



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7988/1
Permit Holder:	Telstra Corporation Limited
Duration of Permit:	7 June 2018 to 7 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 installing power cabling to connect to telecommunications infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Beltana Road reserve (PIN 11644167), Cascade

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.065 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7988/1.

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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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:

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

6. 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*:

- clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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);
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 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 administering 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; and

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.

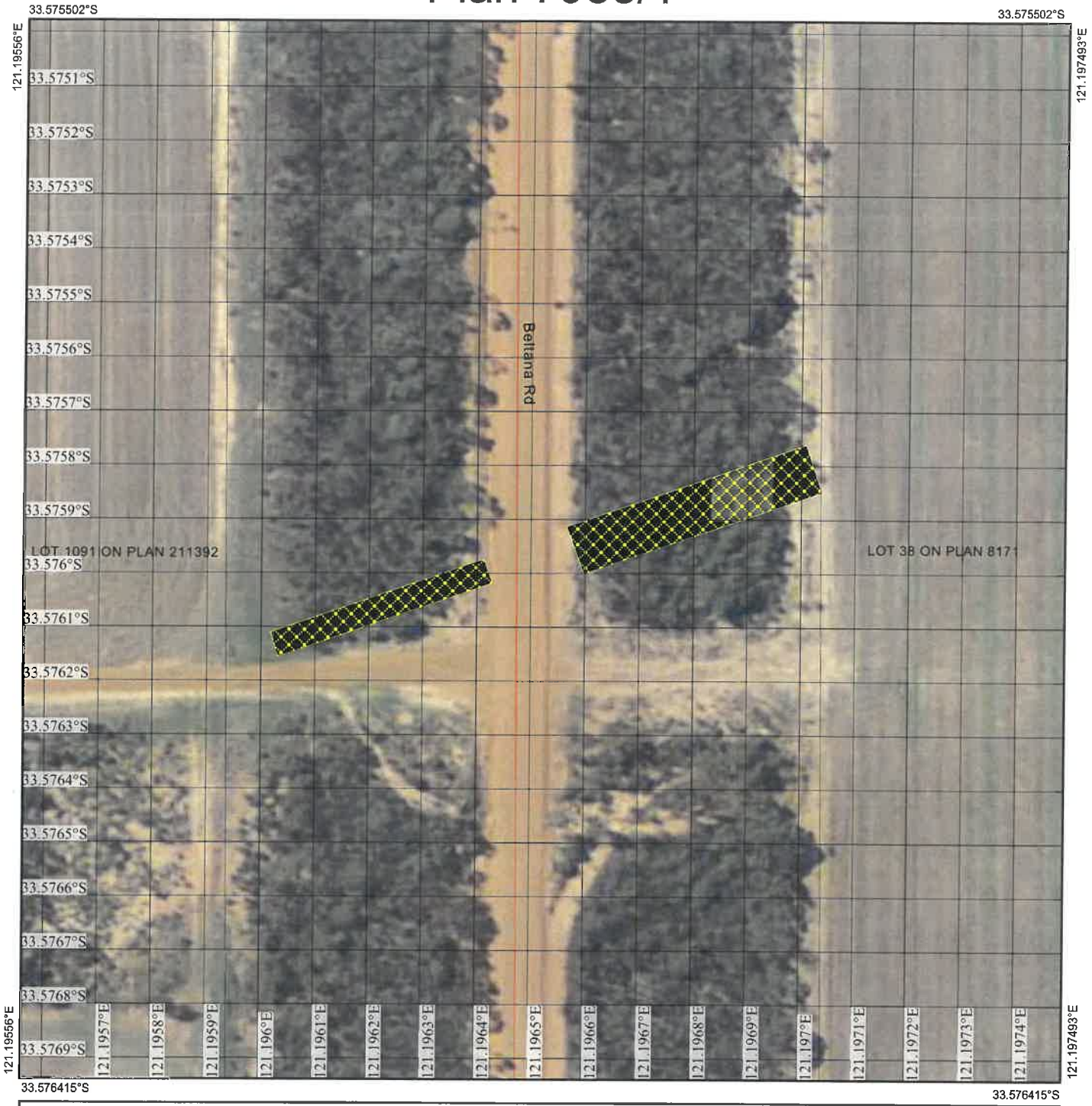


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION





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

8 May 2018

Plan 7988/1



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Roads
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Cadastre



1:950
 (Approximate when reproduced at A4)
 GDA 94 (Lat/Long)
 Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Matthew Genneway
 Date 08/05/2018

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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7988/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Telstra Corporation Limited
Application received date: 14 February 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Beltana Road reserve (PIN 11644167), Cascade
Local Government Authority: Esperance, Shire of
Localities: Cascade

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.065		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 8 May 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 14 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* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact on adjacent remnant native vegetation through the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback.

