



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7751/1

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

Rosa Glen Road Reserve, PIN 11605947, Rosa Glen

Rosa Glen Road Reserve, PIN 11605948, Rosa Glen

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 20 native trees within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7751/1.

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 7751/1



Legend

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

..... Date: *12/11/18*



MGA 84
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

1:2,500



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7751/1
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: Rosa Glen Road Reserve (PINs 11605947 and 11605948)
Local Government Authority: Augusta-Margaret River, Shire of
Localities: Rosa Glen

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category
-	20	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 of 20 trees within an already heavily degraded road reserve and noting the 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, 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

Clearing Description The clearing of 20 native trees within Rosa Glen Road Reserve (PINs 11605947 and 11605948) Rosa Glen, for the purpose of road reconstruction.

The application area covers a 0.8 kilometre stretch of road. The road is proposed to be widened to six metres.

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

- Tw: Open forest of *Eucalyptus patens*-*Corymbia calophylla*-*Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* on lower slopes and on floors of minor valleys in the perhumid zone.
- T: Woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Corymbia calophylla* with some *Allocasuarina fraseriana* on mild slopes in the perhumid 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 (*Veldt grass* and *Watsonia meriana* var *meriana*) (DWER, 2017).

Vegetation Condition Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (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 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 20 native trees 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 79 per cent native vegetation.

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

- it is very unlikely that the applied vegetation will support any flora or vegetation that is currently listed as threatened; 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;
- No native understorey is present; and
- Large sections of the understorey are dominated by a monoculture of the invasive weed species *Watsonia meriana* var. *meriana*.

Noting the lack of understorey species, 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 and presence of significant vegetated areas 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 closest conservation reserve occurs approximately six kilometres from the application area. Given the relatively small scale and condition of the application area and the distance to this reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of a conservation reserve.

A minor non perennial watercourse is mapped within the application area however, none of the trees proposed to be removed are growing in association with this watercourse. Given this, the dispersed nature of the clearing and 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 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.

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 7751/1. Received 23 October 2017 (DWER ref: A1567476).
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) (2017) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 7751/1, undertaken 21 September 2017 (DWER ref: A1567478).
- 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.