GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 3942/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	14 November 2010 – 14 November 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 installation and transformer site.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Road Reserve (CONDINGUP 6450) PIN 11427901
   Lot 168 on Plan 219804 (CONDINGUP 6450

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.11 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 3942/1.

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 Operators (Powers) Act 1979* or any other written law.

6. **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

7. **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.

8. **Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation**
   The Permit Holder shall:

   (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil within in an area that has already been cleared.

(b) within 1 month following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
   (i) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 8(a) on the cleared area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared; and
   (ii) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land.

(c) within 24 months of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with condition 8(b) of this Permit:
   (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
   (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 8(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
   (i) the species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
   (ii) 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;
   (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

(b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 8 of this Permit:
   (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;
   (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
   (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares); and
   (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*.

10. Reporting

(a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
   (i) of records required under condition 9 of this Permit; and
   (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

(b) Prior to 14 August 2015, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 9 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 10(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

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

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the Permit Holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 20 kilometres of the area cleared.

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;

planting means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species;

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

Matthew Warnock
ACTING MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

14 October 2010

Plan 3942/1

LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre

Howick 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007

N

0 ~62 m

Scale 1:2400
(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.

M Warnock Date 14/10/10

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.

Department of Environment and Conservation

Our environment, our future

Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3942/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

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

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (CONDINGUP 6450)
LOT 168 ON PLAN 219804 (CONDINGUP 6450)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.11		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable pipeline installation

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 being composed of Beard 47 : Shrublands; tallerack mallee-heath (Shepherd, 2009).	The condition of the vegetation appears to range from completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) in the southern most section, good (Keighery, 1994) within the central section of the applied area and degraded (Keighery, 1994) at the northern end. The applied area is adjacent to existing cleared areas such as a sporting oval, tracks and roads and residential housing. It is likely that weed invasion has occurred throughout the application area.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition and description of the vegetation under application was determined via the use of aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposed clearing of 0.11ha of native vegetation is for the purpose of installing a high voltage cable and a transformer site. The majority of the clearing (98% or 0.10774ha) is located within a road reserve and will be the location of the cable installation. The small amount of clearing within Lot 168 (Crown Reserve), will be the site where the transformer is to be located. The condition of the vegetation appears to range from completely degraded to degraded (Keighery, 1994) in the southern most section, good (Keighery, 1994) within the central section of the applied area and degraded (Keighery, 1994) at the northern end.

The applied area is adjacent to existing cleared areas such as a sporting oval, tracks and roads and residential housing. It is likely that weed invasion has occurred throughout the application area.

There are several priority flora species that have been mapped within close proximity of the applied area. Acacia euthyphylla (P3) was recorded 570 metres north west, Leucopogon florulentus (P3) 550 metres north west and Daviesia pauciflora (P2) was recorded 1.6km east. All of the abovementioned flora species were mapped as occurring within the same soil and vegetation type as the applied area. However given the mostly

completely degraded to degraded condition of the applied area, these species are not likely to be present within the applied area.

Within the local area, the only fauna species recorded was the Carnaby's black cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus latirostris). This species was recorded at 2 locations within 5km; the closest record was 3.2km south of the applied area.

The local area (10km radius) is approximately 10% vegetated and the Beard vegetation association mapped within the applied area has 12.9% of remaining pre-European levels of vegetation with the Shire (Shepherd, 2009), therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (e). Revegetation conditions will reduce the impacts of clearing and will be imposed.

However, it is considered unlikely that the 0.11 hectares of vegetation predominately located within a road reserve and adjacent to existing disturbances is significant habitat for fauna or flora of conservation significance or is an area of remnant vegetation in a highly cleared landscape. Impacts from the proposed clearing are expected to be minimal.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
Shepherd (2009)
GIS database:
- Howick 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
- DEC Tenure
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed Sept 2010)
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Pre European Vegetation (DA 2001)
- Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas (2009)
- Current Extent of Native Vegetation (NLWRA 2001)
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

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

Comments

The application area falls within the agricultural area covered by the Environmental Protection Authority Position Statement No.2.

The proposed clearing is located within the Condingup Water Reserve. The Department of Water (DoW) have advised that as the area of clearing is small and the majority of the clearing site will be allowed to regenerate, it is considered that the clearing will not have a significant impact upon the water resource (DoW, 2010).

DoW has advised that the proponent should conduct clearing and subsequent construction works in accordance with the DoW publication: Water Quality Protection note No. 83 Infrastructure corridors near sensitive water resources (DoW, 2010).

Methodology DoW (2010)

4. References

DoW (2010) Department of Water, South Coast Region Advice. DEC Ref: A336310.

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)