



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 5539 / 1
File Number: 2013/001534-1
Duration of Permit: From 14 June 2013 to 14 June 2015

PERMIT HOLDER

Norman Ian Payton

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 4 on Diagram 36882 (PARKFIELD 6233)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 4 native trees within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 5539/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W Warnock", written over a horizontal line.

W Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

23 May 2013

Plan 5539/1



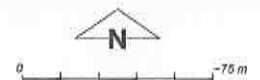
LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre

Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

- Local Government Authorities



Scale 1:3000

(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.

M Warnock Date 23/5/13

M Warnock

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.: 5539/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Norman Ian Payton

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 4 ON DIAGRAM 36882 (Lot No. 4 OLD COAST PARKFIELD 6233)

Local Government Area: Shire of Harvey

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 23 May 2013

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
<p>The vegetation under application is mapped as:</p> <p>Beard vegetation association: 998: Medium woodland; tuart (Shepherd et al., 2001).</p> <p>Hedde vegetation complex: Yoongarillup Complex: Woodland to tall woodland of Eucalyptus gomphocephala (Tuart) with Agonis flexuosa in the second storey. Less consistently an open forest of Eucalyptus gomphocephala (Tuart) - Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) - Corymbia calophylla (Marri) (Hedde et al 1980).</p>	<p>The proposed clearing of 4 native trees within Lot 4 is for the purpose of expanding existing horticultural activities.</p> <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of isolated mature tuart trees over pasture grasses with little understorey and weeds (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013) and is in a degraded (Keighery 1994) condition,</p> <p>The proposed clearing is located approximately 100 metres west of Old Coast Road reserve. The vegetation directly north, south and east of the application area is mostly cleared paddocks with occasional solitary trees and little understorey. There is an isolated strip of vegetation approximately 500 metres long and 25 metres wide to the west of the application area (Payton, 2013).</p>	<p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994).</p>	<p>The vegetation condition and description was determined from photographs supplied by the client (Payton, 2013), aerial photography (Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008) and site visit and fauna survey conducted by Ecoedge Environmental Pty on the 6 February 2013 (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013).</p>

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear up to 4 native trees within Lot 4 on Diagram 36882 for the purpose of expanding existing horticultural activities and is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. The vegetation is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and consists of isolated mature tuart trees over pasture grasses with little understorey and weeds (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013).

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is approximately 70 percent vegetated and is mapped as Beard 998 (Shepherd et al., 2001) and Hedde Vegetation Complexes Yoongarillup Complex (Hedde et al 1980). These vegetation types retain approximately 38 and 43 percent of the pre-European extents, respectively, within the Swan Coastal IBRA region (Government of Western Australia, 2013; Shepherd, 2007).

There are numerous records of flora of conservation significance within the local area and the endangered threatened ecological community (TEC) Muchea limestone (shrublands and woodlands on Muchea Limestone) occurs approximately 7.5 kilometres north east of the application area. Given the application is to clear 4 tuart trees from a parkland cleared paddock, it is unlikely the proposed clearing includes flora or ecological communities of conservation significance, or contains a high level of biodiversity.

A targeted inspection of the 26 tuart trees within Lot 3 and 4 on Old Coast Road was conducted by the Ecoedge Environmental on 6 February 2013 and included the 4 tuart trees proposed to be cleared (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013). The application area is within a possible breeding area for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris* - rare under the WC Act) and within the modelled breeding ranges for Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii* - rare under the Wildlife Conservation Act, 1950 (WC Act)) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* - rare under the WC Act) (SEWPAC, 2012). All trees are reported to have a diameter greater than 50 centimetres a breast height (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013).

The surveyed trees were found not to currently contain any nesting hollows and no signs of cockatoos having utilised the site was observed at the time of the inspection (Ecoedge Environmental, 2013). While the trees proposed to be cleared may develop suitable breeding hollows for black cockatoos in the future, considering the availability of other suitable habitat in the local area, removing 4 potential habitat trees is unlikely to significantly impact native fauna.

The nearest conservation area is Leschenault Peninsula Conservation Park, approximately 5 kilometres south west of the application area. Considering the small scale of the proposed clearing and distance to conservation areas, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an appreciable impact to the conservation values of this area.

There are numerous water bodies and geomorphic wetlands within the local area. The nearest mapped water bodies are a water dam, conservation wetland, major drains and perennial swamps located 850 metres south west, 800 metres east, 1 kilometre east and 850 metres east of the application area respectively. Due to the small size of the application area (4 tuart trees) and distance to watercourses, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant impacts to water quality. It is also unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding or cause appreciable land degradation.

The assessment of the application identified that the clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

Methodology

References

- Ecoedge Environmental (2013)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Hedde et al., (1980)
- Keighery (1994)
- SEWPAC (2012)
- Shepherd (2007)
- Shepherd et al., (2001)

GIS databases:

- Bunbury 50 cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- Carnaby's Cockatoo Breeding Areas
- DEC Managed Lands
- Hedde Vegetation Complexes
- Hydrography, linear
- NWLRA, Extent of Native Vegetation
- Pre-European vegetation
- SAC Bio datasets (Accessed 12 April 2013)
- Soils, Statewide

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

Comments

The application to clear 4 mature tuart trees from a parkland cleared paddock is for the purpose of expanding existing horticultural activities.

The vegetation under application falls within South West Coastal Groundwater area (under the RIWI Act). Department of Water (DoW) has advised that the proponent has an agreement to take ground water to use on the property for horticulture purposes, however will require a permit and licence under the Rights in Irrigation and Water Act 1914 (RIWI Act) if he wishes to construct bores or to take groundwater (DoW, 2013). The issuing of a groundwater licence is not guaranteed but if approved, it will contain a number of conditions that are binding upon the landowner (DoW, 2013).

Lot 4 is zoned for general farming under the Local Town Planning Scheme.

No submissions from the public have been received.

There are no Aboriginal sites of significance mapped within the application area.

Methodology

References

- DoW (2013)

GIS databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

- Town Planning Scheme Zones

- RIWI Act areas, Surface Water

4. References

- DoW (2013) Advice for CPS 5539/1 Clearing Application - 4 native trees - Lot 4 on Diagram 36882, Parkfield, Department of Water, Western Australia. DEC ref A628326.
- Ecoedge Environmental (2013) Site Visit Report - Black Cockatoo Survey for CPS 5539/1, Lot 4 on Diagram 36882, Parkfield, Western Australia. DEC Ref. A627745.
- Government of Western Australia. (2013). 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Payton, N. I. (2013) Clearing Application - 4 native trees - Lot 4 on Diagram 36882, Parkfield, Western Australia. DEC Ref A610225.
- SEWPAC (2012) EPBC Act Referral Guidelines for Three Threatened Black Cockatoo Species, April 2012. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities. Commonwealth of Australia. Available from
- Shepherd, D.P. (2007) 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.
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 12 April 2013).

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)