pgv ENVIRONMENTAL

11 October 2012

Department of Environment and Conservation
Native Vegetation Conservation Branch
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
BENTLEY WA 6983

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Lot 9501 Vasse Highway, Yalyalup – Clearing Permit Documentation

1 Background

Lot 9501 Vasse Highway, Yalyalup is located in the Shire of Busselton, approximately 2km south of the Bussell Highway/Vasse Highway intersection. DJ MacCormick has structure planning approval for industrial development of Lot 9501 Vasse Highway. Prior to full development of the site, DJ MacCormick proposes to use a part of the lot for hardstand storage.

Access to the hardstand area on Lot 9501 will be off Vasse Highway. Main Roads WA has approved the construction of the access way subject to a number of conditions (see Attachment 1). Condition 4 of the approval requires the proponent to obtain the required clearing permit from the Department of Environment and Conservation. The Clearing Permit form is attached to this letter (Attachment 4).

Access to the lot and hardstand facilities will require the clearing of approximately 0.045ha (450m^2) of road reserve vegetation along the Vasse Highway to construct an access point as well as to enable safe traffic sight lines from the access way onto Vasse Highway. The minimum sight distance required by Main Roads is 300m either side of the access point.

The clearing permit being applied for includes the following areas:

- Approximately 0.015ha of vegetation for the access way (Attachment 2); and
- Approximately 0.030ha of vegetation to create safe sight lines (Attachment 3).

A description of the areas to be cleared is contained in the following sections.

2 Site Description

2.1 Topography

The site is flat to very gently sloping with an elevation of between 9m and 11m AHD over a road length of around 600m.

2.2 Geomorphology and Soils

The soils in the road reserve are part of the Abba Soil-Landscape System which is described as a poorly drained plain with medium textured deposits; yellow duplex soils and some shallow sands over bog iron ore.

2.3 Surface Water and Wetlands

The vegetation in the road reserve is part of a large Palusplain wetland (UFI 15809) mapped on the DEC geomorphic wetland database as occurring extensively throughout the Busselton area. The wetland is classified as a Multiple Use wetland which recognises it has largely been cleared and has few environmental values.

A man-made drain extends the length of the road reserve. The drain is around 4m wide and at the time of the site inspection on 19 September 2012 contained at least 30cm of standing water.

2.4 Flora and Vegetation

A search of the DEC Threatened Flora Database, the WA Herbarium database and the Declared Rare and Priority Flora Species List identified three Threatened and four Priority plant species that have been located in the vicinity of the site (Table 1). The three Threatened species under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* are also listed under the EPBC Act.

None of the species has been recorded on the site itself.

Table 1: List of Flora Species Identified from Database Searches.

Species	Status under Wildlife Cons. Act	Status under EPBC Act
Chamelaucium sp. C Coastal Plain (R.D.Royce 4872)	Threatened	Vulnerable
Drakaea elastica	Threatened	Endangered
Verticordia plumosa var. *vassensis*	Threatened	Endangered
Grevillea brachystylis subsp. *brachystylis*	Priority 3	
Grevillea bronwenae	Priority 3	
Jacksonia gracillima	Priority 3	
Synaphea hians	Priority 3	

Of the seven species in Table 1, four are known to occur in seasonally damp, low-lying sites and therefore have potential to occur on the site. These species are *Drakaea elastica, Grevillea brachystylis* subsp. *brachystylis, Jacksonia gracillima* and *Verticordia plumosa* var. *vassensis*.

A search of the DEC's Threatened (TEC) and Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) database was conducted for the site. There are no known occurrences of any TECs or PECs on the site. There are occurrences of the following Priority 1 Ecological Communities within 5km of the site. These are:

- *Eucalyptus cornuta, Agonis flexuosa* and *Eucalyptus decipiens* forest on deep yellow-brown siliceous sands over limestone ('Busselton Yate Community'); and
- *Eucalyptus rudis, Corymbia calophylla, Agonis flexuosa* Closed Low Forest (near Busselton).

A site inspection was undertaken on 19 September 2012 by Dr Paul van der Moezel to identify vegetation types and search for significant flora species. The access point and the areas requiring clearing for sight lines were pegged on site by surveyors prior to the site inspection.

The survey was undertaken at a time when all potential significant species could be identified. The Glossy-leaved Hammer Orchid (*Drakaea elastica*) flowers from October to November, however it is readily identifiable in September by its distinctive glossy leaves.

