



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 3910/1
Permit Holder: Regional Power Corporation t/a Horizon Power
Duration of Permit: 29 October 2010 – 29 October 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 installing temporary diesel generators.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
Lot 83 on Plan 184612 (ONSLOW 6710)
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.31 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 3910/1.
- 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. Type of clearing authorised**
This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those activities under the *Energy (Powers) Operators Act 1979* or any other written law.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Faulkner", written over a horizontal line.

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

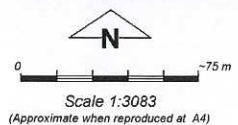
29 September 2010

Map 3910/1



LEGEND

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Clearing Instruments | <input type="checkbox"/> Cadastre | Shark Bay 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2002 |
| Areas Applied to Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001 | |
| Areas Subject to Conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001_1 | |
| Areas Approved to Clear | | |
| Road Centrelines | | |



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

K. Faulkner Date *29/9/10*
 K. Faulkner

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1985

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3910/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 83 ON PLAN 184612 (ONSLOW 6710)
Local Government Area:
Colloquial name: Shire of Ashburton

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.31		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

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
Beard vegetation association 117 is described as hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd, 2009)	The proposal is to clear 0.31 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of installing temporary diesel units. Two vegetation associations were identified within the area under application which reflect the disturbed and the undisturbed nature of the dune on which it is located (Astron Environmental Services, 2009). The disturbed area is characterised by open shrubs over weeds (<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>) whilst the native <i>Triodia epactia</i> hummock grass dominates the undisturbed area (Astron Environmental Services, 2009).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the area under application was determined via digital imagery (Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001) and through information provided by the applicant (Astron Environmental Services, 2009).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is to clear 0.31 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 83 on Plan 184612, Onslow, for the purpose of installing temporary diesel units.

Three flora species of conservation significance were recorded within the local area (20km radius); *Vigna* sp. Central (P3), *Eremophila forrestii* (P3) and *Triumfetta echinata* (P3). Four occurrences of *Vigna* sp. Central were recorded on the same vegetation and soil type, 9.5km west of the application area. A vegetation and flora survey has been conducted over the project area (Astron Environmental Services, 2009) and no priority or rare flora were observed.

Fauna of conservation significance recorded within a 20km radius of the application area was the Star Finch (*Neochmia ruficauda subclarescens*) and Night Parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*). Both were recorded on the coast approximately 3km away. Although the area under application maybe suitable for the Star Finch and Night Parrot it is unlikely that this disturbed area adjacent to a power station will be utilized by these species.

The area under application falls within Beard vegetation association 117. Within the Carnarvon bioregion Beard vegetation association 117 has approximately 59.44% of it pre-European extent remaining. These figures suggest that the area under application is not located within an extensively cleared area.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any biodiversity, land degradation, or environmental water values within the local or regional context.

Given the relatively small scale of the proposed clearing and consequently, limited habitat and biodiversity values of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology References:
Astrom Environmental Services (2009)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
- Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 18 August 2010

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

Comments

The property under application is a reserve for the purpose of a golf course. Regional Power Corporation trading as Horizon Power holds a Licence (00636/2009_01_57) over a portion of this property. The Licence was issued under Section 91 of the Land Administration Act 19997.

The gas pipeline that currently supplies the existing power station with gas is being sold and Horizon Power is concerned that the new owners will not continue to supply the power station with gas. In this situation the town of Onslow would be without power. Horizon Power has developed a contingency plan to deal with this situation should it arise. Horizon Power is proposing to clear the 0.31 hectares of land which will be compressed in readiness for a concrete pad to which 3 x 1 MW diesel engines will be bolted until a secure gas supply is sourced.

The area under application is within an area (Pilbara River and Tributaries) covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (2010) have advised that they have no objections to the clearing but have stated that a licence will be required if the applicant intends to abstract groundwater.

Native Title has been determined over this area. A direct interest letter has been sent to the Thalanyji people.

The applicant has advised that development approval is not required for this project (DEC Ref: A335268).

Methodology References:
DoW (2010)

GIS Database:
- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06

4. References

- Astrom Environmental Services (2009) Horizon Power Station Onslow, Vegetation and Flora Survey, October 2009 (DEC Ref: A328316).
- DoW (2010) Advice for clearing permit application CPS 3910/1. Department of Water, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A335740).
- 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. (2009) 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.

5. 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
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
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)