



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number:705 / 1

File Number:21054

Duration of Permit: From 10 February 2008 to 9 February 2018

PERMIT HOLDER

Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 681 ON PLAN 43208 (BEACON 6472)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1. Clearing of up to 2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 705/1 for the purpose of expansion of grain storage facility.

CONDITIONS

1. Clearing, as described in Authorised Activity 1, may only be carried out between 10 February 2008 and 9 February 2010.
2. Weeds
When undertaking any clearing and revegetation, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no weed-affected *road building materials, mulch, fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
3. Offsets
 - (a) Determination of offsets
 - (i) If part or all of the clearing to be done is or may be at variance with one or more of the clearing principles, then the permit holder must implement an *offset* in accordance with Conditions 3(a) and 3(b) of this Permit with respect to that native vegetation.
 - (ii) In determining the *offset* to be implemented with respect to a particular area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared under this Permit, the permit holder must have regard to the offset principles contained in condition 3(b) of this Permit.
 - (iii) Once the permit holder has developed an offset proposal, the permit holder must provide that offset proposal to the CEO for the CEO's approval, prior to undertaking any clearing to which the offset relates, and prior to implementing the offset.
 - (iv) Clearing may not commence until and unless the CEO has approved the offset proposal.
 - (v) The permit holder shall implement the offset proposal approved under condition 3(a)(iii).
 - (vi) Each offset proposal shall include a direct offset, timing for implementation of the offset proposal and may additionally include contributing offsets.

(b) Offset principles

For the purpose of this Part, the offset principles are as follows:

- (i) *direct offsets* should directly counterbalance the loss of the native vegetation;
- (ii) *contributing offsets* should complement and enhance the *direct offset*;
- (iii) *offsets* are implemented only once all avenues to avoid, minimise, rectify or reduce environmental impacts have been exhausted;
- (iv) the environmental values, habitat, species, ecological community, physical area, ecosystem, landscape, and hydrology of the *offset* should be the same as, or better than, that of the area of native vegetation being *offset*;
- (v) a ratio greater than 1:1 should be applied to the size of the area of *native vegetation* that is offset to compensate for the risk that the *offset* may fail;
- (vi) *offsets* must entail a robust and consistent assessment process;
- (vii) in determining an appropriate *offset*, consideration should be given to ecosystem function, rarity and type of *ecological community*, *vegetation condition*, habitat quality and area of native vegetation cleared;
- (viii) the *offset* should either result in no net loss of native vegetation, or lead to a net gain in native vegetation and improve the condition of the natural environment;
- (ix) *offsets* must satisfy all statutory requirements;
- (x) *offsets* must be clearly defined, documented and audited;
- (xi) *offsets* must ensure a long-term (10-30 year) benefit; and
- (xii) an *environmental specialist* must be involved in the design, assessment and monitoring of *offsets*.

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records in relation to the offsets of areas pursuant to condition 3:

- (i) The location of any area of offsets recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
- (ii) A description of the *offset* activities undertaken; and
- (iii) The size of the *offset* area (in hectares).

5. The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 31 March of each year, a written report of records required under condition 4 and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

condition means the rating given to native vegetation using the *Keighery scale* and refers to the degree of change in the structure, density and species present in the particular vegetation in comparison to undisturbed vegetation of the same type;

contributing offsets has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

direct offsets has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

ecological community means a naturally occurring biological assemblage that occurs in a particular type of habitat (English and Blythe, 1997; 1999). The scale at which ecological communities are defined will depend on the level of detail in the information source, therefore no particular scale is specified. An ecological community is a naturally occurring biological assemblage that occurs in a particular type of habitat.

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the permit holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under 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;

offset means an offset required to be implemented under Condition 3 of this Permit;

road building materials means rock, gravel, soil, stone, timber, boulders and water;

weed means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.



Keith Claymore
A/Director
Nature Conservation Division
Department of Environment and Conservation
Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

10 January 2008