



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6223/1

File Number: DEC14704

Duration of Permit: From 8 November 2014 to 8 November 2016

PERMIT HOLDER

Craig Robert Hutton

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 23 on Plan 23119 (Capel)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.2 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 6223/1.

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;
- (d) only move soils in *dry conditions*.

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 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*

9 October 2014

Plan 6223/1



LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

- Areas Approved to Clear
- Road Centrelines
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authorities

Donnybrook 50cm
Orthomosaic - Landgate
2004



0 ~125 m

Scale 1:4623

(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 9/10/14

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

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6223/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Craig Hutton

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 23 ON PLAN 23119 (House No. 357 PLANTATION CAPEL 6271)
Local Government Area: Shire of Capel
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 0.2 | | Mechanical Removal | Firebreak |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 9 October 2014

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 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Beard Vegetation Association 1136: Medium woodland; marri with some jarrah, wandoo, river gum and casuarina (Shepherd et al, 2001) | Clearing 0.2 hectares of native vegetation within lot 23 on Plan 23119, Capel, Shire of Capel for the purpose of establishing a firebreak. | Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) | Sections of the proposed clearing area may consist of regrowth as the area appears to have been subject to past disturbance from an old track. The proposed clearing is approximately 460 metres long at a width of four metres. |
| Hedde Vegetation Complex Abba: A mixture of open forest of E. calophylla - E. marginata - Banksia spp. and woodland of E. calophylla with minor occurrences of E. haematoxylin. Woodland of E. rudis - Melaleuca spp. along creeks and on flood plains (Hedde et al, 1980). | | To Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994) | The vegetation under application is in a degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Vegetation condition was determined through aerial imagery. |

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear 0.2 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 23 on Plan 23119, Capel, Shire of Capel for the purpose of establishing a firebreak. The proposed clearing will be undertaken over a linear length of approximately 460 meters at a width of four metres.

The vegetation under application is in a degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Several priority and rare flora species have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application. Several priority flora species occur within the same soil and vegetation type as the application area. The vegetation on Lot 23 may resemble Floristic Community Type 21b (FCT21b), Southern Banksia attenuata

woodlands (Parks and Wildlife, 2014). This community type is a priority 3 ecological community and is known to support rare and priority flora that has been mapped as occurring within close proximity to the clearing area (Parks and Wildlife, 2014). Considering the size and the linear nature of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely priority flora or the priority ecological community would be significantly impacted upon. The rare flora species associated to FCT21b occurs in white or grey sand in low-lying areas adjoining winter-wet swamps (WA Herbarium, 1998). The proposed clearing area is not adjoining a winter-wet swamp therefore is unlikely to impact on the rare flora species.

Several fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the area under application including; Forest Red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) and Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) (DEC, 2007-). Given the size of the clearing (0.2 hectares) and its linear nature, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on conservation significant fauna.

Two threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the proposed clearing area with the closest being SCP10a, Shrublands on dry clay flats approximately 200 metres from the applied area. The vegetation within the TEC and application area is not connected and is separated by Plantation Road. A small section of the southern end of the proposed clearing (approximately 0.018 hectares) may align with TEC referred to as SCP1b, *Corymbia calophylla* woodlands on heavy soils of the Swan Coastal Plain (Parks and Wildlife, 2014). It is unlikely significant impacts would occur to this community type given the small size of the proposed clearing area within the potential TEC.

The vegetation under application is represented by Beard Vegetation Association 1136 which has approximately 7 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent remaining within the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2013). The vegetation under application is also represented by Heddle Vegetation Complex Abba which also has 7 per cent of its pre-European extant remaining (Heddle et al, 1980).

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 types represented within the proposed clearing area fall below the 30 per cent threshold level. Some of the proposed clearing area has been subject to past disturbances and may no longer be a representation of the mapped vegetation types. The local area (10 kilometre radius) contains approximately 35 per cent pre-European vegetation. Given the size, condition and linear nature of the application area it is not likely to be considered a significant remnant is a highly cleared area.

The Capel Nature Reserve is approximately 2.5 kilometres from the area under application. The Coolilup State Forest is approximately three kilometres from the proposed clearing area. The vegetation within the applied area is not connected to the nearby nature reserve or state forest and considering the size of the clearing, it is not likely the application will impact on the environmental values of these areas.

Several wetlands, predominately multiple use category, have been recorded within 10 kilometres of the application area. The area under application is not within a wetland and given the size and linear nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely the clearing will impact on the wetlands mapped within the area.

Given the nature of the clearing it is unlikely to cause or exacerbate land degradation or flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds and dieback being introduced into the adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating these risks.

Methodology

References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DEC (2007-)
Heddle et al (1980)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
Keighery (1996)
Parks and Wildlife (2014)
Western Australian Herbarium (1998)

GIS Databases

-DEC Tenue
-Hydrography, linear
-NWLRA, Extent of Native Vegetation
-Pre-European Vegetation
-SAC Bio Datasets August 2014

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

Comments

The Shire of Capel (2014) has no objection to the proposed clearing for the purpose of fire management.

Methodology References

- Shire of Capel (2014)

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed September 2014
- 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.
- Parks and Wildlife (2014) Information received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6223/1 – Craig Hutton (DER Ref:A814634)
- 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 Capel (2014) Submission received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 6223/1 - Craig Hutton received 11 September 2014 (DER Ref:A805692).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed October 2014).