



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7159/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	24 September 2016 – 24 September 2021

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of installing underground power cables

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 60836, Boodarie
Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Boodarie
Lot 372 on Deposited Plan 35620, Boodarie
Lot 1301 on Deposited Plan 70562, Boodarie
Lot 1199 on Deposited Plan 70562, Boodarie

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than two hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7159/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

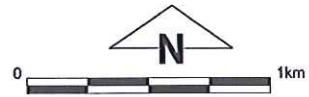
25 August 2016

Plan 7159/1



Legend

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



1:29,230

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

James Wisenberg Date 25/8/16

JAMES WISENBERG

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



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7159/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1199 ON PLAN 70562, BOODARIE
LOT 1301 ON PLAN 70562, BOODARIE
LOT 370 ON PLAN 35619, BOODARIE
LOT 372 ON PLAN 35620, BOODARIE
LOT 556 ON PLAN 60836, BOODARIE

Colloquial name:
Local Government Authority: PORT HEDLAND, TOWN OF
Localities: BOODARIE

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2		Mechanical Removal	Installing underground power cables

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 25 August 2016
Reasons for Decision: The clearing application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and has concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through assessment the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing will impact on vegetation growing in association with a watercourse. The Delegated Officer determined that the impact to riparian vegetation is limited unlikely to be significant given the clearing of a small linear area.

State policies and other relevant policies have been taken into consideration in the decision to grant a clearing permit.

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
Beard vegetation association 647: Hummock grasslands, dwarf-shrub steppe; <i>Acacia translucens</i> over soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The application is for the proposed clearing of two hectares of native vegetation within Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 60836, Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Lot 372 on Deposited Plan 35620, Lot 1301 and 1199 on Deposited Plan 70562, Boodarie, for the purpose of installing underground power cables.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation condition and structure was determined via ecological assessments undertaken by GHD 2016. Four vegetation types were identified within the application area; VT1 - Low shrubland of <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> with <i>Triodia epactia</i> and/or <i>Triodia secunda</i> grassland with scattered, mixed low shrubs and herbs. VT2 - Low, dense grassland of <i>Triodia secunda</i> and <i>Triodia epactia</i> over patches of bunch grasses (<i>Aristida</i> sp.) and occasional <i>Sarcostemma viminalis</i> subsp. <i>australe</i> , and <i>Frankenia ambita</i> . VT3 - Low open shrubland of <i>Tecticornia halocnemoides</i> and <i>Muellerolimon</i>

salicomiaceum with patches of *Frankenia ambita* and *Eulalia* on slightly higher ground.
VT4 - *Avicennia marina* (mangrove) over scattered *Muellerolimon salicomiaceum* and patches of *Frankenia ambita*.

GHD (2016)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the proposed clearing of two hectares of native vegetation within Lot 556 on Deposited Plan 60836, Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 35619, Lot 372 on Deposited Plan 35620, Lot 1301 and 1199 on Deposited Plan 70562, Boodarie, for the purpose of installing underground power cables.

A total of 28 flora species representing 15 families was recorded from the survey area during the field survey (GHD, 2016). This total comprised 25 native taxa and three introduced taxa.

A total of five priority flora species have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius). An ecological assessment over the application area concluded two species (*Tephrosia rosea* subsp. Port Hedland (P1) and *Goodenia nuda* (P4) could possibly occur within the survey area, based on habitat present (GHD, 2016). A level 1 vegetation and flora assessment of the application area did not identify the abovementioned priority flora (GDH, 2016).

There are no rare flora, priority ecological communities or threatened ecological communities recorded within the local area.

Twelve fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within five kilometres of the application area. This includes but not limited to, Airlie Island Skink (*Ctenotus angusticeps*), Crest-tailed Mulgara (*Dasyercus cristicauda*), Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*), Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) and Banded hare-wallaby (*Lagostrophus fasciatus subsp. fasciatus*) (Department of Parks and Wildlife [Parks and Wildlife], 2007-).

An ecological assessment over the application area based on the vegetation present determined that the Airlie Island skink could potentially occur within the survey area (GHD, 2016), however no fauna species of conservation significance were recorded during the survey (GHD, 2016). It is unlikely the proposed clearing will impact on fauna species of conservation significance given the large amount of similar habitat in the same or better condition remaining in the local area.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation includes a target that prevents the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

The application area is located within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and the Town of Port Hedland which retain approximately 99 and 98 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2015). The local area is extensively vegetated with approximately 90 per cent native vegetation remaining. Given the relatively small application area and the remaining vegetation in the local area, the vegetation under application is not considered to be a significant remnant.

No conservation areas have been mapped within the local area.

The application area intersect with a small, unnamed creek that flows northwards across Finucane Island Road in the tidal marsh area (GDH, 2016). The application will involve the clearing of native vegetation growing in association with the creek, associated mudflats and marshes. However given the application areas linear nature, the minimal amount of vegetation to be removed in context to that remaining in the local area and purpose for clearing; removing the vegetation under application is not likely to significantly impact on riparian vegetation, contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water or surface water and is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, clearing the vegetation under application is at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Methodology

References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
GHD (2016)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)

GIS datasets:
Hydrography linear
Parks and Wildlife Tenure
SAC Bio datasets accessed August 2016

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 8 August 2016 with a seven day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology GIS datasets:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife 2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed August 2016
- GHD (2016) Horizon Power, Roy Hill Port Facility Power Line Port Hedland Ecological Assessment. Additional information received within Clearing Permit Application CPS 7159/1 (DER Ref:A1123872).
- Government of Western Australia (2015) 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of May 2016. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.