



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 5706/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Esperance
Duration of Permit:	19 October 2013 – 19 October 2018

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of road construction and upgrade.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Gibson Road reserve (PIN 11477812), Gibson

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5706/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. 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*:

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

DEFINITIONS

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

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;

weed/s means any plant -

- (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or
- (b) published in the former Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

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

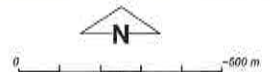
19 September 2013

Plan 5706/1



LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities
- Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear
- Esperance Causeway 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2007



Scale 1:17475
(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 19/9/13

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.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation
WA Crown Copyright 2002

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



Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5706/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Esperance

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (GIBSON 6448)
Local Government Area: Shire of Esperance
Colloquial name: Gibson Road

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 19 September 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
Mapped Beard vegetation association 6048 is described as shrublands consisting of banksia scrub-heath on sandplain in the Esperance Plains Region (Shepherd et al, 2001).	This application proposes to clear 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within Gibson Road reserve, Gibson, for the purpose of constructing and upgrading the road.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The application area is largely comprised of Acacia and Nuytsia sp. over an under storey dominated by exotic grasses, with scattered Xanthorrhoea preissii and Adenanthos cuneatus. The proposed clearing also includes scattered areas of riparian vegetation dominated by Melaleuca sp (Shire of Esperance, 2013). The condition and description of the vegetation under application was obtained via a preliminary vegetation report provided by the Shire of Esperance (2013).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

This application proposes to clear 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within Gibson Road reserve, Gibson, for the purpose of constructing and upgrading the road.

The application area is largely comprised of Acacia and Nuytsia sp. over an under storey dominated by exotic grasses, with scattered Xanthorrhoea preissii and Adenanthos cuneatus. There are several riparian areas within the application area which are dominated by Melaleuca sp. The vegetation is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Shire of Esperance, 2013).

The closest priority ecological community to the application area is the priority 3 'Scrub heath on Esperance Sandplain: Scrub heath on deep sand with Banksia and Lambertia, and Banksia scrub heath on sandplain'. The vegetation under application is not representative of this community.

Several priority flora species have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius), however given that the under storey vegetation on site is dominated by invasive weed species, the small, linear, degraded (Keighery, 1994) area under application is unlikely to include priority flora.

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application (Shire of Esperance, 2013) and small size and linear nature of the proposed clearing, the vegetation under application is unlikely to provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

A survey undertaken by the Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) in 1999 identified that the application area has low conservation value.

This value was based on the absence of trees with hollows suitable to be utilised as fauna habitat on site, the degraded condition of the vegetation (Keighery, 1994) and the minimal value of the vegetation as an ecological corridor (RCC, 2013).

There are no threatened ecological communities or rare flora mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

There is approximately 25 per cent native vegetation remaining in the local area of the proposed clearing. 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). The vegetation remaining within the local area falls below the 30 per cent threshold, however given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application (Shire of Esperance, 2013) and small size and linear nature of the proposed clearing, the vegetation under application is unlikely to represent a significant remnant.

There are no mapped wetlands or watercourses located on site, however there are several sections containing riparian vegetation (largely *Melaleuca* sp.) associated with areas of inundation (Shire of Esperance, 2013).

Given the small size of the proposed clearing and degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation under application (Shire of Esperance, 2013), it is not likely that the proposed clearing will result in land degradation, deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The closest conservation area to the proposed clearing is Shark Lake Nature Reserve located approximately 10 kilometres south of the application area. Given the distance to this reserve it is not likely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

The proposed clearing will increase the likelihood of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent vegetated areas. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating the risk of spreading weeds and dieback.

The proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the other clearing Principles.

Methodology

References:

- Keighery (1994)
- Shire of Esperance (2013)
- RCC (2013)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed September 2013)
- Hydrography, linear
- Hydrography, hierachy
- DEC Tenure
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

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

Comments

There have been no public submissions received for the proposed clearing.

This application proposes to clear 0.5 hectares of native vegetation within Gibson Road reserve, Gibson, for the purpose of constructing and upgrading the road. The Shire has advised that the road is in urgent need of a substantial upgrade, as it currently comprises a narrow single lane strip of bitumen, subject to flooding and in poor condition. The Shire has advised that the upgrade is particularly important as the road services two schools.

The proposed clearing falls within Gibson Water Reserve, a Priority 2 Public Drinking Water Supply Area (PDWSA). The application area is also within the Gibson Groundwater Area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (DoW) has advised that given the small size of the application area, they have no objection to the proposed clearing. The DoW recommends that environmental management plans are prepared to avoid and minimise, as the remaining vegetation within this PDWSA provides an important role in buffering against water quality impacts.

The Roadside Conservation Committee (RCC) has advised that given the low conservation value of the vegetation under application, they do not object to the proposed clearing. It is advised that the proponent carefully disposes of weed material to prevent spreading into nearby vegetated areas (RCC, 2013).

Methodology

References:

- RCC (2013)
- Shire of Esperance (2013)

-DoW (2013)

GIS Databases:

-Public Drinking Water Supply Areas

-RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DoW (2013) Public Drinking Water Source Area advice for CPS 5706/1. Department of Water, Western Australia. DER Ref A665520.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- RCC (2013) Direct Interest Submission for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5706/1. Roadside Conservation Committee, Western Australia. DER Ref A664904.
- 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.
- Shire of Esperance (2013) Preliminary Vegetation Report. Additional Information for Clearing Permit Application CPS 5706/1. DER Ref A652228.