



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 7991/1

File Number: DER2018/000291

Duration of Permit: From 15 September 2018 to 15 September 2020

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Denmark

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 2229 on Deposited Plan 240012 (PIN 477185), Peaceful Bay.

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.2 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7991/1.

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 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.
- (e) actions taken to minimise 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*;

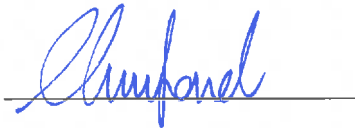
dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

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.

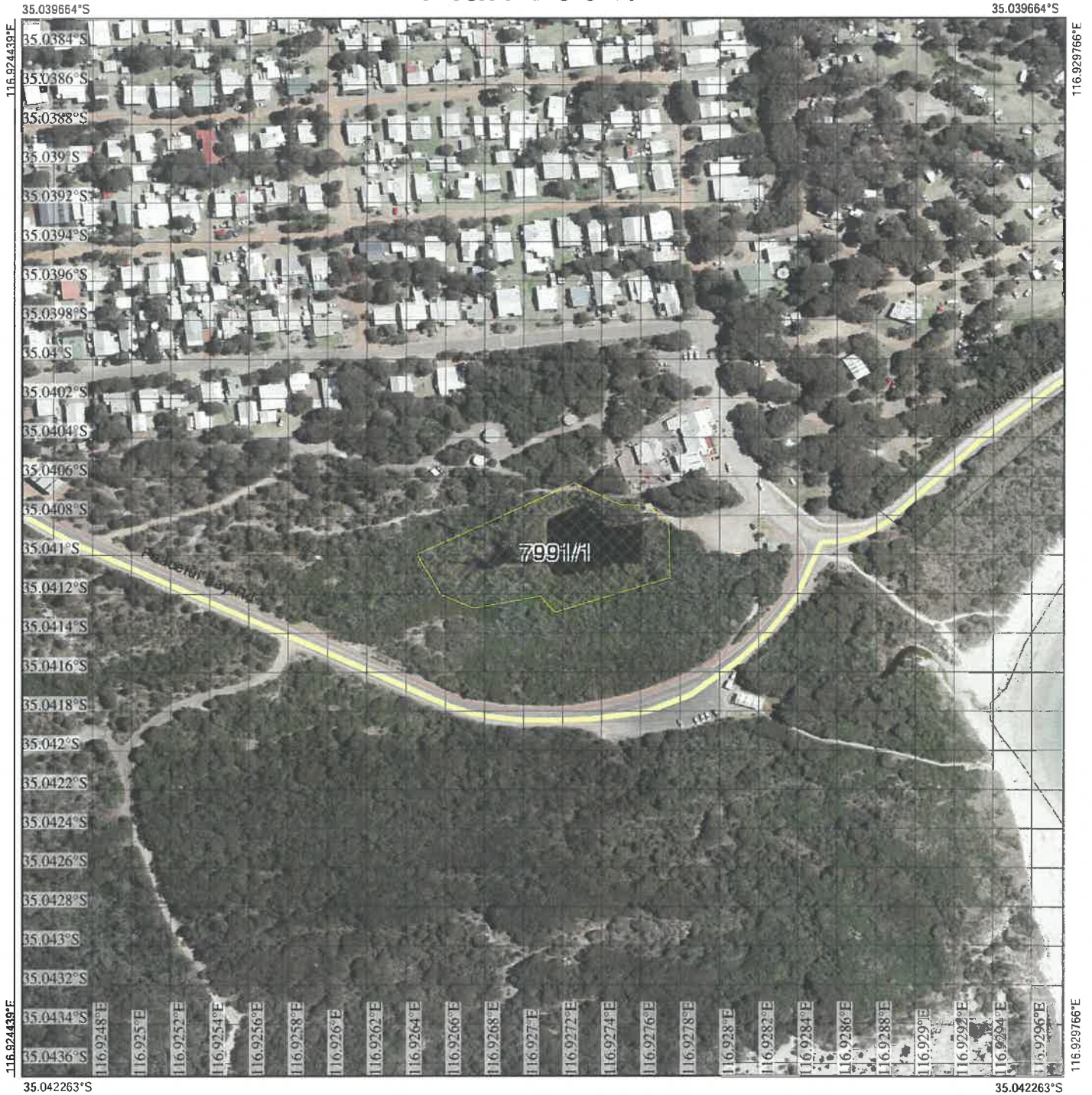


Abbie Crawford
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION






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

17 August 2018

Plan 7991/1



Legend

-  Roads - Main Road
-  Roads - Local and Others - Bridges
-  Imagery
-  Cadastre
-  Clearing Instruments Activities



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

Clifford Date 17/08/18

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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7991/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Denmark

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2229 ON PLAN 240012, Peaceful Bay PIN (477185)
Local Government Authority: DENMARK, SHIRE OF
Localities: Peaceful Bay

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 17 August 2018

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) 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*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principle (i) and not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through the assessment, the Delegated Officer determined that the vegetation within the application area is growing in association with a dam, however the proposed clearing of 0.2 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on the associated watercourse or on surface water quality.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer found that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.2 hectares of native vegetation, within Lot 2229 on Plan 240012, Peaceful Bay, for the purpose of dam maintenance. The application area is indicated in Figure 1.

Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as the following vegetation type (Government of Western Australia 2018):

- Meerup (Mp) Complex: Mosaic of open low woodland of *Agonis flexuosa* with some *Eucalyptus comuta*, tall shrubland of *Agonis flexuosa* with *Trymalium floribundum* in gullies and closed heath of *Olearia axillaris-Spyridium globulosum-Acacia littorea* on stabilised dunes in the hyperhumid zone.

