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Our Ref: I1319102

Email: glenn.yeatman@rpsgroup.com.au
Date: 29 July 2015

Jessica Burton
Department of Environment Regulation
Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square
PERTH WA 6850

Dear Jessica

CPS 6517/1: COLLIE MOTORPLEX APPLICATION TO CLEAR NATIVE VEGETATION PUBLIC SUBMISSION RESPONSE

Thank you for your recent correspondence (dated 3 July, 2015) detailing the public submission received regarding the Motoring South West Inc.'s application to clear native vegetation within State Forest 4, Cardiff (CPS 6517/1). The application was submitted for the purposes of developing the Collie Motorplex drag strip and associated infrastructure. The original application was to clear 14.9 ha native vegetation, but this area was subsequently reduced to 13.86 (approximately 1 hectare reduction as clearing is no longer proposed within the minimal loss area outlined on Figure 6 within CPS 6517/1 application) as per your email dated 1 July 2015.

Public Submission

One public submission was received during the application advertisement period as detailed below:

> The proposed clearing application will cause significant impact including on significant foraging habitat of the conservation significant Carnaby's black cockatoo, forest red-tailed black cockatoo and Baudin's black cockatoo.

Response

The following environmental assessments have been undertaken for the site including:

- Level 2 Flora and Vegetation Survey – Collie Motorplex (Ecoedge Environmental 2013)
- Level 1 Fauna Assessment of Collie Motorplex Proposed Clearing Areas (Greg Harewood 2013).

The flora and vegetation survey included an assessment of the extent and suitability of the vegetation as existing and/or potential feeding, nesting and roosting habitat for black cockatoo species. The fauna assessment included a targeted assessment of the sites significance to the black cockatoo species.

As detailed in the submitted documentation, almost all of the remnant native vegetation within the site can be regarded as representative of foraging habitat for black cockatoos due to the dominance of jarrah, and to a lesser extent marri along with other subdominant species such as Banksia and Allocasuarina.

Several hollows large enough to be used for black cockatoo nesting were observed on the site, but no existing roosting trees were positively identified during the on-site fauna survey and there was no evidence of any hollows being used by black cockatoos for nesting. Of the trees assessed as having large enough hollows for black cockatoos to use for nesting, only seven of these trees (>50 cm DBH, one or more hollows possibly suitable for a black cockatoo) are required to be removed (see attached Figure 1). However, no evidence of any of these hollows being used by black cockatoos for nesting (currently or previously) was observed.

The survey identified no Declared Rare Flora, Priority Flora, threatened species pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act or other flora of conservation significance within the site.

As detailed in the submitted documentation, it is likely that the proposed clearing will impact potential black cockatoo habitat, but it is not considered likely that the clearing will have a significant impact on black cockatoo populations. State forest (Collie, Muja and Mumballup) directly surrounds the site, which comprises the same vegetation complex and therefore very likely the same habitat opportunities for black cockatoo species.

If you require additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely
RPS

GLENN YEATMAN
Principal Scientist

enc: Figure 1: Habitat Trees

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LEGEND

- Tree >50cm DBH, one or more hollows possibly suitable for a Black Cockatoo
- Proposed Design
- Site Boundary
- Minimal Loss of Existing Trees (<5%) - 19.17 ha
- Some Loss of Existing Trees (50%) - 9.80 ha
- Total Loss of Existing Trees - 13.78 ha

RPS

Job Number: I13191BD
Doc Number: 002
Date: 28.07.15
Scale: 1:3,040 @ A3
Created by: MR
Source: Cadastre - Landgate, 2013 Orthophoto - Landgate, 2013 Proposed Design - 2014

GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50

0 15 30 60 90 120 m

Figure 1

Habitat Trees