



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7911/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Duration of Permit:	From 9 June 2018 to 9 June 2023

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of road construction or upgrades.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Glentulloch Road reserve (PINs 11557682, 11554227, 11554228, 11554229, 11554230 and 11554231), Glenlynn.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.8 hectares of native vegetation and three native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7911/1.

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.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorised the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. 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.

7. 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.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records to 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);
- (d) the purpose for which clearing was undertaken;
- (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 8 of this Permit, when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

CEO means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.


 Emma Bramwell
 A/MANAGER
 CLEARING REGULATION




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

9 May 2018

Plan 7911/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Roads
-  Cadastre

500



500 m



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

E Branwell Date *09/05/18*
E BRANWELL

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.: CPS 7911/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Application received date: 11 December 2017

1.3. Property details

Property: Glentulloch Road reserve (PINs 11557682, 11554227, 11554228, 11554229, 11554230 and 11554231)
Local Government Authority: Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes
Localities: Glenlynn

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.8 (as revised)	3	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 9 May 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 11 December 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact on adjacent vegetation through the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback. In determining to grant a clearing permit with weed and dieback management conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application to clear 0.8 hectares of native vegetation and three native trees within a two kilometre section of Glentulloch Road reserve is for the purpose of road upgrades (refer Figure 1). The proposed clearing is to facilitate the widening of the existing formation from five to eight metres for road safety (SBG, 2018a).

Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as the following South West Forest vegetation complexes:

- Balingup footslopes phase (BLf), described as woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) on valley floors and woodland of *Eucalyptus patens* (blackbutt)-*Corymbia calophylla* (marri) on footslopes with some *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* (jarrah) on lower slopes in the humid zone;
- Balingup (BL), described as open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*-*Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* on the valley floor in the humid zone; and
- Bevan (BE1), described as tall open forest of *Corymbia calophylla*-*Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* on uplands in perhumid and humid zones (Mattiske et al., 1998).

A site inspection was conducted by officers of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) on 22 March 2018. The DWER site inspection found that the vegetation within the application area is parkland cleared, comprising predominantly of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* over a very sparse understorey (DWER, 2018).

Vegetation Condition: Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to Good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
To
Completely Degraded: no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The DWER site inspection found that the vegetation within the application area ranges from 'Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition to 'Completely Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition (refer Figures 2 and 3).

Soil/Landform Type: The application area soils are mapped as varying between loamy gravels, duplex sandy gravels, shallow gravels and deep sandy gravels, to friable red-brown loamy earths, brown loamy earths, loamy gravels and brown deep loamy duplexes. (DPIRD, 2017).

Comments: The local area considered in the assessment of this application was a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 40 per cent native vegetation cover.

Map and photographs



Figure 1: Application area, Glentulloch Road, Glenlynn.



Figure 2: Typical appearance of road corridor and vegetation.



Figure 3: Typical appearance of road corridor and vegetation.

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant amended the application during assessment by modifying the road design, and utilising more of the road reserve in 'Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition and thus avoiding as much of the remaining native vegetation (being *Eucalyptus/Corymbia* species trees and understorey where practicable (SGB, 2018b). This resulted in a reduction of the extent of the proposed clearing from 1.2 hectares and eight trees to 0.8 hectares and three trees within a two kilometre section of Glentulloch Road reserve (SGB, 2018b). The applicant advised that a minimal clearing policy is adopted for all its road works projects (SGB, 2018b).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, three rare and six priority listed flora have been recorded within the local area. No rare or priority listed flora species have been recorded within the application area. Noting the preferred habitats of these species, including soil and vegetation types, none of these species are likely to occur within the application area.

According to available databases, 11 threatened and four priority listed fauna species, and one fauna species protected under an international agreement, have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Noting the preferred habitats of these species, including vegetation type and condition, none of these species are likely to occur within the application area. The DWER site inspection did not identify any hollow-bearing habitat trees or suitable ground-layer habitat within the application area (DWER, 2018). Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area and the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

According to available databases, no threatened ecological communities (TEC) or priority ecological communities (PEC) occur within the local area. The nearest mapped ecological community of conservation significance is the Priority 2 listed 'Alluvial soils of the upper Blackwood River', located approximately 36 kilometres from the application area. Noting the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the application area is unlikely to comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a TEC or PEC.

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). The application area is located within the Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) region, which retains approximately 53 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018b) and the mapped South West Forest vegetation complexes BLf, BL and BE1 retain approximately 9 per cent, 29 per cent and 81 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent within the Jarrah Forest IBRA region respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018a). As outlined under Section 2, the local area retains approximately 40 per cent native vegetation cover. On this basis, and noting the extent and linear shape of the proposed clearing, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available databases, no wetlands or watercourses are mapped within the application area. The nearest mapped natural water feature is Rectory Creek, located approximately 71 metres from the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on native vegetation growing in accordance with a wetland or watercourse.

According to available databases, a Timber Reserve is adjacent to the application area, along approximately 1.2 kilometres of the northern portion and approximately 0.5 kilometres of the southern portion. The proposed clearing may impact on the environmental values of this Timber Reserve, and adjacent remnant vegetation in the road reserve, through the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will help to address this risk.

Noting the soil type within the application area, the absence of wetlands and watercourses from the application area, the linear shape and extent of the proposed clearing, and the presence of remnant vegetation adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, or cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, and is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The application was originally for the proposed clearing of 1.2 hectares of native vegetation and eight trees within a two kilometre section of Glentulloch Road reserve, to widen the formation from five to eight metres for road safety.

The original application was advertised on DWER's website on 5 January 2018 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

The applicant amended the application during the assessment to avoid and minimise impacts through a modified road design, reducing the extent of the proposed clearing to 0.8 hectares of native vegetation and three trees.

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

5. Applicant's submission

On 12 February 2018, a DWER Delegated Officer wrote to the applicant, requesting clarification on the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area, and in relation to the type and manner of road works planned (DWER ref. A1615395).

In response to the Delegated Officer's letter, the applicant revised the application area by modifying the road design, and utilising more of the road reserve in 'Degraded' (Keighery, 1994) condition to avoid *Eucalyptus/Corymbia* species trees and understorey where practicable (SGB, 2018b). This resulted in a reduction of the extent of the proposed clearing from 1.2 hectares and eight trees to 0.8 hectares and three trees within a two kilometre section of Glentulloch Road reserve (SGB, 2018b). The applicant advised that a minimal clearing policy is adopted for all of its road works projects (SGB, 2018b).

6. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2018) Site inspection report for clearing permit application CPS 7911/1 (DWER Ref: A1651020).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017) (DPIRD, 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 April 2018).
- Government of Western Australia (2018a) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>.
- Government of Western Australia (2018b) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis. Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.

Shepherd, D.P. (2009) Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (SBG) (2018a) Application to clear native vegetation CPS 7911/1 (DWER Ref: A1577448)
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (SBG) (2018b) Advice received from applicant (DWER Ref: A1644187).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Aerial imagery (accessed April 2018)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Estate
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- SAC bio datasets (accessed April 2018)
- Wetlands