

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING - PURPOSE PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED SEWER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEERABUP INDUSTRIAL AREA, NEERABUP

ISSUE

To consider granting a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit to enable the construction of the proposed sewer for the Neerabup Industrial Area, Neerabup. To facilitate the construction works, native vegetation clearing is required within Wallangara Reserve, Flynn Park and the Flynn Drive road reserve.

BACKGROUND AND DETAIL OF PROJECT

The City of Wanneroo is proposing to undertake the construction of a sewer within the Neerabup Industrial Area. The works are proposed for the 2016/2017 financial year with works scheduled to occur in July 2016 - March 2017.

To facilitate the works the City is seeking approval to clear a total of 0.4902ha (4902m²) of native vegetation. The 0.4902ha of native vegetation is located on the proposed sewer alignment within Wallangara Reserve, Flynn Park and the Flynn Drive road reserve. The sewer construction will be undertaken predominantly by horizontal boring to minimise the requirement for vegetation clearing along the sewer alignment; however in the proximity of sewer access maintenance shafts the vegetation will need to be cleared to facilitate the construction.

The clearing permit application will address the worst case scenario where all remnant vegetation within the identified polygons will need to be removed to an area equal to 0.4902ha. However the City endeavours to retain as many trees and remnant vegetation as possible and will ensure clearing is kept to an absolute minimum throughout these works.

FLORA AND VEGETATION ASSESSMENT

Vegetation Association, Condition Rating and Complex

The native vegetation proposed for clearing to facilitate the sewer construction contains remnant vegetation belonging to the Cottesloe Complex - Central and South and the Karrakatta Complex - Central and South.

A vegetation site assessment was undertaken by the City's Project Officer- Environmental in April 2015. The vegetation assessment determined that the vegetation was a *Eucalyptus marginata* – *Banksia* woodland and contained a diverse array of flora species with over 40 species identified. The species identified included but was not limited to the following; *Scaevola sp*, *Hakea lissocarpha*, *Hibbertia huegelii*, *Bossiaea eriocarpa*, *Daviesia triflora*, *Acacia pulchella*, *Calytrix fraseri*, *Drosera erythrorhiza*, *Gastrolobium capitatum*, *Kunzea ericifolia*, *Petrophile linearlis*, *Kennedia prostrata* and *Xanthorohea preissii*.

The vegetation condition was deemed to be Very Good to Excellent (Keighery Condition Scale), however it was noted that the western proposed clearing area of Wallangara Reserve had been subject to controlled burning activity in 2014.

Environmental Protection Act 1986 – Ten Clearing Principles

In relation to clearing principle 'a) *it comprises a high level of biological diversity*'; the clearing of 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant native vegetation within Wallangara Reserve, Flynn Park and the Flynn Drive road reserve is likely to be at variance with this principle due to the high number of flora species identified during the 2015 site visit and that Wallangara Reserve is within a Threatened Priority Ecological community Buffer Area (Neer01 and NeerabupEast).

In relation to the clearing principle 'b) *it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia*'; the proposed clearing may be at variance with this principle given the clearing area falls within a mapped ecological link and includes known foraging species for the Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.

In relation to clearing principle 'c) *it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, flora declared to be rare under the Wildlife Protection Act 1950*'; a search of the City's GIS database revealed no Declared Rare species within the proposed clearing area, therefore the clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'd) *it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community*'; a search of the City's GIS database revealed that Wallangara Reserve is within a Threatened Ecological Community Buffer Area (Neer01 and NeerabupEast). Given the above, the clearing may be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'e) *it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared*'; the 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant vegetation proposed to be cleared is within the Cottesloe Complex - Central and South and Karrakatta Complex - Central and South. The current extent of the vegetation complexes are as follows:

- Cottesloe Complex - Central and South – 35.22 %.
- Karrakatta Complex - Central and South – 23.91%.

(Vegetation complexes on the Swan Coastal Plain south of Moore River dataset, 2013).

Due to; 1) the current extent of the vegetation complex, 2) the location of the proposed clearing area in respect to the extent of surrounding remnant native vegetation and 3) the relatively small clearing area requirement, the clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'f) *if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland*'; the area surrounding the proposed clearing works does not contain any wetlands or watercourses, therefore the clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'g) *if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation*'; the clearing of 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant native vegetation is not likely to cause land degradation in the short or long-term and therefore the clearing is not likely to be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'h) *the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area*'; the proposed clearing may be at variance with this principle as the clearing area falls within a mapped ecological linkage and Wallangara Reserve is a Bush Forever Site, No. 494, West Flynn Drive Bushland .

In relation to clearing principle 'i) *the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water*'; the proposed clearing of 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant native vegetation is outside of Public Drinking Water Source Areas and is therefore not likely to be at variance with this principle.

In relation to clearing principle 'j) *if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding*'; the clearing 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant native vegetation is not likely to be at variance with this principle due to the relatively small nature of clearing.

RECOMMENDATION

The City seeks the Department of Environment Regulation's approval to clear 0.4902ha (4902m²) of remnant native vegetation within Wallangara Reserve, Flynn Park and Flynn Drive road reserve in order to facilitate the construction of sewer for the Neerabup Industrial Area, Neerabup.

The City will endeavour where possible to minimise the clearing of native vegetation by adopting the use of horizontal boring construction methods during stages of the construction works.

Other Attachments:

- **Neerabup Industrial Area Clearing Permit Application Plan 2960-1012-4**

LOCATION MAP – PURPOSE PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED SEWER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEERABUP INDUSTRIAL AREA, NEERABUP



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			<p>Printed by Johnson, Jesse</p>
		<p>Scale = 1:18056</p>	

PHOTOS - PURPOSE PERMIT FOR THE PROPOSED SEWER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEERABUP INDUSTRIAL AREA, NEERABUP

Photo 1: Wallangara Reserve South block



Photo 2: Wallangara Reserve South block



Photo 3: Wallangara Reserve South block



Photo 4: Wallangara Reserve South block



Photo 5: Wallangara Reserve West block



Photo 6: Wallangara Reserve West block



Photo 7: Wallangara Reserve West block



Photo 8: Wallangara Reserve West block



Photo 9: Flynn Park



Photo 10: Flynn Park

