



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5091/1

File Number: 2011/006816-1

Duration of Permit: From 7 September 2012 to 7 September 2014

PERMIT HOLDER

City of Busselton

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Recreation Lane Road reserve (West Busselton 6280) (PIN: 1211351)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.195 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5091/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iv) 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.

3. Revegetation

The Permit Holder shall establish and maintain peppermint trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) in an area that the Permit Holder has lawful access to located within one kilometre of the area to be cleared in accordance with the following conditions:

- (a) for every peppermint tree (*Agonis flexuosa*) cleared two peppermint trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) are to be established and maintained; and

- (b) *planting* is to be completed within twelve months of clearing any area authorised under this Permit.

4. 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 as being suitable by condition 4(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 4(b).

5. Vegetation management

- (a) Prior to commencing clearing, the Permit Holder shall construct a fence sufficient to prevent vehicular access to the land immediately to the west of the area that is authorised to be cleared under this permit.
- (b) Within one month of installing the fence the Permit Holder shall notify the *CEO* in writing that the fence has been completed.

6. Hydrological management

The Permit Holder shall ensure that water flows to and from the land immediately to the west of the area that is authorised to be cleared under this permit are not substantially altered, as a result of clearing authorised under this permit.

7. 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 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;
 - (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).
- (b) In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 4 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

8. 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 7 of this Permit; and
 - (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit
- (b) Prior to 7 June 2017, the Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 8(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO means the chief executive officer of the Department;

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

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

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;

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

possum spotter means an experienced zoologist or Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) rehabilitator holding a Regulation 17 (scientific) license, issued under the Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970

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*.

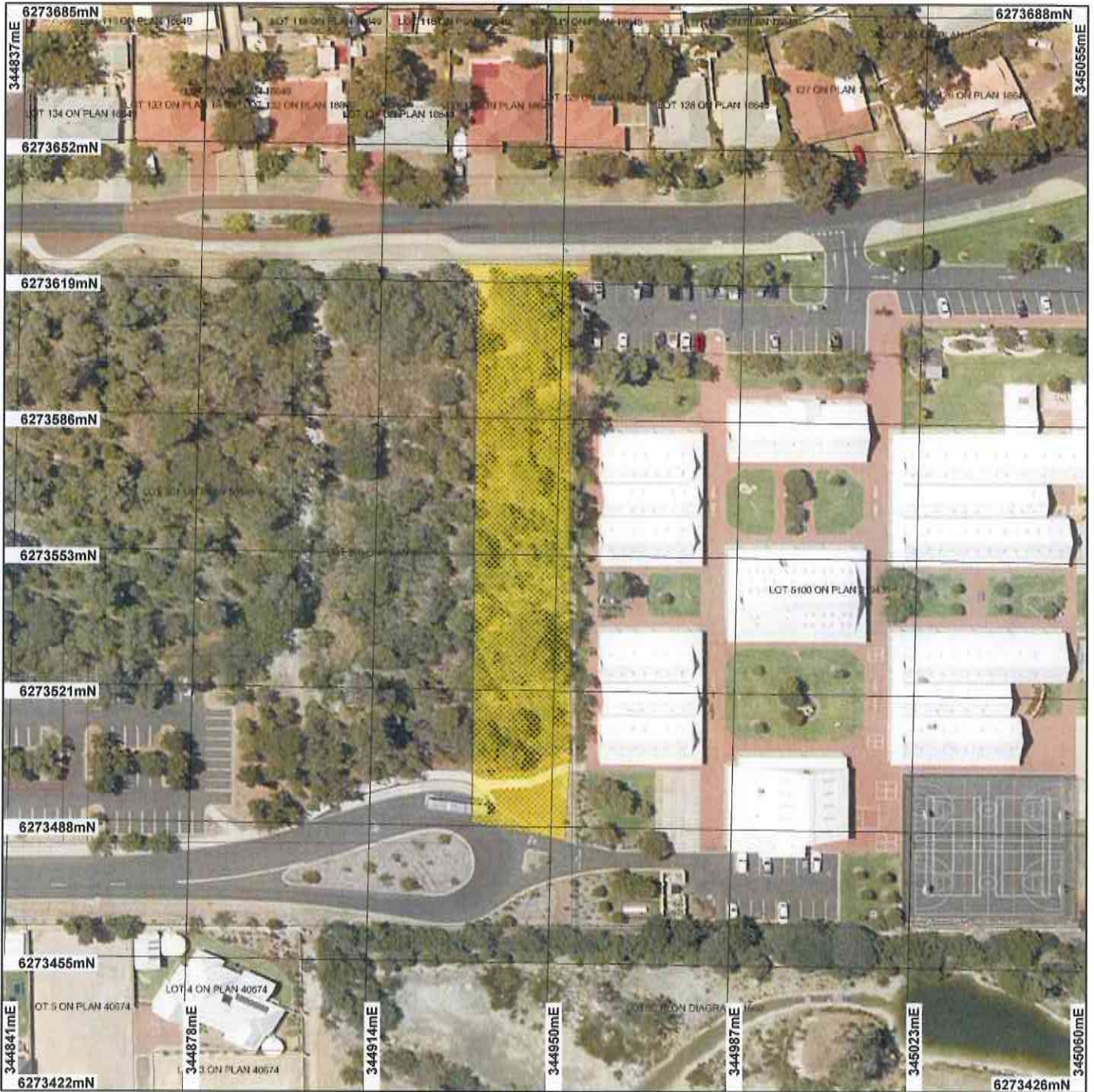


M Warnock
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

16 August 2012

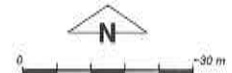
Plan 5091/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Applied to Clear
- Areas Subject to Conditions
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Cadastre for labelling