In determining to grant a clearing permit with dieback and weed mitigation conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description	<p>The application is to clear 0.065 hectares of native vegetation within the above mentioned road reserve for the purpose of installing power cabling to connect to telecommunications infrastructure (Fig. 1).</p> <p>The applicant advised that the clearing will be permanent, for the purpose of accommodating electrical infrastructure and easement area to service the telecommunications tower within Lot 1091, Beltana Road, Cascade (Planning Solutions, 2018).</p>
Vegetation Description	<p>The application area has been mapped as Beard vegetation association 516 described as shrublands; mallee scrub, blue mallee (<i>Eucalyptus socialis</i>) (Shepherd et al. 2001).</p>
Vegetation Condition	<p>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).</p>
Soil type	<p>The soils within the application area have been mapped as the Munglinup 1 Subsystem described as externally drained plains and rises with gently inclined slopes some small level plains on upper slopes and catchment divides. Grey deep and shallow sandy duplex (gravelly) minor pale deep sands and gravelly duplex and deep sandy gravels (Schoknecht et al., 2004).</p>
Comments	<p>The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.</p>



Fig 1: Application area and surrounding landscape: Beltana Road reserve, Cascade

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The vegetation within the application area consists of shrublands; mallee scrub, blue mallee (*Eucalyptus socialis*) (Shepherd et al. 2001). The condition of the vegetation within the application area was determined via current aerial imagery and a site inspection undertaken by the Shire of Esperance (Shire of Esperance, 2018).

According to available databases, a total of six priority (P) flora species comprising of one P1 species, one P2 species, two P3 species and two P4 species have been recorded within the local area. No priority flora have been recorded within the application area. A site inspection undertaken by the Shire of Esperance did not identify any priority flora within the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2018). Based on this, the mapped soil types and noting the minimal extent of the proposed clearing, it is not likely the proposed clearing will impact upon the conservation status of these priority flora species.

A search of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)'s rare flora database revealed that there is one record of rare flora mapped within the local area, located approximately 7.4 kilometres from the application area. This species is a rhizomatous, perennial herb that prefers grey or yellow-brown sand over laterite (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). A site inspection undertaken by the Shire of Esperance did not identify any rare flora within the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2018). Noting the habitat requirements of this species, it is not likely that suitable habitat for this species would occur within the application area. In addition, a site inspection of the application area undertaken by the Shire of Esperance identified no rare or priority flora within the application area.

Two fauna species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). These fauna species include the Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) protected under an international agreement and the Hooded Plover (eastern) (*Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis*) listed by DBCA as priority 4. Both species are associated with marine and/or aquatic environments, which do not occur within the application area. Noting the habitat requirements for these species, it is not likely the application area would provide suitable habitat for these species.

The road reserve in which the proposed clearing occurs may function as an ecological linkage, facilitating the movement of fauna across the landscape. While the proposed clearing severs the road reserve, the maximum width of the proposed clearing is eight meters, which is not likely going to impede fauna movement and disrupt the function of the linkage.

The majority of the application area intersects a mapped occurrence of the Commonwealth listed 'Proteaceae dominated Kwongan Shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia' threatened ecological community (TEC). The vegetation under application may be representative of this TEC given the good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation. However, impacts of the proposed clearing to this TEC are likely to be minimal, given the size of the mapped occurrence of this TEC is approximately 102.8 hectares in size and the minimal amount of clearing proposed. The disturbance resulting from the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into adjoining vegetation. Weed and dieback management practices will help to mitigate this risk.

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 Esperance Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 51.5 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and the mapped Beard vegetation association 516 retains approximately 69 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the Esperance Plains bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 25 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the well represented vegetation extents within the local area, and the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is not likely to be significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available databases, there are numerous watercourses mapped within 10 kilometres of the application area. The closest hydrological feature is a non-perennial watercourse mapped approximately 145 metres north of the application area.

Given the distance to this hydrological feature, it is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to impact upon riparian vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse.

Noting the soil type within the application area, the small size of the application area, and the absence of wetlands and watercourses within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause a deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, cause appreciable land degradation, and is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

According to available databases, the closest conservation area is Cascade Nature Reserve located approximately 7.4 kilometres north west of the application area. Given the distance between the application area and this reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of this conservation area.

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

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 05 March 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

4. References

- 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/>.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 State-wide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of December 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- Jones, A. (2015) Threatened and Priority Flora List, 11 November 2015. Department of Parks and Wildlife: Kensington, WA.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Planning Solutions (2018) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7988/1 advising of permanent clearing. Perth (DWER Ref: A1669340).
- 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.
- Shire of Esperance (2018) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7988/1 advising of environmental values of application area. Shire of Esperance (DWER Ref: A1633110).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 30/04/2018).

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