



Native Vegetation Conservation Branch,  
Department of Environment and Conservation  
Locked Bag104, Bentley Delivery Centre,  
WA. 6983.

## **RE: CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION 5478/1 – OFFSET PROJECT**

Dear xx,

In response to your correspondence, informing me of the need for an offset project to mitigate the clearing required within the above permit application, I offer the following proposal.

### **OFFSET ACTIVITIES RE PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER 5478/1**

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The clearing is essential to the development of Kwolyin camping area. This is a project which has the full backing of DEC and the permit application detailed the reasons why an offset was not deemed as a requirement. Unfortunately, common sense did not prevail.

The area of the development is in *Acacia acuminata* bushland, and because of the past 100 years of disturbance to this site as a sporting and recreation area, now only consists of old jam bush with a few scattered York Gums. Small rubbish heaps abound, as do heaps, soil mounds from tracks and drains completed over the years. If the site had been visited to ascertain the true value of it, it would have been obvious that any disturbance in here would have been beneficial. The clearing required is for access roads and camping area and building requirements.

The title is vested in the Shire of Bruce Rock for the purposes of Camping and Recreation. It is 12 hectares in size.

A site visit would have concluded that the land is degraded. On the eastern area, close to the old Kwolyin townsite, weeds abound. To the west near the DEC

Reserve, ground cover tends more to native annuals. Missing from the site are overstory trees such as Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*), Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegelliana* and *campestris*)

## PROPOSAL:

During clearing activities, while machinery is available,

- Rip areas where vegetation is old, thin or non existent
- Clean up all rubbish on site from 100 years of settlement
- Reduce fallen timber to minimize fire risk
- Rip adjacent to constructed roads and camping area and ablution facilities
- In areas where native groundcover is evident, save overburden from road making and building activities and use as topsoil for rehabilitation of Shackleton Reserve in partnership with South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council. Project in planning and consultation phase.
- Avoid overstory trees while clearing.
- Spray particularly weedy areas on eastern edge and revegetate heavily.

After completion of infrastructure development and roads, (July 2014) undertake a comprehensive tree planting programme throughout the areas ripped previously.

The species to be planted are:

- *Eucalyptus loxophleba*
- *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*
- *Eucalyptus capillosa*
- *Allocasuarina huegelliana*
- *Allocasuarina campestris*
- *Acacia acuminata*
- *Melaleuca elliptica*
- *Melaleuca radula*
- *Enchylaena tomentosa*
- *Dianella revolute*
- *Dampiera lavandulaceae*
- *Atriplex semibaccata*

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# Shire of Bruce Rock



The inclusion of these species will contribute to the diversity of the site and also create shade and longevity to the species mix in the area. The ripping activities will also foster the germination of many species which are part of the seed bank on the ground.

Environmentally the site will end up being far more representative of surrounding bushland and contribute to a more balanced ecosystem within the tenure.

## **TIMETABLE:**

<b>2013</b>	<b>Clearing and ripping.</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>Tree planting – 5,000 assorted local species.</b>
<b>2015</b>	<b>Infill planting, monitoring.</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>Monitoring.</b>

Trees will be planted at 800 per hectare in areas with very little vegetation or with high weed loads.

In areas of existing vegetation with good annual cover, trees will be planted at a density of 300 per hectare.

Additionally, hardy local provenance species of perennial groundcovers such as *Dampiera lavandulaceae*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Atriplex semibaccata* and *Dianella revolute* will be used to stabilize areas around buildings, shelters and camp sites.

## **SUMMARY:**

This project has been ten years in planning and consultation, and has the backing of numerous partners and Government Agencies. It is being built on this site due to constraints put on us by the land claim of SWALSC over the rest of the Kwolyin townsite. It is not our first choice site, but the only one that we have tenure over.

We are determined to create a top class free camping area, and the revegetation activities will only enhance the quality of the experience, the site and improve the overall quality of the bushland within our tenure.

I hope that this proposal is acceptable, and look forward to your response.

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