

## **CLEARING PERMIT**

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

## PERMIT DETAILS

Purpose Permit Number: 4061/1

File Number:

2010/009325-1

Duration of Permit:

2 January 2011 to 2 January 2013

## PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Capel

## LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Jamieson Road reserve Barlee Road reserve

# PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CLEARING MAY BE DONE

Clearing for the purpose of constructing a footbridge and boardwalk over the Capel River

# **CONDITIONS**

1. The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.226 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 4061/1.

Kelly Faulkner

**MANAGER** 

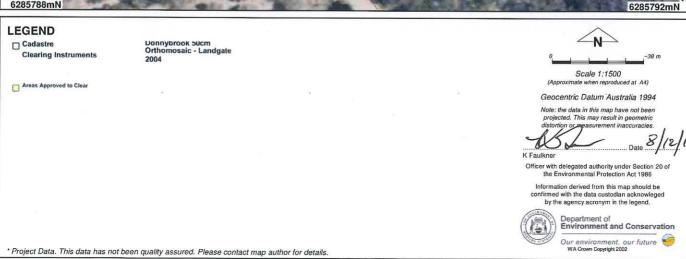
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

8 December 2010

# Plan 4061/1









# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

# 1. Application details

#### Permit application details

Permit application No.:

Permit type: Purpose Permit

**Proponent details** 

Proponent's name:

**Shire of Capel** 

1.3. **Property details** 

Property:

ROAD RESERVE ( CAPEL 6271)

**Local Government Area:** 

Shire of Capel

Colloquial name:

Jamieson Road and Barlee Road reserves

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

0.226

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

Cutting

**Building or Structure** 

1.5. **Decision on application** 

**Decision on Permit Application:** 

Grant

**Decision Date:** 

8 December 2010

### 2. Site Information

# **Existing environment and information**

## 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

#### **Vegetation Description**

The area under application is mapped as the following vegetation types.

- J.S. Beard (1980) vegetation association 1000 (Bassendean), described as a mosaic of medium forest comprising Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri), low woodland comprising Banksia species, and low forest comprising Melaleuca species (Teatree).

- E.M. Heddle et al (1980) vegetation complex 42 (Southern River Complex), described as open woodland of Corymbia calophylla (Marri) - Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) -Banksia species with fringing woodland of Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum) - Melaleuca rhaphiophylla (Swamp Paperbark) along creek

**Clearing Description** 

A site inspection of the area under application undertaken by DEC staff on 26 November 2010 (DEC 2010) advises that the native vegetation present consists predominantly of Corymbia calophylla (Marri), Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum) over Agonis flexuosa (Peppermint) over patchy understorey consisting predominantly of Pteridium esculentum (Bracken) and clumps of Lepidosperma effusum amongst introduced species including exotic Acacia species, Kikuyu, Blackberry, Blue Periwinkle, Arum Lily, Prairie Grass, Bridle Creeper and Nasturtium. The native vegetation is considered to be in 'degraded' condition

## **Vegetation Condition**

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

#### Comment

The condition of the vegetation was assessed through aerial photography and a site inspection (DEC 2010).

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(Keighery 1994).

#### Comments

This application is for the proposed clearing of approximately 0.226 hectares within the Jamieson Road and Barlee Road reserves for the purpose of constructing a footbridge and boardwalk over the Capel River. Specifically, the proposed clearing impacts 18 mature trees of which the stumps will remain in situ, approximately 8 square metres of understorey for the construction of footbridge and boardwalk footings, and potential damage to associated understorey.

The area under application is mapped as a mosaic of medium forest or open woodland comprising Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah), Corymbia calophylla (Marri), Banksia species, Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum) and Melaleuca species. The native vegetation under application is considered to be in 'degraded' (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2010).

Aerial photography indicates that the area under application traverses a corridor of native vegetation associated with the Capel River, which comprises the Capel River Ecological Linkage (EPA 2003). However the small size of the proposed clearing across the linkage is not expected to have a detrimental impact on the integrity of the Capel River Ecological Linkage (DEC 2010).

The area under application supports populations of Western Ring-tailed Possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis, threatened), as well as providing a food source for species of Black-Cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus spp., threatened) and suitable habitat for Brush-tailed Phascogale (Phascogale tapoatafa, threatened). However the proposed clearing is not expected to jeopardise the persistence of these species in the area (DEC 2010).

Drakaea elastica (Glossy-leaved Hammer Orchid) has been recorded within 1.3 kilometres of the area under application. This species is described as a tuberous perennial herb between 0.12 and 0.3 metres tall, with red, green and yellow flowers between October and November, growing in white or grey sand associated with low-lying situations adjoining winter-wet swamps (WA Herbarium, 2010). It is unlikely that Drakaea elastica occurs within the area under application.

The area under application is located within the riparian zone of the Capel River, and is mapped as a 'multiple use' wetland. The proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f), however given the small size of the area under application the impacts are likely to be minimal.

It is unlikely that the proposed clearing of 0.226 hectares (including 18 mature trees of which the stumps will remain in-situ) would cause appreciable land degradation, or would cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, or would cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

It is considered that the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

#### Methodology

#### References

- DEC 2010
- EPA 2003
- Keighery 1994
- WA Herbarium, DEC. Text used with permission (http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/help/copyright) (accessed 09/11/10)

#### **GIS** datasets

- Gingin 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
- Heddle Vegetation
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain
- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) DoW 2006
- Hydrographic Catchments Subcatchments
- Soils, Statewide
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters
- SAC biodatasets (accessed 02/12/10)

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

#### Comments

No submissions were received in relation to this proposal.

The area under application is within an Aboriginal Site of Significance. The applicant should ensure compliance with any obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The area under application is located within the Capel River Catchment, within the riparian zone of the Capel River, and is mapped as a 'multiple use' wetland. The applicant should ensure compliance with any Department of Water requirements for a permit to disturb bed and banks.

#### Methodology

GIS databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Hydrographic Catchments Subcatchments
- Hydrography, linear (medium scale, 250k GA)

#### 4. References

DEC (2010) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4061/1, Jamieson and Barlee Road reserves, Capel.

Site inspection undertaken 26 November 2010. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC ref. A352922).

DEC / DAFWA (2009) CAR Reserve Analysis spreadsheet. 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.

EPA (2003) Greater Bunbury Region Scheme - Western Australian Planning Commission - Report and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Authority. Bulletin 1108. 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.

## 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)