



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7748/1

File Number: 2017/001514-1

Duration of Permit: From 18 January 2018 to 18 January 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Andrew Cameron Hesketh

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 13186 on Deposited Plan 183468

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1.3 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7748/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Widenbar', written over a horizontal line.

James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION


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

19 December 2017

Plan 7748/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Cadastre
-  Roads
-  LGA
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



1:1,500

MGA 94

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Swire Date *19/12/17*

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7748/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Andrew Hesketh
Application received date: 23 August 2017

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 13186 ON PLAN 183468, NORTH GREENBUSHES
Local Government Authority: Shire of, Bridgetown and Greenbushes
Localities: Rosa Glen

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category
1.3	-	Mechanical Removal	Heavy machinery storage and general industrial purposes

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 19 December 2017
Reasons for Decision: The clearing application 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 is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer has had regard to specialist advice received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and a site inspection of the application area undertaken by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Based on the predominantly degraded condition of the application area and close proximity to extensive areas of native vegetation in better condition, the Delegated Officer considers that the proposed clearing represents a low risk and is unlikely to result in unacceptable impacts to the environment.

The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that in order to limit the impact of the clearing the applicant, via engaging an environmental specialist, has ensured that the application area contains no large trees.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer has determined to grant the clearing permit with no conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The clearing of 1.3 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 13186 on Deposited Plan 183468, North Greenbushes, for heavy machinery storage and general industrial purposes.

The application area occurs on the edge of a large remnant of native vegetation within a property utilised for industrial storage and extraction purposes (figure 1).

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped within South West Vegetation association Bridgetown 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Government of Western Australia, 2017).

A site inspection of the application area conducted by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)(DWER site inspection) officers, described the vegetation as a Tall Forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* and *Corymbia calophylla* over *Banksia grandis* and *Pteridium esculentum* (DWER, 2017).

Vegetation Condition The application area is predominantly in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition with small areas in a good (Keighery, 1994) condition. The condition of the vegetation was determined through the DWER site inspection (DWER, 2017).

Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

To

Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).



Figure 1: Location of the application area.



Figure 2: Location of application area in relation to conservation estate.

3. Avoidance and mitigation

In order to limit the impact of the clearing, the applicant has ensured that no large trees will be removed. This involved the site and adjoining vegetation being walked by an environmental specialist and large habitat trees mapped. It was confirmed that all large trees occur outside the application area.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As assessed under section 2.1, the application is to clear 1.3 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 13186 on Deposited Plan 183468, North Greenbushes, for heavy machinery storage and general industrial purposes. The application area occurs adjacent to an extensive remnant of native vegetation (figure 1). The local area is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the outside of the application area.

A September DWER site inspection noted that (DWER, 2017):

- The application area occurs in between current extractive industry / hardstand land use and an access track that has impacted the condition and ecological value of the vegetation;
- Although present within vegetation immediately adjacent to the application area, no large hollows suitable for black cockatoo breeding were identified within the application area; and
- The vegetation type present is similar to that of adjoining vegetation however, the adjoining vegetation is in better condition than the application area.

The local area retains 45 per cent native vegetation. The application area occurs adjacent to a large remnant of vegetation in a better condition than the application area (Figure 2).

The Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions advised that:

- The application will not impact on any flora or vegetation that is currently listed as threatened; and
- If the applied area supports large hollows, they may provide breeding habitat to black cockatoo species.

It is noted that the DWER site inspection confirmed that no large trees that may contain hollows are present within the application area.

All conservation significant flora recorded from the local area are associated with watercourses (not present within the application area) and no priority of threatened ecological communities have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Noting the lack of suitable habitat and records within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-) and given DBCA's advice, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to impact on threatened or priority flora or ecological communities.

Due to the lack of hollow bearing trees within the application area and presence of significant adjoining vegetation in a better condition (Figure 2), the application area is unlikely to represent significant fauna habitat. Given the position of the application in relation to conservation estate (figure2) clearing the application area will not impact on the movement of fauna through the landscape. Although foraging habitat for black cockatoos is present within the application area, given the extent and condition of the vegetation within the local area (figure 2), the application area is not considered significant foraging habitat for these species.

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). As the mapped vegetation association and local area retain above 30 per cent native vegetation, the application area is not considered to be within an extensively cleared area.

The closest conservation reserve occurs 500 metres from the application area. This conservation reserve surrounds the application area and the land in-between is highly vegetated (figure 2). As the vegetation under application is not significant within the local area and the adjoining vegetation provides a buffer to the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

As no wetlands or watercourses are mapped within the application area and given the amount of vegetation within the local area, the proposed clearing is not likely to 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 not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes advised that the property is zoned industrial and no development approval from the Shire is required (Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, 2017). The Shire does not raise any objection to the proposed clearing (Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes, 2017).

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website on 4 October 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2017) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 7748/1, undertaken 20 September 2017 (DWER ref: A1567791).
- Government of Western Australia (2017) 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. 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.
- Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes (2017) Advice received from the Shire of Bridgetown Greenbushes in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7748/1. Received 19 September 2017 (DWER ref: A1523610).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed December 2017).