



## **CLEARING PERMIT**

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### **PERMIT DETAILS**

Area Permit Number: 6315/1

File Number: 2014/001825-1

Duration of Permit: 27 December 2014 to 27 December 2016

### **PERMIT HOLDER**

Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation trading as Synergy

### **LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE**

Lot 4903 on Deposited Plan 167984, Muja

### **AUTHORISED ACTIVITY**

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.7 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 6315/1.

### **CONDITIONS**

Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Warnock", written over a horizontal line.

M Warnock  
SENIOR MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

27 November 2014

# Plan 6315/1



## LEGEND

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

Collie 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006



Scale 1:8000  
(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 27/11/14

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

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.: 6315/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation TA Synergy

### 1.3. Property details

Property: PART LOT 4903 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 167984 (MUJA 6225)

Local Government Area: Shire of Collie

### 1.4. Application

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

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 27 November 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: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al, 2001).

##### Mattiske Vegetation Complex:

Yalanbee Y5: Mixture of open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *thalassica*-*Corymbia calophylla* and woodland of *Eucalyptus wandoo* on lateritic uplands in semi arid to perarid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

##### 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)

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

**Comments** This application proposes to clear 0.7 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4903 on Deposited Plan 167984, Muju, for the purpose of widening a temporary ash dam.

Consideration has been given to impacts to biodiversity, significant fauna habitat, rare flora, threatened ecological communities, remnant vegetation values, wetlands, watercourses, land degradation, surface water quality, groundwater quality, and flooding. The assessment has found that the clearing under application is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
- Hydrology, linear  
- IBRA Australia  
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance  
- DPaW Tenure  
- Groundwater salinity, statewide  
- Soils, statewide  
- RIWI Act, Areas  
- Pre-European Vegetation  
- SAC Biodatasets Accessed November 2014

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

**Comments** The application proposes to clear 0.7 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4903 on Deposited Plan 167984, Muju, for the purpose of widening a temporary ash dam.

The Department of Water (DoW, 2014) has advised that the proposed clearing lies within the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS Act) gazetted Wellington Dam Catchment Area. The proposal is located in Zone A, a very high salinity risk part of the Wellington Catchment, where DoW Policy and Guidelines for the 'Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous vegetation' provide for the grant of a licence for essential government works subject to an equivalent area being reforested within the same or higher salinity risk zone.

DoW records show that four CAWS Act Licences to clear, totalling 29.6 hectares, have been granted for Lot 4903 to date. No CAWS Act compensation has been paid to retain native vegetation at the site.

DoW (2014) has advised that under the merger of the state's electricity retailer (Synergy) and generator (Verve Energy), Synergy has access to clearing credits accrued by Western Power for previously establishing offset plantations in excess of areas licenced to clear for various past electricity generation works. This clearing credit entitlement was originally transferred to Verve Energy under an Electricity Corporations Act 2005 Transfer Order. DoW has advised that if Synergy is in agreement, they will reduce Synergy's clearing credits by 0.7 hectares once a clearing permit has been granted.

DoW (2014a) has advised that the proposal lies within a 'Priority not assigned' Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) within the Wellington Dam Catchment Area. This may be a potential Priority 3 area where the classification management objective is to manage the risk of pollution to the water source from catchment activities.

The Department of Water (2014a) has advised that there is a risk of contamination to groundwater due to the proposed end land use, where heavy metals and other contaminants from the ash may percolate into the groundwater and become potentially mobilised. The greatest risk of groundwater contamination is likely to occur during the period when the dam is enlarged and the ash comes into direct contact with the ground, before the clay lining is reinstated.

The Department of Water (2014a) has advised that to mitigate the risk identified above, the applicant should follow the practices outlined in the Departments "Water Quality Protection Note 27 – Liners for containing pollutants, using engineered soils", which provides guidance on land use management measures to protect water sources against the risk of contamination (DoW, 2013).

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped over the application area.

The area under application is zoned as 'public purposes' under the Town Planning Scheme.

No submissions from the public have been received for the proposed clearing.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- DoW (2014)
- DoW (2014a)
- DoW (2013)

##### GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Town Planning Scheme

## 4. References

- DoW (2013) Water Quality Protection Note 'Liners for containing pollutants, using engineered soils'. Western Australia. <http://www.water.wa.gov.au/PublicationStore/first/93695.pdf> (Accessed 19/11/14).
- DoW (2014) CAWS advice for Clearing Permit CPS 6315/1. Department of Water. Western Australia. (DER Ref: A827843).
- DoW (2014a) Advice for Clearing Permit CPS 6315/1. Department of Water. Western Australia. (DER Ref: A830715).
- 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.
- 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.