

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6115/1

File Number:

2011/006825-1

Duration of Permit: From 26 July 2014 to 26 July 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Collie

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Patstone Road reserve (PINS 1234815, 1234816, 1234817, 1234819, 1234820, 1234821 and 1234826), Allanson

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.4 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 6115/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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) ensure that no dieback or weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) 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;

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 a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

M Warnock

SENIOR MANAGER

CLEARING REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

26 June 2014



Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.:

6115/1

Permit type:

Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

Shire of Collie

1.3. Property details

Property:

ROAD RESERVE (ALLANSON 6225)

Local Government Area:

Shire of Collie

Colloquial name:

Patstone Road

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

1.4

Mechanical Removal

Road construction or maintenance

Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application:

Decision Date:

26 June 2014

2. Site Information

Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Mapped Beard vegetation association:

3 (60 per cent): Medium forest; jarrah-marri

990 (40 per cent): Low forest: peppermint (Agonis flexuosa) (Shepherd et al. 2001);

Mapped Mattiske Vegetation association:

MJ (Muja) (60%): Open woodland of Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis-Banksia ilicifolia with some Eucalyptus patens on moister sites, s24 Banksia spp. on drier sites of valley floors in the subhumid zone.

Yg1 (Yarragil 1) (40%): Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on slopes with mixtures of Eucalyptus patens and Eucalyptus megacarpa on the valley floors in humid and subhumid zones. (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

Clearing Description

The application is to clear 1.4 hectares of native vegetation within Patstone Road reserve, Collie, for the purpose of road widening.

Vegetation Condition

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

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

Comment

The vegetation condition was determined by aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Application CPS 6115/1 is to clear 1.4 hectares of native vegetation within Patstone Road reserve, Collie, for the purpose of road widening.

Numerous priority flora species are mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius) within the same soil type and vegetation association as the application area. All but one of these are Priority 3 and 4 species. Priority 3 species are generally known from collections from several different localities not under imminent threat whilst Priority 4 species are considered to have been adequately surveyed and not in need of special protection but could be if circumstances change (Smith 2012). Given the size of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the conservation status of these species. The exception is a Priority 2 species, mapped approximately 1200 metres from the application area. The Department of Parks and Wildlife advises that suitable habitat for this species is common in the local area and that a flora survey is not warranted (Department of Parks and Wildlife 2014).

One rare flora species is mapped within the local area, all sites of which are located within a different soil type to that of the application area. The closest is located approximately eight kilometres from the application area.

No priority or threatened ecological communities are mapped within the local area. Considering the above, the application area is not likely to comprise a high level of biological diversity or impact on the continued existence of rare flora or threatened ecological communities.

Given the local area retains approximately 60 per cent native vegetation, and the application area consists of degraded to completely degraded (Keighery 1994) vegetation, the area under application is not likely to be a significant remnant in a highly cleared landscape nor have a significant impact on fauna habitat.

Harris River State Forest adjoins the application area along the eastern portion of its southern boundary. The Collie State Forest also adjoins the southern boundary of the application area, at the eastern extremity, and both the northern and southern boundaries at the western end. Both of these forests are A Class conservation areas. Impacts on the environmental values of these conservation areas are likely to be minimal, given the small extent of the proposed clearing area. However, their close proximity warrants practices to minimise the spread of dieback and weeds.

One minor, perennial watercourse transects the application area. The small extent of clearing of riparian vegetation is not likely to impact significantly on the environmental values of the watercourse. Given the linear nature and the small extent of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, impact on water quality or cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding

Considering the above, the application is at variance to clearing Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References:

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014)
- Government of Western Australia (2013)
- Smith (2012)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets:

- DPaW tenure
- Hydrography, linear
- RIWI Act, Rivers
- SAC Biodatasets accessed June 2014
- Pre-European Vegetation

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

Comments

The proposed clearing lies within the Country Area Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS Act) Wellington Dam Catchment Area. The area is located within Zones B and D, which are high and low salinity parts of the catchment, respectively. Department of Water Policy and Guidelines for the 'Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation' provide for the grant of a licence for government works on the condition that an equivalent area within the same or higher salinity risk zone is revegetated. The Department of Water (DoW) has advised that given the small scale of the proposed clearing, the amalgamation of similar offset area requirements over time to create sustainable revegetation areas is acceptable. The DoW therefore has no objections to the clearing proposal (DoW 2014a).

The application area is located within an unassigned priority Public Drinking Water Source Area. The DoW recommends the proponent refers to the Department's Water Quality Protection Note 44 to minimise the impact the clearing might have on water quality (DoW 2014b).

The application area occurs in the Collie River Irrigation District as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) Act 1914. Any clearing of riparian vegetation or interference with the bed and/or banks of the waterway would require a Permit from DoW under the RIWI Act 1914 (DoW 2014b).

Methodology

References:

- DoW (2014a)
- DoW (2014b)

GIS Dataset:

- CAWSA Part IIA Clearing Control Catchments
- PDWSA
- RIWI Act, Rivers

4. References

- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2014) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6115/1, received 21 May 2014. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A761535).
- DoW (2014a) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6115/1, received 28 May 2014. Department of Water, Western Australia (DER Ref: A763550).
- DoW (2014b) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 6115/1, received 29 May 2014. Department of Water, Western Australia (DER Ref: A764461).

 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.
- 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.
- Smith, M.G. (2012) Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia. WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.