The vegetation on the site confirmed the low-lying nature of the site and consisted of *Melaleuca viminea, M. preissiana, M. teretifolia* Closed Tall Scrub around 4m high and a dense canopy cover over a very weedy understorey predominantly containing Arum Lily (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*), *Lotus subbiflorus, Bromus hordeaceus,* Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Freesia (*Freesia alba x leichtlinii*), Veldtgrass (*Ehrharta calycina*), Sow Thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), Pimpernel (*Lysimachia arvensis*) and Capeweed (*Arctotheca calendula*).

The native Saw Sedge (*Gahnia trifida*) was the only native understorey species present in the road reserve. The strap-leaved wetland herb *Cycnogeton lineare* (previously *Triglochin linearis*) was abundant throughout the inundated drain.

The access point contains approximately 20 shrubs and trees of *Melaleuca viminea* as well as 7 shrubs of *Melaleuca teretifolia*. *Gahnia trifida* occurs in the understorey together with many weed species (Photo 1 and 2).

Photo 1 - Access Point from Vasse Highway

Photo 2 - Access Point from paddock on Lot 9501

The road reserve to the north of the access point mostly contains *Melaleuca viminea* shrubs in a very thin line that needs to be cleared(approximately 100 shrubs or 0.030ha in a line 2m wide by 150m long) (photo 3). The balance of the sight line to the north does not require any vegetation to be cleared.

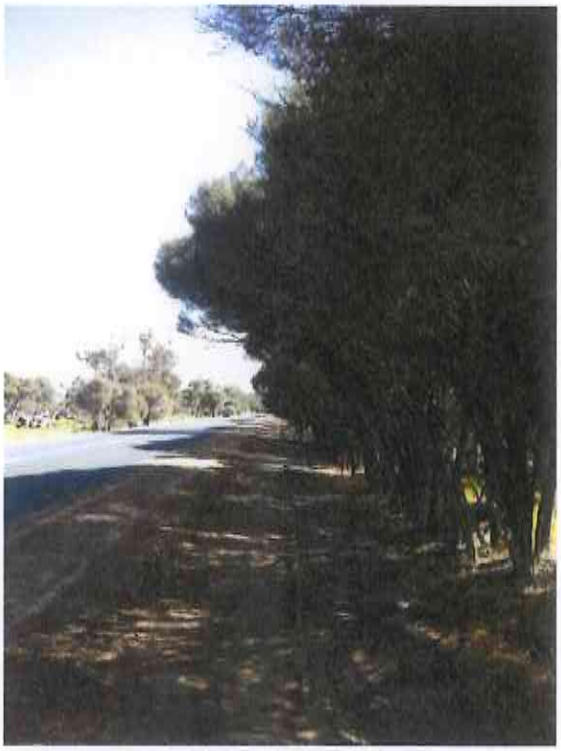

Photo 3 - Northern Sight line showing *Melaleuca viminea* vegetation to be cleared

The road reserve to the south of the access point mostly contains *Melaleuca preissiana* and *M. teretifolia*. However, the 300m sight line required in this direction does not require the clearing of any vegetation (photo 4).

Photo 4 - Southern end of the sight line looking north. The pink-taped pegs denote the limit of clearing which in this area does not include any vegetation.

2.5 Conservation Significance of Flora and Vegetation

None of the flora species recorded during the site inspection is a Threatened or Priority species at State or Commonwealth level.

The vegetation in the road reserve is not representative of any Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities.

2.6 Fauna

The following conservation significant fauna species listed under State and Commonwealth legislation are known to occur in the Busselton region:

- Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*);
- Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*);
- Baudin's White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*); and
- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*).

The Western Ringtail Possum favours Peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) trees for breeding and foraging habitat in the Busselton region. No Peppermint trees occur in the area of road reserve to be cleared.

The Black Cockatoo species forage on a range of species including Marri (Forest Red-tail) as well as other Eucalyptus and Proteaceous species (Carnaby's and Baudin's). Roosting and breeding habitat for all three species is predominantly Eucalyptus and Marri trees. None of the three Black Cockatoo species is known to use *Melaleuca* wetland species for either foraging, breeding or roosting habitat.

The vegetation in the road reserve to be cleared therefore does not contain habitat for any conservation significant species.

3 Conclusion

This letter report concludes that the proposed clearing of 0.045ha of native vegetation along the Vasse Highway in Yalyalup will not impact on any significant flora, vegetation or fauna.

Please contact me if you require any clarification of this information.

Attachment 1 Main Roads Letter
Attachment 2 Access Point
Attachment 3 Sight Lines
Attachment 4 Clearing Permit Application