



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7319/1
Permit Holder:	Lester Group Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	11 February 2017 to 11 February 2022

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

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of fire hazard reduction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 888 on Deposited Plan 55755, Caversham
Reid Highway road reserve (PIN 11416052), Caversham

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.32 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7319/1.

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. 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

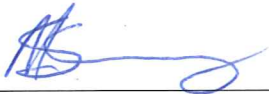
The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

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;

weed/s 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.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

12 January 2017

Plan 7319/1



Legend

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



1:2,500

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Mathew Gannaway Date 12/1/2017

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7319/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Lester Group Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 888 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 55755, CAVERSHAM
REID HIGHWAY ROAD RESERVE - 11416052, CAVERSHAM

Colloquial name:
Local Government Authority: SWAN, CITY OF

DER Region: Greater Swan
DPaW District: SWAN COASTAL
LCDC:
Localities: CAVERSHAM

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.32		Mechanical Removal	Fire hazard reduction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 12 January 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 13 October 2016 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in any significant environmental impacts.

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
The application area is mapped as: Beard Vegetation Association 1009 which is described as medium woodland; marri & river gum (Shepherd et al., 2001); and Hedde Vegetation Southern River Complex which is described as open woodland of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (Jarrah) - <i>Banksia</i> species with fringing woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (Flooded Gum) - <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> (Swamp Paperbark) along creek beds (Hedde et al., 1980).	The application is for the proposed clearing of 1.32 hectares of native vegetation within Reid Highway road reserve (PIN 11416052) and Lot 888 on Deposited Plan 55755, Caversham for the purpose of fire hazard reduction.	Excellent; Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994). To Completely Degraded; The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely to almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).	The condition of the vegetation in the application area was determined via a Department of Environment Regulation (DER) site inspection (DER, 2016) and a Level 1 flora and vegetation assessment undertaken by Strategen in August 2016 (Strategen, 2016a).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is to clear up to 1.32 hectares of native vegetation within Reid Highway road reserve (PIN 11416052) and Lot 888 on Deposited Plan 55755, Caversham for the purpose of fire hazard reduction. The mosaic pattern of the application area is a result of the applicant proposing to minimise the bushfire risk to the adjacent subdivision while still retaining as much vegetation as possible (Strategen 2016b).

A Level 1 flora and vegetation assessment of the application area was undertaken by Strategen in August 2016 (Strategen, 2016a). One vegetation type was mapped within the Survey area. This vegetation type is described as; *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and *Banksia attenuata* woodland over *Stirlingia latifolia* and *Gompholobium tomentosum* low shrubland over *Ehrharta calycina* open bunch grassland over *Conostylis aculeata* and *Anigozanthos manglesianus* on sandy-loam soils (Strategen, 2016a). This vegetation type encompassed the entire Strategen survey area (2.27 hectares). The DER site inspection confirmed the vegetation type identified in the survey and also identified 17 additional species to the vascular plant taxa recorded in the survey area (DER, 2016).

The vegetation condition in the application area ranged from excellent to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2016; Strategen, 2016a), with a majority in a good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. Native vegetation within the northwest and east of the application area is in a completely degraded condition and does not contain the same diversity of native species as the central portion of the survey area (DER, 2016; Strategen, 2016a). A majority of the excellent condition vegetation in the central portion will be retained in small patches. The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds spreading into the remaining vegetation. Weed management conditions will assist in mitigating this impact.

Fourteen fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (Parks and Wildlife, 2007-), including the Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and forest red-tailed black-cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*). Black cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts and flowers of a large variety of plants including proteaceous species (*Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Grevillea*), as well as *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus* species, *Corymbia calophylla* and a range of introduced species, especially seeds from cones of *Pinus* species (Shah, 2006; Valentine and Stock, 2008).