Busselton Townsite 20cm
Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008



Scale 1:1248
(Approximate when reproduced at Letter)

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 16/8/12

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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* Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5091/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: City of Busselton

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (WEST BUSSELTON 6280)

Local Government Area: City of Busselton

Colloquial name: Recreation Lane Road reserve

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 16 August 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 1000 is described as 'Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low woodland; banksia / Low forest; teatree (Melaleuca Spp.)' (Shepherd et al 2001).	The proposed clearing of 0.195 hectares of native vegetation is for the purpose of road construction.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition and description were determined by a flora a vegetation survey conducted by Ekologica (2011) and a site inspection conducted by DEC (2012a).
Mattiske vegetation complex Lw is described as 'Open woodland of Melaleuca rhapsiophylla and sedgelands of Cyperaceae-Restionaceae spp. on broad depressions in the subhumid zone'(Mattiske and Havel 1998).	The northern part of the application consists of Woodland of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> , <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> and <i>Melaleuca rhapsiophylla</i> over low scrub of <i>Acacia saligna</i> , <i>Daviesia physodes</i> , <i>Exocarpos odoratus</i> , <i>Spyridium globulosum</i> and <i>Viminaria juncea</i> over l sedges of <i>Baumea juncea</i> and mixed herbs and grasses (Ekologica 2012).	To	
Mattiske vegetation complex Lw is described as 'Open woodland of Melaleuca rhapsiophylla and sedgelands of Cyperaceae-Restionaceae spp. on broad depressions in the subhumid zone' (Mattiske and Havel 1998).	The southern part of the application area consists of woodland of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> , <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> and <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> over low scrub of <i>Kunzea glabrescens</i> , <i>Spyridium globulosum</i> and <i>Xanthorrhoea brunonis</i> over heath of <i>Adenanthos meisneri</i> and <i>Hibbertia subvaginata</i> over mixed herbs and grasses (Ekologica 2012).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	
	Approximately 70 per cent of the vegetation is considered to be in a Very Good (Keighery 1994) condition with the remainder of the application being a Good (Keighery 1994) condition (Ekologica 2012).		

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposed clearing of 0.195 hectares of native vegetation is for the purposed of road construction.

An appropriately timed (October) survey of the area under application indentified 88 flora species within the application area of which 17 were introduced species (Ekologica 2011). No rare or priority flora or other taxa of conservation significance have been recorded within the application area (Ekologica 2011).

A Priority Ecological Community (Priority 1)(PEC) 'Eucalyptus rudis, Eucalyptus (Corymbia) calophylla and Agonis flexuosa Closed Low Forest' is recorded as occurring within the Busselton Recreation Centre bushland, which occurs adjacent to the clearing area and is connected through contiguous vegetation with the application area (Ekologica 2012). This plant community is key habitat for the Critically Endangered rare orchid species *Caladenia procera* (Ekologica 2012). None of the PEC is known from reserves for the purpose of conservation (DEC 2012b). The 0.195 hectares proposed for clearing represents approximately 0.2 per cent of the current mapped area of the PEC (19ha) on the adjacent property. Given this the application is at variance to principle (a). Weed and dieback management and fencing would ensure the protection of the remainder of this PEC. The applicant should ensure water flow into or out of this PEC should not be altered.

Numerous fauna species considered rare or likely to become extinct have been recorded within the local area (10 km radius) (DEC 2007-). A site inspection (DEC 2012) identified suitable habitat for the Western Ringtail Possum (WRP) and observed signs of WRP within the application area. It is likely WRP are located within the application area, however vegetation to the west of the application also provides similar habitat. The proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b). Fauna management practices will help mitigate impacts to WRP during the proposed clearing.

There is approximately 15 per cent vegetation remaining in the local area (10km). The vegetation within the application is mapped as Beard association 1000 which has approximately 26 per cent of vegetation remaining within the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion. 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). Therefore, the area under application is considered to be a significant remnant in an extensively cleared landscape and is at variance to principle (e). Vegetation management practices including revegetation activities will aid in minimises impacts.

Given the above the clearing as proposed is at variance to principles (a) and (e), maybe be at variance to principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology References:
- DEC (2007-)
- Ekologica (2012)
- DEC (2012)

GIS Database:
- SAC Biodata sets - accessed 15 June 2012
- Pre-European Vegetation
- NLWRA Current Extent of Vegetation

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

Comments

The proposed clearing of 0.195 hectares of native vegetation is for the purpose of road construction.

The Shire of Busselton should ensure water flows into or out of the adjacent bushland are not altered.

There are No Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area.

No Submissions have been received.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-RIWI Act, areas
-Aboriginal Sites of Significance.

4. References

- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed 15 June 2012
- DEC (2012) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5091/1, Recreation Lane Road reserve, West Busselton. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A525971)
- Ekologica (2012) Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey near the Geographe Leisure Centre Busselton. Western Australia. (DEC Ref:A52245)
- 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
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)