



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5070/1
File Number: 2012/003613-1
Duration of Permit: From 27 July 2012 to 27 July 2019

PERMIT HOLDER

Geographe Catchment Council on behalf of the City of Busselton

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 5068 on Plan 20855, Busselton
Lot 4767 on Plan 13808, Busselton
Lot 5408 on Plan 23808, West Busselton

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.2 hectares of native vegetation within the areas hatched yellow on attached Plan 5070/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Period in which clearing is authorised

The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 27 July 2014.

2. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the areas shall be inspected by a *possum spotter* who shall identify habitat suitable to be utilised by Western Ringtail Possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*);
- (b) Prior to clearing, any habitat identified by condition 2(a) shall be inspected by a *possum spotter* for the presence of Western Ringtail Possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*);
- (c) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *possum spotter* to remove and relocate fauna identified under condition 2(b).

3. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

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

4. 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 in an area that has already been cleared.
- (b) within 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5070/1 by:

- (i) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
 - (ii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 4(a) on the cleared area(s);
 - (iii) 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
 - (iv) ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used to *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area.
- (c) within 24 months of undertaking *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* in accordance with condition 4(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 4(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, the Permit Holder must undertake additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation in accordance with the requirements of condition 4(b)(v) and (vi) of this Permit.

5. 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 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 fauna management pursuant to condition 2 of this Permit:
 - (i) the location of each *habitat tree* identified 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) the location of identified Western Ringtail Possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*); 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; and
 - (iii) a copy of the *possum spotter's* report.
- (c) In relation to *the revegetation and rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 4 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.

6. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 1 June of each year, a written report:
 - (i) of records required under condition 5 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit
- (b) Prior to 20 April 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 5 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 6(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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;

dry conditions means when soils (not dust) do not freely adhere to rubber tyres, tracks, vehicle chassis or wheel arches;

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 50km 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;

possum spotter means a suitably experienced zoologist or Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) rehabilitator holding a Regulation 17 (scientific) license.

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*

5 July 2012

Plan 5070/1



LEGEND

- Clearing Instruments**
- Areas Approved to Clear
 - Road Centrelines

Busselton Townsite 20cm
Orthomosaic - Landgate
2008
Cadastre for labelling



0 30 m

Scale 1:1194

(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.

[Signature] Date 5/7/12
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

Our environment, our future
WA Crown Copyright 2002



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5070/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Geographe Catchment Council

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5068 ON PLAN 20855 (Lot No. 5068 COOK BUSSELTON 6280)
LOT 4767 ON PLAN 13808 (Lot No. 4767 COOK BUSSELTON 6280)
LOT 5408 ON PLAN 23808 (House No. 231 COLLEGE WEST BUSSELTON 6280)

Local Government Area: Shire of Busselton

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.2		Mechanical Removal	Miscellaneous

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 5 July 2012

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 1000: Medium forest;jarrah-marri/ Low woodland;banksia/Low forest; teatree (Shephard et al, 2001).	The proposed clearing consists of 0.2 ha within Lot 5068 on Plan 20855, Lot 4767 on Plan 13808 and Lot 5408 on Plan 23808 for the purpose of earth bund relocation.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition and description was determined from aerial imagery (Busselton Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic-landgate 2008) and photographs taken during a site inspection (DEC 2012).
Mattiske Vegetation Complex is described as 'Open woodland of Melaleuca raphiophylla and sedgelands of Cyperaceae-Restionaceae spp. on broad depressions in the subhumid zone' (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).	The vegetation condition is degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) with no native understorey or ground cover present, primarily weeds and grasses (DEC, 2012). The vegetation under application consists predominantly of <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> , <i>Acacia saligna</i> and planted species of <i>Melaleuca nesophilla</i> (DEC, 2012).	To Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposed clearing of 0.2ha is for the purpose of relocating an earth bund. The vegetation is in a degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

There are no known declared rare flora species or threatened ecological communities recorded in the vicinity of the project.

The area under application provides habitat for the conservation significant Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). The Southern Swan Coastal Plain region is the most important area for the Western Ringtail Possum as there is large populations and dense peppermint habitat (Commonwealth of Australia, 2009). A recent site inspection undertaken by a Department of Environment and Conservation, Regional Officer (2012) identified evidence (scats) of Western Ringtail Possum's utilizing the vegetation under application. A potential drey was observed in a peppermint tree in the eastern side of the application area (DEC, 2012). Peppermint trees were also observed in the area surrounding the application area, therefore these trees should be able to accommodate any displaced possums.

Given the above, the application may be at variance to Principle (b). Rehabilitation and fauna management through the engagement of a possum spotter to manage risks to Western Ringtail Possum's will assist in mitigating potential impacts on the species.

The area under application is represented by Beard vegetation association 1000, which has approximately 27 per cent of its pre-European vegetation remaining in the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2011). The application area occurs within an extensively cleared landscape, with approximately 15 per cent of native vegetation remaining within a 10km radius. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (e). Rehabilitation of the cleared area will assist in mitigating further impacts upon the extensively cleared local area.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing may increase the likelihood of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent areas. Weed and dieback management will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principles (b) and (e), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2009)
- DEC (2012)
- Government of Western Australia (2011)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases

- SAC Bio datasets (15 June 2012)
- Hydrography, linear
- DEC Managed Lands
- Busselton Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic-Landgate 2008
- Pre-European Vegetation
- Mattiske Vegetation Mapping

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

Comments

The area under application is mapped within the Busselton-Capel Groundwater Area which is an area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act.

Methodology

GIS Databases

- RIWI Groundwater Area

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2009) Environmental Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation Act Policy Statement 3.10- Significant Impact Guidelines for the Vulnerable Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) in the southern Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.
- DEC (2012) Regional Advice and Photographs for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5070/1. Site inspection undertaken 21/6/2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref A518127).
- Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.
- 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
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community