A DER site inspection identified black cockatoo foraging of *Banksia* sp. and marri in the application area (DER, 2016) and the Strategen survey identified eight forest red-tailed black-cockatoos on land adjacent to the application area during the flora and vegetation survey (Strategen, 2016a). Noting the vegetation type within the application area, it is considered that the application area contains suitable foraging for black cockatoo species. Given that a majority of the excellent condition vegetation, which included large *Banksia* species will be retained, it is considered that the application area is not likely to contain significant foraging habitat for these species.

The vegetation in the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1009 of which there is approximately 16 per cent of pre-European extent remaining within the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2015). The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Within defined constrained areas on the Swan Coastal Plain, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has set a threshold for retention of 10 per cent of the pre-clearing extent of each native vegetation complex (EPA, 2008). The application area has been classified as a constrained area. In addition, the vegetation type mapped during the survey is not considered a representative of the mapped vegetation association and is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

No rare or priority flora species or priority or threatened ecological communities were recorded within the application area during the flora and vegetation survey or the DER site inspection (DER, 2016; Strategen, 2016a).

The perimeter of the application area is mapped as a multiple use wetland. Multiple use wetlands are classified as having few important ecological attributes and functions remaining (Water and Rivers Commission, 2001). The remaining application area was previously mapped as a palusplain wetland and has been reclassified to a dryland which is no longer considered a wetland. The DER site inspection and the Strategen flora and vegetation assessment did not identify vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a wetland (DER, 2016; Strategen, 2016a). Given that part of the application area is mapped as a multiple use wetland, the proposed clearing may impact vegetation associated with a wetland but is not likely to significantly impact wetlands or to deteriorate the quality of groundwater or surface water.

The assessment of the proposed clearing identified that it is not considered likely for the application area to comprise of a high level of biological diversity, contain significant fauna habitat, contain habitat suitable for rare or priority flora species, consist of a threatened ecological community and is not likely to lead to land degradation in the form of wind or water erosion or increase in the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The assessment of the application identified that the clearing may be at variance to Principle (f), and is not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining principles.

Methodology References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DER (2016)
EPA (2008)
Government of Western Australia (2015)
Keighery (1994)
Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
Shah (2006)
Strategen (2016a)
Strategen (2016b)
Valentine and Stock (2008)
Water and Rivers Commission (2001)

GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear
- Pre European vegetation
- SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed January 2016)
- Geomorphic Wetlands Swan Coastal Plain (Management)
- Virtual Mosaic

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application was advertised in The West Australian newspaper on 24 October 2016 for a 21-day submission period. No public submissions were received in relation to the proposed clearing.

There are three Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area. The applicant will be notified of their responsibilities under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.

Main Roads Western Australia and the Western Australian Planning Commission provided authority for Lester Group Pty Ltd to access and clear vegetation within Reid Highway road reserve.

The proposed clearing is zoned as primary regional roads under the Metropolitan Region Scheme.

Methodology GIS Databases
- Aboriginal Sites Register
- Metropolitan Region Scheme – Zones and Reserves

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- DER (2016) Site inspection report for Clearing Permit application CPS 7319/1. Site inspection conducted 15 December 2016. Department of Environment Regulation, Perth. DER REF: A1355079.
- EPA (2008) Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development. Guidance Statement No. 33. Environmental Protection Authority. Western Australia.
- Government of Western Australia (2015). 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2015. Western Australia Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Hedde, 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.
- Shah, B. (2006) Conservation of Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo on the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia. December 2006. Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo Recovery Project. Birds Australia, 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.
- Strategen (2016a) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application [Purpose Permit] - Supporting Documentation. Reid Hwy road reserve, Caversham. Prepared for Lester Property Group by Strategen. October 2016. DER Ref: A1178993
- Strategen (2016b) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application CPS 7319/1. Additional information post site inspection. December 2016. DER Ref: A1345211
- Valentine, L.E. and Stock, W. (2008) Food Resources of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) in the Gnarara Sustainability Strategy Study Area. Edith Cowan University and Department of Environment and Conservation. December 2008.
- Water and Rivers Commission (2001) Position Statement: Wetlands, Water and Rivers Commission, Perth.