



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4531/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Merredin
Duration of Permit:	3 October 2011 – 3 October 2016

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 road realignment.
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
ROAD RESERVE (MERREDIN 6415)
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.52 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4531/1.
- 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 *Local Government Act 1995* 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. Watercourse**
 - (a) Where practicable the Permit Holder shall avoid clearing riparian vegetation.
 - (b) Where a watercourse or wetland is to be impacted by clearing, the Permit Holder shall maintain the existing surface flow by use of culverts.

9. Weed control

When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

DEFINITIONS

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

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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;

riparian vegetation has the meaning given to it in Regulation 3 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004;

watercourse has the meaning given to it in section 3 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*;

wetland/s means an area of seasonally, intermittently or permanently waterlogged or inundated land, whether natural or otherwise, and includes a lake, swamp, marsh, spring, dampland, tidal flat or estuary.

weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*.



Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

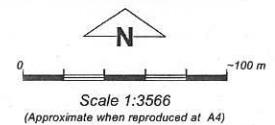
8 September 2011

Plan 4531/1



LEGEND

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Clearing Instruments | | <input type="checkbox"/> Cadastre for labelling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Applied to Clear | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Subject to Conditions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merredin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas Approved to Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Road Centrelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Authorities |



Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

[Signature] Date *2/10/11*

K Faulkner
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 acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4531/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Merredin

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (MERREDIN 6415)
Local Government Area: Shire of Merredin
Colloquial name: Chandler - Merredin Road reserve

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.52		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 8 September 2011

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: Beard vegetation association: 36 Muntadgin: shrublands; thickets, acacia casuarina alliance. (Hopkins et al 2001; Shepherd 2009)	The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.52 ha within Chandler Merredin Road reserve, Merredin for the purpose of road realignment. The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of Eucalyptus loxophleba and Acacia acuminata trees. The vegetation has been assessed as degraded (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC, 2011).	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition and description was determined from DEC site visit (DEC, 2011).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application to clear is for 0.52 hectares of native vegetation along Chandler Merredin Road reserve, Merredin for the purpose of road realignment.

The application area consists of medium sized Eucalyptus loxophleba and Acacia acuminata trees and shrubs over grass and bare ground. The application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC 2011a).

No declared rare flora species or threatened ecological communities are known to occur in the application area or in the vicinity (20km radius).

Merredin Nature Reserve is located within the vicinity of the application area. Fauna and their habitat are not likely to be impacted by the proposed clearing as fauna would utilise the nature reserves for habitat and feeding purposes.

The vegetation to be cleared is considered to be well represented relative to Wheatbelt standards (DEC 2011a). The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001). The vegetation complex (36) has 22.3% remaining in the Avon Bioregion, calculations indicate that it will remain as 22.3% post

clearing. As the area of the proposed clearing is small (0.52ha), it is not likely to impact on the remaining pre-European extent of the vegetation complex.

The proposed clearing for road realignment is within a granite outcrop wetland and adjacent to a minor watercourse. The clearing may cause short term water quality issues in terms of localised surface water sedimentation and the removal of trees may exasperate flooding in this area and upstream. DEC (2011a) recommended that the applicant investigate the feasibility of upgrading the existing road culvert to reduce the damming of the wetland upstream of the culvert near the entrance of the quarry.

The assessment of the application identified that the clearing may be at variance with principles (f), (i) and (j) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology References
DEC (2011)
Keighery (1994)

GIS databases:
- DEC Tenure
- Groundwater Salinity, statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Pre-European vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (Accessed 9 August 2011)
- Geomorphic Wetlands Wheatbelt

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

Comments

According to the Town Planning Scheme mapping the application area is within a road reserve zoning and is surrounded by general farming zoning

No submissions from the public have been received.

This area of the road has not been surveyed by the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC). The RCC has surveyed the northern portion of the road (1.5km north) and have indicated that this portion is of high conservation value (DEC 2011b).

The application area is within Environmental Protection Authority Position Statement No. 2 defined area (EPA 2000). EPA Position Statement No. 2 states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred on agricultural land, leading to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation, and therefore any further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture cannot be supported. The EPA (2000) recommends that all existing native vegetation be protected from passive clearing.

Methodology References:
DEC 2011a
DEC 2011b
EPA 2000

GIS databases:
Town Planning Scheme
EPA Position Statement No. 2 dataset

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, ACT.
- DEC (2011a) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4531/1, Chandler ? Merredin Road reserve, shire of Merredin. Site inspection undertaken 19 August 2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- DEC (2011b) Roadside Conservation Committee advice for CPS 4531/1, Chandler ? Merredin Road reserve, 26 August 2011. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.
- 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.
- 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.