



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 6775/1
File Number: 2013/000312-2
Duration of Permit: From 16 January 2016 to 16 January 2018

PERMIT HOLDER

Rottneest Island Authority

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 10976 on Deposited Plan 216860, Reserve 16713 (Rottneest Island)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2.39 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 6775/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *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:

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;

weeds 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.

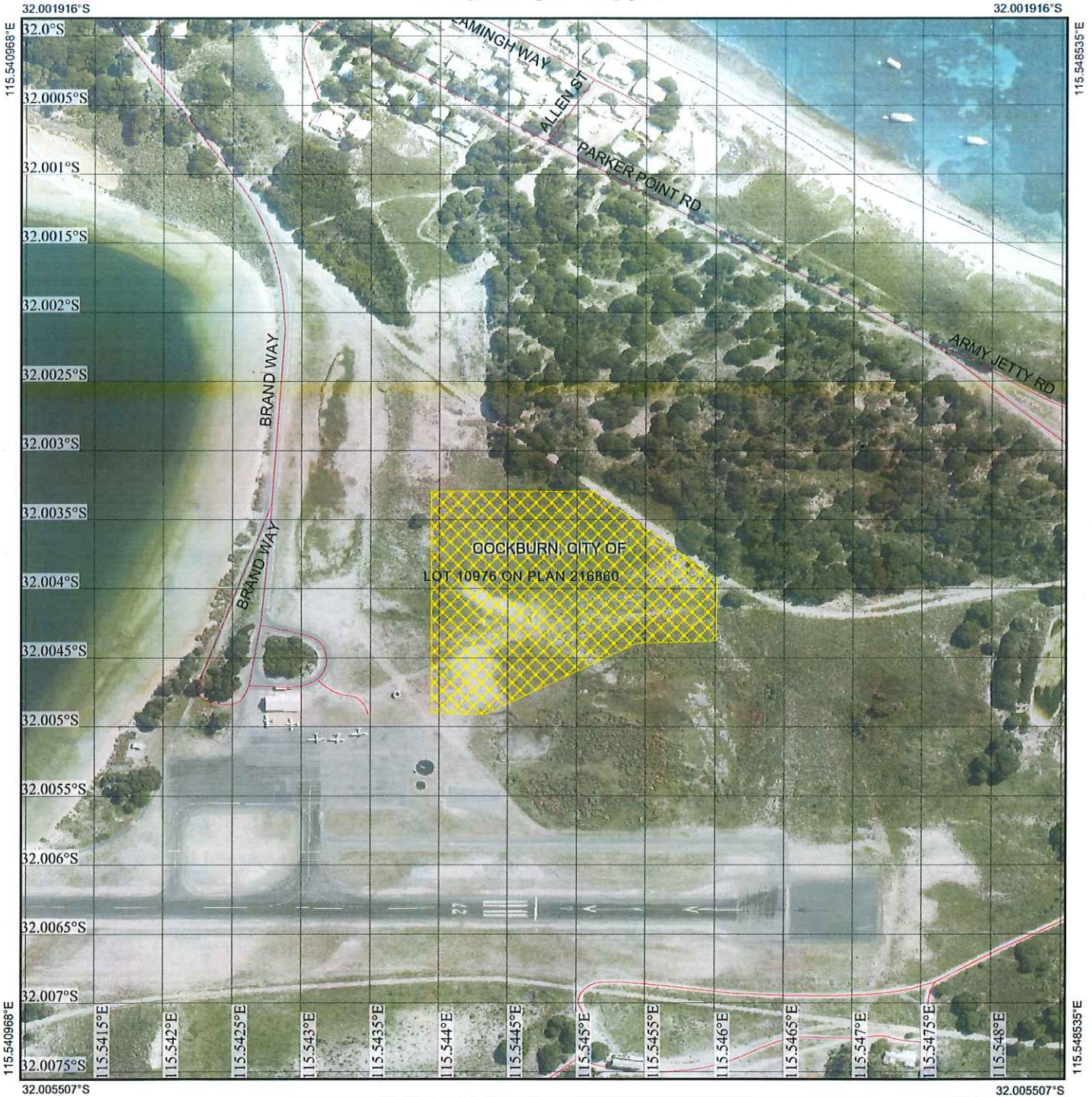
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Widenbar".

James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

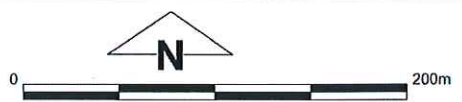
17 December 2015

Plan 6775/1



Legend

-  Roads
-  Imagery
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority
-  Cadastre



1:3,788
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)
GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

James Widenbar Date *17/12/2015*
James Widenbar

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6775/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Rottnest Island Authority

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10976 ON PLAN 216860, ROTTNEST ISLAND
Local Government Authority: COCKBURN, CITY OF
DER Region: Greater Swan
DPaW District: SWAN COASTAL
Localities: ROTTNEST ISLAND

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.39		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 17 December 2015

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
Hedde vegetation Quindalup complex is comprised of coastal dune complex - low closed forest and closed scrub (Hedde et al., 1980).	This application is to clear 2.39 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 10976 on Deposited Plan 216860 (Reserve 16713), Rottnest Island, for the purpose of constructing a solar farm.	Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).	The condition of the vegetation was determined via aerial imagery
Beard Vegetation Association 15 is described as low forest comprising cypress pine (Shepherd et al., 2001)		To Completely Degraded: No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments This application is to clear 2.39 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 10976 on Deposited Plan 216860 (Reserve 16713), Rottnest Island, for the purpose of constructing a solar farm.

Aerial imagery indicates that the application area is in a good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with significant areas of disturbance within the south west corner of the application area associated with Rottnest Island Airport.

Rottnest Island comprises an area of 1900 hectares and is extensively vegetated retaining approximately 75 per cent of its native vegetation. Given that extensive areas of better condition vegetation are present on Rottnest Island, it is not likely that the relatively small application area, located adjacent to Rottnest Island Airport, provides significant habitat for fauna.

There is one conservation significant flora species (Priority 2) recorded (one record, taken in 2000) on Rottnest Island, located approximately 2.5 kilometres west of the application area. The small extent of clearing proposed is not likely to impact on the conservation status of this species.

There are seven priority ecological communities (PEC) and one threatened ecological community (TEC), recorded on Rottnest Island. The seven PEC's are all associated with the Microbial Lake Communities, the closest of which (Priority 2) is located 150 metres west of the application area. There are previously cleared areas associated with airport infrastructure between the application area and this PEC, therefore it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on this PEC. The TEC, known as 'Callitris preissii forests and woodlands, Swan Coastal Plain' occurs 150 metres north west of the application area.

Aerial imagery indicates that the vegetation under application is not representative of this woodland community and given the distance, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the TEC.

Rottnest Island is an 'A' Class Reserve which is protected for its high conservation and community value. The application area is not likely to provide significant fauna habitat, impact on conservation significant flora, or impact or comprise of the significant ecological lake communities or TEC, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on Rottnest Island's conservation values.

Given the relatively small area proposed to be cleared and that no wetlands or watercourses occur within the application area, it is not likely that the proposed clearing consists of riparian vegetation, will cause appreciable land degradation, impact water quality, or cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding.

The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing will increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent vegetation. Weed management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

Methodology References:
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed December 2015)
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
Hydrography, linear

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments There have been no submissions received from the public in response to the proposed clearing.

The proposed clearing falls within several Aboriginal Sites of Significance. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The Rottnest Island Authority administers the management of the Island under the provisions of the Rottnest Island Authority Act 1987 and Rottnest Island Regulations.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Heddl, 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.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.