GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 5800/1
File Number: DER2013/001352-1
Duration of Permit: From 1 February 2014 to 1 February 2021

PERMIT HOLDER
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Lot 1 on Diagram 69945 (Forest Grove 6286)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 5800/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Period in which clearing is authorised
The Permit Holder shall not clear any native vegetation after 1 February 2016

2. 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*:
(a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
(b) shall only move soils in *dry conditions*;
(c) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
(d) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

3. Fauna Management
The clearing of identified ***black cockatoo habitat* trees** at Global Positioning System (GPS) points E326000 and N6222079, and E326012 and N6222025 can only be undertaken between the 1 January and 31 March of any given year.

4. Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation
The Permit Holder shall:
(a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.
(b) within 12 months following completion of extractive activities, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit by:
  (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and
  (ii) ripping the pit floor and contour batters within the extraction site; and
  (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 4(a) on the cleared area(s).

(c) within 18 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 4(b) of this Permit:
   (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
   (ii) where, in the opinion of an *environmental specialist*, the composition structure and density determined under condition 4(c)(i) of this Permit will not result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area and ensuring only *local provenance* seeds and propagating material are used.

(d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation is undertaken in accordance with condition 4(c)(ii) of this permit, the Permit Holder shall repeat condition 4(c)(i) and 4(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of native vegetation.

(e) Where a determination by an *environmental specialist* that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, as determined in condition 4(c)(i) and (ii) of this permit, that determination shall be submitted for the CEO's consideration. If the CEO does not agree with the determination made under condition 4(c)(ii), the CEO may require the Permit Holder to undertake additional *planting* and *direct seeding* in accordance with the requirements under condition 4(c)(ii).

5. Records to 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 species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
   (ii) 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;
   (iii) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (iv) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

(b) In relation to the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* of areas pursuant to condition 4 of this Permit:
   (i) the location of any areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*, 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) a description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken;
   (iii) the size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (in hectares);
   (iv) the species composition, structure and density of *revegetation* and *rehabilitation*, and
   (v) a copy of the environmental specialist's report.

6. Reporting

(a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
   (i) of records required under condition 5 of this Permit; and
   (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.

(b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.

(c) Prior to 1 November 2015, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 5 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 6(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

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

black cockatoo habitat tree(s): means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 50 centimetres or greater.

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

direct seeding means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species;

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

environmental specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

local provenance means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.

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;

regenerate/ed/ion means re-establishment of vegetation from in situ seed banks and propagating material (such as lignotubers, bulbs, rhizomes) contained either within the topsoil or seed-bearing *mulch*;

rehabilitate/ed/ion means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area;

revegetate/ed/ion means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural *regeneration*, *direct seeding* and/or *planting*, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area; and

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 a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Summary, regardless of ranking; or

(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

J Clarkson
ACTING MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

2 January 2014

Plan 5800/1

LEGEND

- Road Centrelines
- Local Government Authorities
- Cadastre for labelling Clearing Instruments
- Areas Approved to Clear

Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

N

0 ~75 m

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.

Date 2-1-14

J Clarkson
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

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

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5800/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Shire of Augusta Margaret River**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1 ON DIAGRAM 69945 (FOREST GROVE 6286)
Local Government Area: Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.9		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 2 January 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description
Mapped Beard vegetation association 3 is described as Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al 2001).

Mattiske vegetation complex 'Glenarty Hills' is described as: Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Banksia grandis with some Eucalyptus diversicolor on upland and slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Mattiske and Havel 1998).

Clearing Description
The clearing of 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 1 on Diagram 69945, Forest Grove is for the purpose of grit extraction and rehabilitation.

Vegetation Condition
Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)

To

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)

Comment
The vegetation condition was determined from aerial imagery (Leeuwin 50cm - Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 1 on Diagram 69945, Forest Grove for the purpose of grit extraction and rehabilitation.

Numerous priority and rare flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius).The closest record being a rare flora species located approximately 1.5 kilometres south east from the area under application. This species is found on peaty sand within swamps and river edges (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-), therefore suitable habitat for this species is not likely to be located within the application area. Given the small area (0.9 hectares) that has been impacted from previous extraction practices the clearing as proposed is not likely to have an impact on the conservation status of priority flora species or impact upon rare flora.

Numerous fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (DPaW 2007-). A fauna survey conducted within the area under application identified 16 habitat trees (with a diameter breast height of more than 50 centimetres) suitable for Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso (Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's Cockatoo) and Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's Cockatoo. Eleven of the identified habitat trees contained hollows, two hollows were determined to be possibly suitable for breeding by the three black cockatoo species. No evidence of the hollows being utilised by black cockatoos was observed (Harewood 2013). Fauna management practices will ensure no clearing of suitable habitat trees will occur within the black cockatoo's peak breeding season. Foraging evidence by black cockatoos was observed in the form of chewed jarrah and marri fruits were identified throughout the area under application (Harewood 2013).

The 11 trees containing hollows may also provide habitat for Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. tapoatafa (Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale) and Pseudocheirus occidentalis (Western Ringtail Possum). No evidence of the Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale species was identified within the area under application. Western Ringtail scats were identified within the application area along the site boundary (Harewood 2013).

The vegetation under application may provide habitat for three black cockatoo species, Southern Brush-tailed Phascogale and Western Ringtail Possum. However, the fauna habitats within the area proposed to be cleared are well represented elsewhere within the local and regional area, and no significant loss of habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia is expected.

No wetlands or watercourses are located within the area under application. The closest minor watercourse is located approximately 85 metres east of the application area. Given the distance to the closest watercourse the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be growing in association with a watercourse or have an impact on water quality.

No threatened ecological communities have been recorded within close proximity to the area under application. Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is located approximately 1.5 kilometres west of the area under application. Given the small size of the application area (0.9 hectares) and the distance to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park the clearing as proposed is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

There is approximately 50 per cent native vegetation remaining in the local area (10 kilometre radius). The area under application is located within the Warren Interim Biogeorgraphic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and is mapped as Beard Association 3 and Mattiske vegetation complex 'Glenarty Hills' which have 79 and 35 per cent of their pre European vegetation extent remaining respectively (Government of Western Australia 2013 and Mattiske and Havel 1998). 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 mapped vegetation associations within the application area are greater than the 30 per cent threshold. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is well represented with vegetation in a better condition located within the local area including the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, therefore it is unlikely the vegetation proposed to be cleared is considered to be a significant remnant.

Given the small size (0.9 hectares) of the area proposed to be cleared it is unlikely to cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding.

The proposed clearing may indirectly impact adjacent remnant vegetation through the spread of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will help mitigate this risk.

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

Methodology

References:
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- DPaW (2007-)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Harewood (2013)
- Keighery (1994)
- Mattiske and Havel (1998)

GIS Databases:
- DEC, Tenure
- Hydrology, linear
- Pre-European vegetation
- SAC Bio datasets (Accessed October 2013)
- Soils, statewide

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

Comments

The application area is located within the Blackwood Groundwater area as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Department of Water (2013) has advised any groundwater abstraction in the proclaimed area is subject to licensing by the Department of Water. The applicant has advised no groundwater abstraction will be undertaken.

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

No submissions from the public have been received.

Methodology References:
- Department of Water (2013)

GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Water (2013) Advice for Clearing Permit CPS 5800/1. Western Australia. DER Ref: A688093

DPaW (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/. Accessed October 2013

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.

Harewood (2013) Fauna Assessment – Lot 1 Bussell Highway, Forest Grove. Western Australia. DER Ref: A710258.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/ Accessed October 2013