



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4587/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	14 November 2011 – 14 November 2019

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 underground power lines and associated infrastructure upgrades inclusive of the following activities:

- (a) decommissioning of existing infrastructure
- (b) upgrading of existing infrastructure
- (c) new infrastructure installation

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Township of Onslow

3. Area of Clearing

- (a) Clearing of up to 18 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on Plan 4587/1 between 14 November 2011 and 13 November 2012
- (b) Clearing of up to 2 hectares of native vegetation per year within the area cross hatched yellow on Plan 4587/1 between 14 November 2012 and 14 November 2016.

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. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 14 November 2016

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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.

9. Weed control

(a) 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*:

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

(b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

10. 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.

(b) within 12 months 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) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
- (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction, were required; and
- (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 10(a).

(c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 10(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 10(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.

(d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 10(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 10(c)(i) and 10(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.

(e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 10(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 10(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 10(c)(ii).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. Records to 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (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 10 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 or decimal degrees;
 - (ii) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
 - (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
 - (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
 - (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

12. 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 11 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 2019, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 11 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 12(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;

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

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 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.

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*.

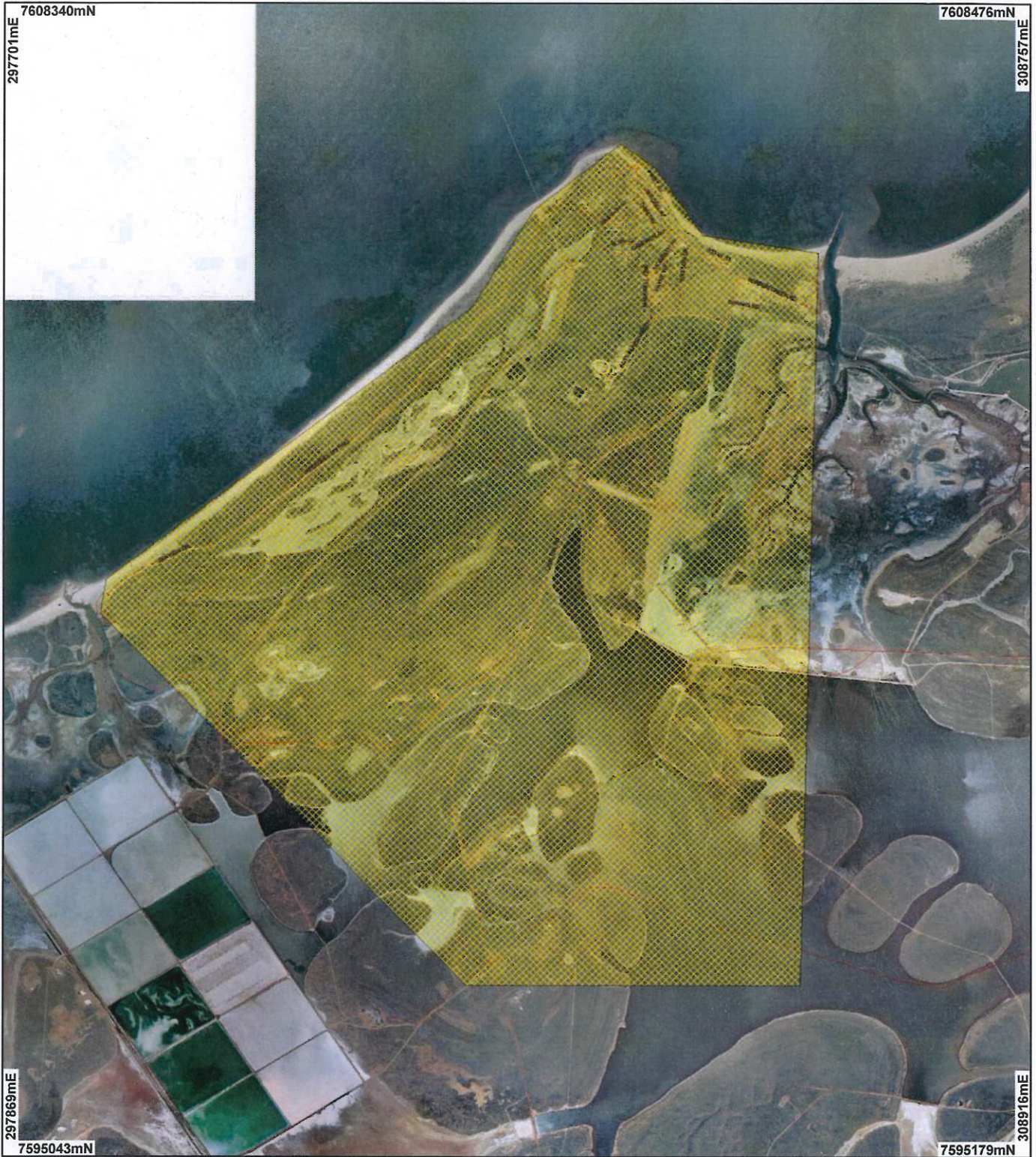


Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

20 October 2011

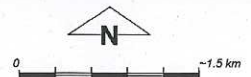
Plan 4587/1



LEGEND

-  Road Centrelines
-  Areas Applied to Clear
-  Areas Subject to Conditions
-  Areas Approved to Clear

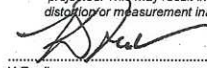
Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic -
Landgate 2001



Scale 1:61108
(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.

 Date 26/06/14

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.



Department of
Environment and Conservation

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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4587/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Regional Power Corporation TA Horizon Power

