GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7976/1
File Number: 2018/000243-1
Duration of Permit: From 28 July 2018 to 28 July 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Mid West Ports Authority

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 3130 on Plan 27000, West End

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7976/1.

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;
   (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared;

3. **Records to 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(s) that clearing occurred;
   (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
   (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
   (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2 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:

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 Regional Weed Rankings 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

26 June 2018

Plan 7976/1

Legend

- Areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authority
- Cadastre

N

0 40 80 m

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

F. BRAMWELL
Date. 26/06/18
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 7976/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Mid West Ports Authority
Application received date: 7 February 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3130 ON PLAN 27000, WEST END
Local Government Authority: GREATER GERALDTON, CITY OF
Localities: WEST END

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.3		Mechanical Removal	Hardstand

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 26 June 2018
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 7 February 2018 and 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.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable impacts to environmental values.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application for an Area Permit to clear 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 3130 on Deposited Plan 27000, West End, for the purpose of expanding a hardstand area and fence line maintenance. The application area is indicated in Figure 1.

Vegetation Description: The application area is mapped as Beard vegetation complex 'Greenough (440)', described as vegetation ranging from shrublands of *Acacia ligulata* (Umbrella Bush) to open scrub (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) advised that the vegetation within the application area primarily consists of a low shrubland, with extensive areas of *Lycium ferocissimum* (African Boxthorn; introduced) (DBCA, 2018). This is also indicated in supporting information provided by the applicant (Figures 2-9).

Vegetation Condition: The vegetation within the application area is considered to be in the following condition:

- Good: vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbance; retains basic structure or ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).
- Degraded: basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance; scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching Good condition without intensive management (Keighery 1994).

DBCA advised that the vegetation within the application area is in poor condition, has been disturbed and includes extensive areas of weeds, and is subject to significant edge effects along approximately 50 per cent of the boundary (DBCA, 2018). This is also indicated in supporting information provided by the applicant (Figures 2-9).

Soil/Landform Type: The application area is mapped as land subsystem 'Quindalup Central 1 urban Phase (221Qu_1URBAN)', described as urban development on Quindalup 1 coastal dune subsystem, with manmade, disturbed soils; originally calcareous deep sand (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments: The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 20 kilometre radius around the perimeter of the application area. According to available aerial imagery, the local area retains approximately 15.8 per cent native vegetation cover.

Maps and photographs of the application area

Figure 9: Application area (cross-hatched blue)

Figure 2: Typical vegetation in eastern portion of application area facing north-east (source: applicant)

Figure 3: Typical vegetation in southern portion of application area facing west (source: applicant)

Figure 4: Typical vegetation in southern central portion of application area facing south-west (source: applicant)

Figure 5: Typical vegetation in southern central portion of application area facing south-east (source: applicant)

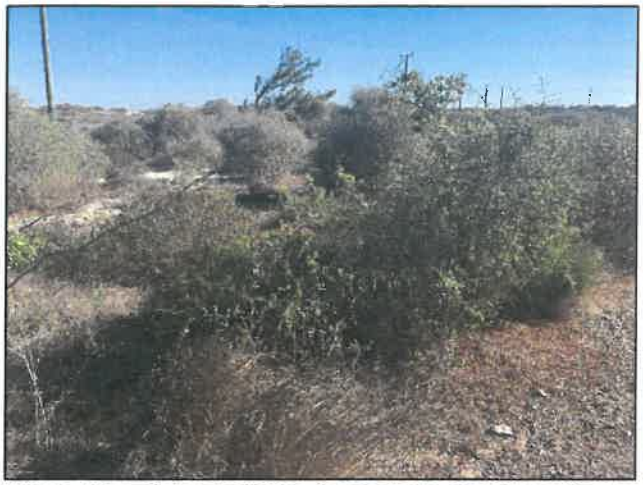

Figure 6: Typical vegetation in southern central portion of application area facing south-west (source: applicant)

Figure 7: Typical vegetation in south-western portion of application area facing south-east (source: applicant)

Figure 8: Typical vegetation in south-western portion of application area facing south-west (source: applicant)

Figure 9: Typical vegetation in western portion of application area facing south-west (source: applicant)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, seven rare flora species and 37 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Based on the mapped soil and vegetation types and the condition of the vegetation within application area, two priority flora species could potentially occur within the application area. These are outlined below (in order of distance from the application area):

