

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:

CPS 3718/1

Permit Holder:

Visionstream Pty Ltd

Duration of Permit:

10 July 2010 - 10 July 2015

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 maintenance.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Great Southern Highway Road Reserve (BALLADONG, 6302), PIN 11596320 Great Southern Highway Road Reserve (BALLADONG, 6302), PIN 1253583

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.094 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3718/1.

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.

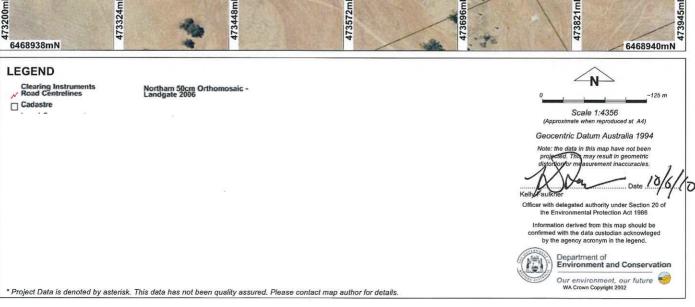
Kelly Faulkner MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Plan 3718/1







Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

3718/1

Permit type:

Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

Visionstream Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property:

ROAD RESERVE (BALLADONG 6302)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

Shire of York

Great Southern Highway road reserve

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

Vegetation Condition

Degraded: Structure

regeneration to good

severely disturbed;

condition requires intensive management

(Keighery 1994)

0.094

Mechanical Removal

Miscellaneous

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Beard vegetation - 352 - medium woodland of York gum.

Mattiske Vegetation
Complex Coolakin Woodland of Eucalyptus
wandoo with mixtures of
Eucalyptus patens,
Eucalyptus marginata
subsp. thalassica and
Corymbia calophylla on the
valley slopes in arid and
perarid zones.

Clearing Description

The proposal is to clear 0.094 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of Telstra cable maintenance.

The vegetation under application comprises a woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo, Corymbia calophylla, Eucalyptus loxophleba, and Allocasuarina sp. over Acacia sp., Callistemon phoeniceus, Calothamnus sp., Hakea sp., and weed species (exotic grasses, lupin, African lovegrass, and perennial veldt grass).

Vegetation adjacent to the creekline consists of Melaleuca viminea, the introduced sharp rush (Juncus acutus) and exotic grasses.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comment

The vegetation condition description was obtained during a visit to the proposed area on 28 May 2010.

Comments

The vegetation under application consists of an open woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo over Acacia sp., Callistemon phoeniceus, Calothamnus sp., and Hakea sp. over weed species and is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Given the small area under application and the low species diversity of the vegetation under application, it is not considered likely to be representative of an area of high biological diversity.

Soils within the area under application comprise sandy, acidic, yellow mottled soils with ironstone gravels (Northcote et al., 1960-1968). The main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil type is considered to be wind erosion, water erosion and increasing salinity levels. However, as the area under application is surrounded by Wandoo woodland which will reduce the effects of wind velocity, water erosion and rising salinity, the clearing of 0.094 ha of vegetation which is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard association 352 and Mattiske vegetation complex Coolakin. Only 5.41% of vegetation association 352 remains in the Avon Wheatbelt (Shepherd 2007), whilst 41.95% of vegetation complex Coolakin remains within the State (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

The vegetation under application is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Given the size (0.094 ha) and condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on biodiversity values, river or wetland values, water quality or cause appreciable land degradation.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

Methodology

References

- Keighery (1994)
- Mattiske and Havel (1998)
- Northcote et al (1960-68)
- Shepherd (2007)

GIS Datasets

- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Mattiske vegetation complexes (1998)
- SAC Bio Datasets (17/05/10)

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

Comments

The area under application is part of the RIWI Act area Avon River Catchment.

Methodology

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 proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, ACT.
- 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands. Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment 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.

6. Glossary

Term Meaning

CALM Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

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)

DoW Department of Water

DMP Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)

DRF Declared Rare Flora

EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
Santa care	
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DEC)