



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 7875/1
File Number: DER2016/000501
Duration of Permit: 31 March 2018 to 31 March 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Denmark

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

McLeod Road reserve (PIN 11746159), Shadforth

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.44 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 7875/1.

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. Dieback and 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* and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *dieback* or *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.

3. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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.

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO the records required under condition 3 of this Permit, when requested by the CEO.

DEFINITIONS

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

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Abbie Crawford
A/MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION

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

2 March 2018

CPS 7875/1 - Plan



Legend

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



1:5,184

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Abbie Crawford Date 2/03/2018
Abbie Crawford

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



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 WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7875/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: SHIRE OF DENMARK
Application received date: 17 November 2017

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE - 11746159, SHADFORTH
Local Government Authority: DENMARK, SHIRE OF
Localities: SHADFORTH

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.44		Mechanical Removal	Road upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 2 March 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 17 November 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer noted the minimal width of clearing proposed within the road reserve, that the vegetation condition is in a Degraded to Good (Keighery, 1994) condition and that sufficient vegetation would remain within the road reserve so as not sever an ecological linkage.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation. To minimise this impact, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The clearing of 0.44 hectares (ha) of native vegetation within McLeod Road reserve (PIN 11746159), Shadforth for the purpose of road upgrades.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Mattiske vegetation complexes:
Kb: Mosaic of tall open forest of *Eucalyptus guilfoylei-Eucalyptus jacksonii-Eucalyptus diversicolor* on slopes of major hills rising above coastal plain with *Allocasuarina decussata-Banksia grandis-Agonis flexuosa* on slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones and tall open forest of *Eucalyptus brevistylis-Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla* and the occasional *Eucalyptus megacarpa* near rock outcrops in hyperhumid and perhumid zones, and;
S1: Tall open forest of *Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes with some *Eucalyptus patens* and *Eucalyptus megacarpa* on valley floors in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Government of Western Australia 2018).

Vegetation Condition 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).

Comments The condition of the vegetation within the application area was determined by photographs supplied by the applicant (Shire of Denmark 2017) and a site inspection undertaken on 12 February 2018 by Department of Water and Environmental Regulation officers (DWER 2018).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is for clearing of up to 0.44 ha of native vegetation within McLeod Road reserve (PIN 11746159), Shadforth for the purpose of road widening. The majority of the 50 metre (m) wide road reserve will be retained with clearing proposed 3 m either side of the existing road. The local area is defined as 10 kilometre (km) radius from the application area.

Given the relatively small area, location adjacent to an existing road and degraded to good condition, the vegetation is not likely to contain high biodiversity, or comprise of significant habitat for fauna. The application area contains suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoo species however, given the extent of surrounding vegetation this is not likely to be significant. No hollows were observed during a site inspection (DWER 2018). Vegetation will be retained on either side of the road and therefore the proposed clearing will not sever an ecological linkage.

According to available databases, four Threatened flora species and 28 Priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Of these, one Priority 3 species and one Priority 4 species could potentially be present within the application area. The nearest recorded locations of these species are over 5 km from the application area. Priority 3 species are known from several locations, and do not appear to be under imminent threat, and Priority 4 species are considered to have been adequately surveyed, and are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. The proposed clearing is not likely impact on the conservation status of any Priority 3 or Priority 4 flora species if they were present within the application area. There are no known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the local area.

Hygiene management practices will assist in minimising the risk of spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation.

The application area is located within the Warren Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion which retains approximately 84.5 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent and is mapped as Mattiske Kb and S1 vegetation complexes, which retain approximately 78.2 and 84.6 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Given this, and noting the extent of vegetation cover remaining in the local area (approximately 47 per cent), the application area is not likely to be considered a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The application area intersects a minor watercourse of which the existing road crosses with culverts. A site inspection did not identify any riparian vegetation and the use of culverts ensures the flow of water is not obstructed.

The application area is approximately 3744 m north of William Bay National Park and 4298 m west of Mount Shadforth Nature Reserve, given the distance to these conservation areas they are not likely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Land degradation risk mapping produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, indicates that the proposed clearing has a relatively low likelihood of causing land degradation in the forms of water erosion, salinity and water logging (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018). Seventy two per cent of the mapped land unit has a high risk of wind erosion (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018). Noting the linear shape of the application area the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 21 December 2017 with a 21 day submission period. One submission was received in relation to this application. The submission advised that the application area may contain conservation significant flora and fauna and is an important vegetated corridor within the area. Comments were taken into consideration during the assessment and have been addressed above.

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

4. References

Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 27 February 2018).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (2018) Photographs from site inspection undertaken on 12 February 2018 (DWER ref: A1623599).

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 Denmark (2017) Photographs of the application area (DWER ref: A1618642).