1.3. Property details

Property: Numerous properties and road reserves within the Town of Onslow
Local Government Area: Shire of Ashburton
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 20 October 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
Three Beard vegetation types are mapped within the applied area:	This application proposes to clear 26 ha of native vegetation (18 ha within the first year and 2 ha per subsequent year) for the purpose of installing underground power	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Condition of Vegetation assessed using aerial imagery (Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001).
Mapped Beard vegetation association 117 s described as Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 676 is described as Succulent steppe; samphire			
Mapped Beard vegetation association 127 is described as Bare areas; mud flats			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

This application proposes to clear 18 ha within the first year and then 2 ha of native vegetation per subsequent year (a total of 26 ha) for the purpose of installing underground power lines. The clearing is to occur on various properties and road reserves within the township of Onslow.

The only fauna species of conservation significance recorded within the Town of Onslow was *Pezoporus occidentalis* (Night Parrot) (DEC, 2007-). Given the long, linear extent of the proposed clearing it is not likely to contain significant habitat for fauna native to Western Australia.

There are no known records of priority flora within the Town of Onslow, the closest known record being *Vigna Sp Central* which is located approximately 5 km west of the application area. The clearing proposed is along existing road verges where the vegetation is likely to be in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition. Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact upon this flora species.

No conservation significant wetlands are mapped within the application area; however the application area is adjacent to the coast and multiple minor watercourses and a non-perennial lake are mapped within the proposed clearing area. Given the long, linear extent of the proposed clearing it is not likely to have a significant impact upon native vegetation associated with the coast or watercourses.

The assessment determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any biodiversity,

habitat or environmental values or cause any appreciable land degradation within the local or regional context. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

- Methodology** References:
- DEC (2007 -)
- GIS databases:
- Onslow 1.4m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2001
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 6 October 11
 - Hydrography, linear

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

Comments

The proposal is for the purpose of installing underground power lines to provide a more efficient and reliable supply to the Town of Onslow.

Application area falls within the Pilbara Groundwater area covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

Application area falls within the Pilbara Surface Water area covered by the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

There are multiple zonings under the local Town Planning Scheme.

There are numerous aboriginal sites of significance within the application area. The applicant will be advised to liaise with the Department of Indigenous Affairs in regards to their obligation under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

- Methodology** GIS Databases:
- Cadastre
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones
 - RIWI Act, Groundwater areas
 - RIWI Act, Surface water areas, Irrigation districts

4. References

- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed 6 October 2011
- 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)