- *Vittadinia cervicularis* var. *occidentalis* (Priority 1) is known from seven recorded populations from Northampton to Mingenew, from brown sandy soils associated with slopes (FloraBase website). The nearest record of this species is approximately 2.26 kilometres from the application area.
- *Chamelaucium* sp. Yuna (A.C. Burns 53) (Priority 2) is known from eight recorded populations in a line from Yuna to Tardun, and one recorded population west near Geraldton, from red-brown sand-loam associated with wetlands and watercourses (FloraBase website). The nearest record of this species is approximately 3.29 kilometres from the application area.

DBCA advised that the application area is unlikely to support the above priority flora species (DBCA, 2018). Noting the distance to the above records, the proximity of surveyed conservation areas with similar vegetation type in similar or better condition to that present within the application area, and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, it is unlikely that the above species would occur within the application area. The application area is unlikely to include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, and the vegetation cover in the vicinity of the application area (as indicated in Figure 1) which is expected to be of similar type and in similar or better condition to that present within the application area, the application area is unlikely to comprise a high level of biological diversity.

According to available databases, eight threatened fauna species, three priority fauna species, two presumed extinct fauna species, one specially protected fauna species, and 13 fauna species protected under international agreement have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). DBCA noted the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area, and advised that the application area is not the preferred habitat for *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo; endangered), *Cyclodomorphus branchialis* (Gilled Slender Blue-tongue Skink; vulnerable), *Bothriembryon whitleyi* (Land Snail; presumed extinct) or *Psacadonotus seriatus* (Katydid Cricket; Priority 1) (DBCA, 2018). The application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including species of conservation significance.

According to available databases, the closest ecological community of conservation significance to the application area is 'Coastal sands dominated by *Acacia rostellifera*, *Eucalyptus oraria* and *Eucalyptus obtusiflora* (Geraldton area)', listed as Priority 1 by DBCA, which is located approximately 6.1 kilometres from the application area. Based on the mapped soil and vegetation types and the condition of the vegetation within application area, and the distance to known occurrences of ecological communities of conservation significance, it is unlikely that the application area comprises or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened or priority ecological community.

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 Geraldton Sandplains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion retains approximately 44.78 per cent of the pre-European extent of native vegetation (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The mapped Beard vegetation complex retains approximately 76.88 per cent (approximately 2,884 hectares) of the pre-European extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Noting that the application area represents approximately 0.01 per cent of the current extent of the mapped Beard vegetation complex, and noting the extent of native vegetation cover in the local area, the application area is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available databases, the nearest watercourse is approximately 7.6 kilometres from the application area. The application area does not contain any wetlands or watercourses, and as such the proposed clearing will not impact native vegetation growing in association with wetlands or watercourses.

According to available databases, the nearest conservation area is an un-named Nature Reserve, located approximately one kilometre east of the application area. Cleared land, major roads, and remnant vegetation on adjacent properties separates the application area from this nature reserve. Noting this, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the mapped soil type within the application area, and that the application area is predominantly surrounded by industrial and residential land, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, or cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The application area is adjacent to remnant vegetation, and the proposed clearing is likely to increase the risk of introduction or spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management with assist in managing this risk.

The assessment has found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

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

The City of Greater Geraldton (City) advised that the use of the application area as a hardstand is consistent with the City's Local Planning Scheme No.1 (City of Greater Geraldton, 2018).

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website on 22 January 2018 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

City of Greater Geraldton (2018) Direct interest advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7976/1, received 9 March 2018. City of Greater Geraldton, Western Australia (DWER ref. A1631391).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/. Accessed March 2018

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2018) Flora and fauna advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7976/1 (DWER ref. A1689512, A1693459).

Government of Western Australia. (2018) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Available from: 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.

Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

GIS Databases:

- CPS Areas applied to clear
- NatureMap (conservation significant fauna)
- DAFWA Subsystems V5
- Soils of WA and Land Degradation Hazards
- Vegetation Complexes – South West Forests
- Managed Tenure
- TPFL Data April 2018
- WAHerb Data April 2018
- Aboriginal Sites Register
- IBRA Vegetation WA
- WA TECPEC
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas