3658/2

Permit Holder: Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power

Duration of Permit: 8 May 2010 to 8 May 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 cable installation and terminal construction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 3132 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 32082 (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 1135 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 49210 (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 3097 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 220234 (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 1653 ON PLAN 23563 (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 2827 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 190924 (CABLE BEACH ROAD, DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 2052 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 216507 (FREDERICK STREET, DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 3142 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 36907 (FREDERICK STREET, DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (FAIRWAY DRIVE (PIN 11479498), BILINGURR 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (JIGAL DRIVE (PIN 11402695), DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (GUBINGE ROAD (PIN 11500368), DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (PIN 11479497, DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (FREDERICK STREET (PIN 11478858), BROOME 6725)

3. Authorised activity

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 3.6 hectares of native vegetation within the combined area, of the areas shaded yellow on attached Plan 3658/2(a) and Plan 3658/2(b) and Plan 3658/2(c).

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 8 February 2014, 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.

Kelly Faulkner MANAGER

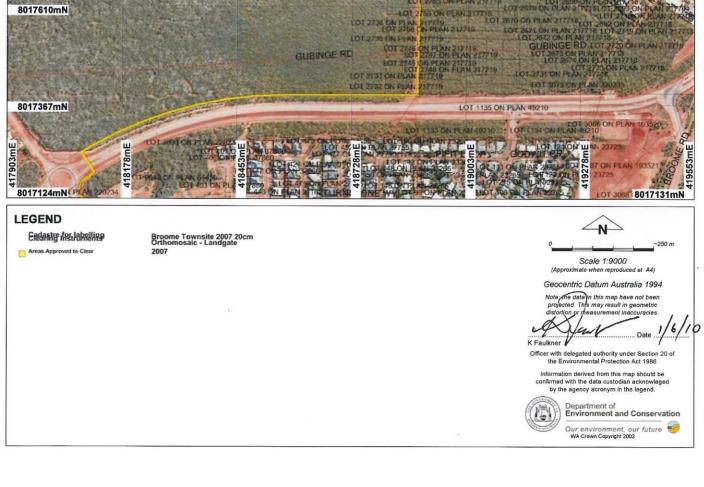
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

1 June 2010

Plan 3658/2(a)





Plan 3658/2(b)





Plan 3658/2(c)







Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3658/2

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

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

Property details

Property: LOT 3132 ON PLAN 32082 (DJUGUN 6725)

> **ROAD RESERVE (DJUGUN 6725) ROAD RESERVE (DJUGUN 6725) ROAD RESERVE (DJUGUN 6725)**

LOT 1135 ON PLAN 49210 (DJUGUN 6725) LOT 3097 ON PLAN 220234 (DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 1653 ON PLAN 23563 (DJUGUN 6725)

LOT 2827 ON PLAN 190924 (CABLE BEACH ROAD, DJUGUN 6725) LOT 2052 ON PLAN 216507 (FREDERICK STREET, DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (BROOME 6725)

LOT 3142 ON PLAN 36907 (FREDERICK STREET, DJUGUN 6725)

ROAD RESERVE (BILINGURR 6725)

Local Government Area: SHIRE OF BROOME

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) Method of Clearing For the purpose of: 36 Miscellaneous

Mechanical Removal

2. Site Information

Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard Vegetation Unit: 750: Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass & curly spinifex (Hopkins et al, 2001).

Clearing Description

The proposal is to clear up to 3.6 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of installing a cable from the existing electrical terminal through to a proposed development, and to install a new terminus within the proposed development area.

Vegetation Condition

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

Comment

The condition of the vegetation was determined through aerial imagery (Broome Willie Creek 2003).

Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application to amend clearing permit 3658/1 includes an increase in the proposed clearing area from 3ha to 3.6ha. The proposal to clear up to 3.6 hectares is for the purpose of installing a cable and construction of a terminus. The vegetation under application consists of open Acacia woodland in 'degraded' to 'completely degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition. The Acacia woodland vegetation type is well represented in the local area (10km radius).

There are several threatened and priority fauna species recorded within a 10km radius, however, the area under application is small (3.6 ha), over a long linear area and there is extensive surrounding vegetation (85% within the local area). Therefore, it is not likely to be significant habitat for native fauna or likely to be required as habitat for rare or priority flora.

There are two Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) located within the local area namely, Vine thickets and Roebuck Bay Mudflats both of which have buffers which extend into the application area. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on either TEC as the vegetation is in 'degraded' to 'completely degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition and the clearing proposed is over a long linear area.

Given the above, the proposal is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References:

- Keighery (1994)
- GIS Databases:
- DEC Managed Lands & Waters CALM 01/06/05
- Groundwater Salinity, statewide DoW 13/07/06
- Hydrogeographic Catchments, Catchments DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrogeology, Statewide DOW 13/07/06
- Hydrography, linear DOW 13/7/06
- Pre-European vegetation DA 01/01
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 2003) DEC 02/08/05
- SAC Biodatasets Accessed 29 March 2010

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

Comments

The applicant is undertaking the works in accordance with access rights granted to an Electricity Corporation under the Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979.

A clearing permit was granted for 3ha for the proposed installation of the cable route and terminal construction on the 8 April 2010. An application to amend the clearing permit was received by the Department of Environment and Conservation from the permit holder to increase the permitted clearing area by 0.6ha to accommodate the width of the excavator and to allow for spill from the trench and an intermittent area to hold backfill (Horizon Power, 2010). In addition, the proposed cable route along Gubinge Road has been moved from the southern side of the road to the northern side of the reserve and a duplicate route beneath the airstrip has also been included within the proposal.

A submission was received from the Shire of Broome for the original 3ha advising that given the clearing is consistent with Landcorps approved clearing methodology for the Broome North Subdivision (of which this proposal is within and will service) and that the proposed clearing conforms to current standards and regulations, the Shire does not have any issues with the proposed clearing (Shire of Broome, 2010).

The proposed clearing area lies within the Broome RiWI Act Ground Water Area managed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 administered by the Department of Water. Horizon Power has confirmed that they will not be intercepting the water table and therefore dewatering is not required for the proposed cable route and terminal.

A number of Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been recorded across the applied clearing area including one permanent listed site ('Bilingurru'). The applicant has been advised to contact the Department of Indigenous Affairs for advice prior to undertaking works.

No submissions from the public have been received.

No EP Act licences or approvals are required.

Methodology

References:

- Horizon Power (2010)
- Shire of Broome (2010)

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance DIA
- RiWI Act, Groundwater Areas DoW

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s510 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposal is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

5. References

Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1.

CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.

Horizon Power (2010) Email Correspondence: Application to Amend Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit) - Proposed amendment

Horizon Power (2010) Email Correspondence: Application to Amend Clearing Permit (Purpose Permit) - Proposed amendment to permitted clearing area. Horizon Power, Bentley, Western Australia. DEC ref A301881.

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

Shire of Broome (2010) Direct Interest Submission: Application to Clear Native Vegetation (CPS 3658/1) Cable Route from Frederick Street Substation to Proposed Bilingurr Substation, Broome and Djugun. Shire of Broome, Broome, Western Australia. DEC ref A296818.

6. Glossary

Term Meaning

CALM Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

Department of Agriculture (now DAFWA) DA DAFWA

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

DIA Department of Indigenous Affairs DoE Department of Environment (now DEC)

Department of Water DoW

DMP Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)

DRF

Declared Rare Flora Environmental Protection Policy **EPP** Geographical Information System GIS Hectare (10,000 square metres) ha Threatened Ecological Community
Water and Rivers Commission (now DoW) TEC

WRC