



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7750/1

File Number: 2013/001352-1

Duration of Permit: From 10 February 2018 to 10 February 2020

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Augusta - Margaret River

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Carter Road Reserve, Pin 11476622, Burnside

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within the combined area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7750/1a and Plan 7750/1b.

### CONDITIONS

#### 1. Avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of 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:

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

#### 2. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared;
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit.

#### 3. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 2 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO or delegated officer.

James Widenbar  
MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION

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

12 January 2018

# Plan 7750/1a



## Legend

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



MG A 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

*Smilga* Date: 12/1/18

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

1:2,500



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

115°134" 115°137" 115°141" 115°144" 115°148" 115°152" 115°155" 115°159" 115°22' 115°26"

-33°54'47" -33°54'50" -33°54'54" -33°54'58" -33°55'1"

115°134" 115°137" 115°141" 115°144" 115°148" 115°152" 115°155" 115°159" 115°22' 115°26"





## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7750/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Augusta - Margaret River  
Application received date: 31 August 2017

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Road Reserve - 11476622, Burnside  
Local Government Authority: Augusta-Margaret River, Shire of  
Localities: Burnside

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category
0.9	-	Mechanical Removal	Road construction

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 12 January 2018

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 a limited clearing in a predominantly degraded condition and noting the close proximity to extensive areas of native vegetation in better condition including the adjoining vegetation in the road reserve, 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, the Shire aligned the road to avoid impacting as many large trees as possible. This included the site being walked by an environmental officer and demarcation of trees to be removed or avoided, prior to clearing.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer has determined to grant a clearing permit.

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

**Clearing Description** The clearing of 0.9 hectares of native vegetation within Carter Road Reserve (PIN 11476622) Burnside, for the purpose of road reconstruction.

The application area covers a 1.5 kilometre stretch of road. The road is proposed to be widened by 0.5 metres with a maximum clearing width of three metres.

**Vegetation Description** The vegetation under application is mapped within South West Vegetation associations (Government of Western Australia, 2017):

- Ww1: Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Agonis flexuosa-Callistachys lanceolata with some Corymbia calophylla on flats and valleys in the hyperhumid zone.
- W1: Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina decussata-Agonis flexuosa on deeply incised valleys in the hyperhumid zone.
- Cw1: Mixture of open forest to woodland of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla and woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata -Corymbia calophylla on slopes and low woodland of Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis on depressions in the hyperhumid zone.

- C1: Open to tall open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Corymbia calophylla*-*Banksia grandis* on lateritic uplands in the hyperhumid zone.

A site inspection of the application area conducted by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)(DWER site inspection) officers, described the vegetation as road side *Corymbia calophylla* over introduced species (*Ehrharta longiflora*, *Watsonia meriana var meriana* and *Acacia longifolia*) (DWER, 2017).

#### Vegetation Condition

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

The condition of the vegetation was determined through the DWER site inspection (DWER, 2017).

### 3. Avoidance and mitigation

In order to limit the impact of the clearing, the Shire of Augusta Margaret River has aligned the road to avoid impacting as many large trees as possible. This included the site being walked by an environmental officer and demarcation of trees to be removed or avoided, prior to clearing.

### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As assessed under section 2.1, the application is to clear 0.9 hectares of native vegetation with little to no native understorey, for road reconstruction. The local area is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the outside of the application area. The local area retains 54 per cent native vegetation.

The Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has advised that (DBCA, 2017):

- it is unlikely that the application area contains any threatened species due to the degraded condition of the vegetation; and
- the application area may contain large hollow bearing trees containing foraging, roosting and breeding habitat for black cockatoos.

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

- No trees with hollows suitable for black cockatoos were identified within the application area;
- The vegetation is not of an age or size as to contain suitable fauna hollows; and
- The vegetation is impacted by the invasive weed species *Ehrharta longiflora*, *Watsonia meriana var. meriana* and *Acacia longifolia*.

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, lack of understorey species, extent of native vegetation in the local area, presence of vegetation in better condition nearby and relatively small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on rare or priority flora, a priority or threatened ecological community or conservation reserves within the local area and is not likely to be classified as clearing a significant remnant within a highly cleared landscape.

Noting the lack of suitable habitat (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-), lack of consistent intact understorey, presence of invasive weeds 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, small linear size of the application area and presence of significant area of conservation estate within the local area, the application area is unlikely to represent significant fauna habitat. Although foraging habitat for black cockatoos is present within the application area, given the extent and condition of the vegetation within the local area, the application area is not considered significant foraging habitat for these species. Given the position of the application in relation to conservation estate clearing the application area will not impact on the movement of fauna through the landscape.

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 extensive Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park occurs 1.4 kilometres west of the application area and the Bramley National Park occurs 1.2 kilometres to the east. The application area does not provide linkage values, is of a limited size, is located in an area that is highly vegetated and as 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.

### 5. Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The proposed road widening is required for road safety.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 4 October 2017 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

## **6. References**

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)(DBCA, 2017) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7750/1. Received 23 October 2017 (DWER ref: A1565898).
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2017) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 7750/1, undertaken 21 September 2017 (DWER ref: A1565060).
- 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.