Vegetation within the application area is described as *Agonis flexuosa* low woodland.

Vegetation Condition: A review of the application area using information supplied by the applicant and aerial photography has determined the application area is in good (Keighery, 1994) condition, defined as:

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

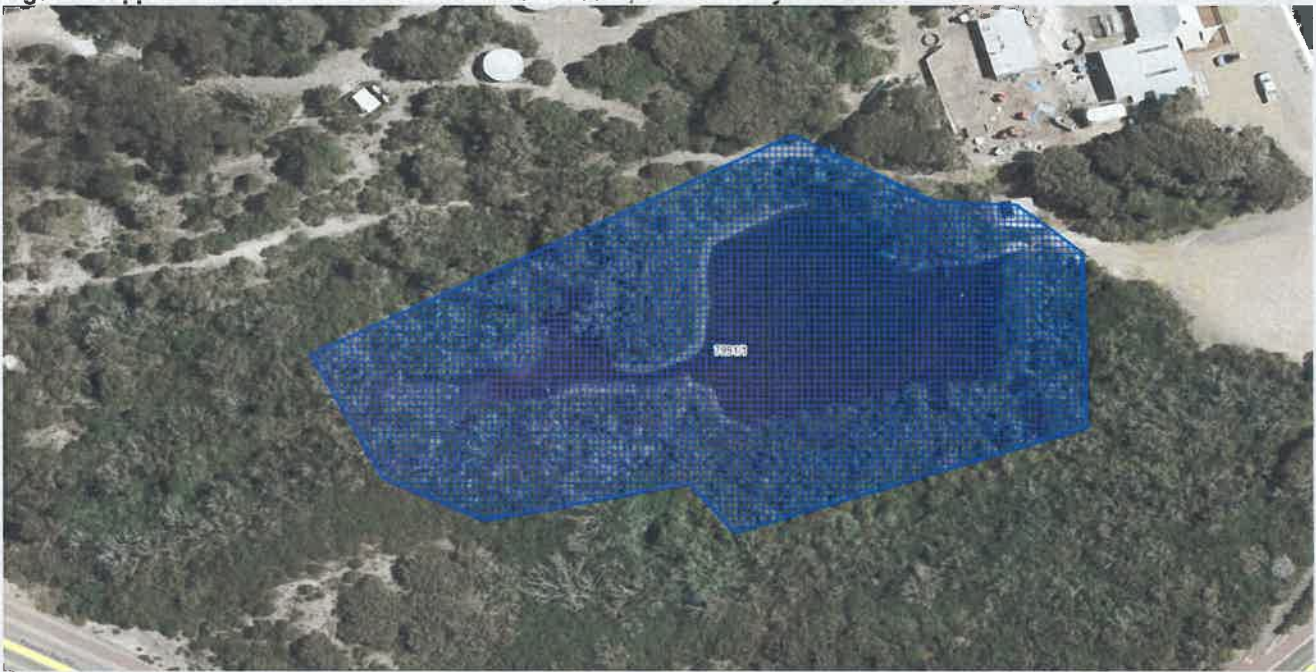
Soil/Landform Type: The area is mapped within the following land subsystem (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Meerup podzols over calcareous sand phase – Podzols over calcareous sand, banksia-bullich-yate woodland.

Comments: The local area considered in the assessment of this application is a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 74 per cent native vegetation cover.

Vegetation description and condition was determined from photographs supplied by the applicant (Shire of Denmark, 2018).

Figure 1: Application area within Lot 2229 on Plan 240012, Peaceful Bay



3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available databases, one threatened flora species and 15 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. Advice received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Warren Region states that it is unlikely that any threatened or priority flora species would be present within the application area.

According to available databases, 21 threatened, six priority, six migratory (protected under international agreement) and one other specially protected fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 2007-). The application area may contain suitable habitat for the following species:

- *Hydromys chrysogaster* (Water-rat, Rakali - Priority 4)
- *Isoodon obesulus* subsp. *fusciventer* (Quenda, Southern Brown Bandicoot – Priority 4)
- *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (Western Ringtail Possum – Rare or likely to become extinct).

Advice received from DBCA Warren Region states that there are no records of rare fauna in the area (DBCA, 2018). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the extent of surrounding vegetation, the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

There are no known threatened or priority ecological communities within the local area. Noting the mapped soil and vegetation types the application area, it is unlikely that threatened or priority ecological communities will occur within the application area.

Noting the presence of adjacent remnant vegetation the proposed clearing will not sever ecological linkages. Notwithstanding, there is potential for weeds and dieback to spread or be introduced into adjacent vegetation as a result of the proposed clearing. The implementation of weed and dieback hygiene management practices will assist in minimising 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 Warren Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 84.5 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and is mapped as vegetation complex Mp, which retains approximately 77.56 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018). Noting this, and the extent of vegetation cover remaining in the local area (approximately 74 per cent), the application area is not likely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

A minor watercourse runs through the application area. The application area is located around the perimeter of the dam associated with the watercourse. The proposed clearing will not have a significant impact on the dam or associated watercourse.

The application area is approximately 430 metres from Nornalup National Park and 3.5 kilometres from Quarram Nature Reserve. There are numerous privately-managed conservation areas within the local area, the nearest of these being approximately 270 metres from the application area. Given the size of the application area and the extent of surrounding vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Land degradation risk mapping indicates that the mapped land unit within the application area has a low risk of water erosion, acidification and water logging, and that greater than 70 per cent of the mapped land unit has a high risk of wind erosion (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018). Noting the size of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation in the form of wind erosion, nor is it likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing may cause an increase in turbidity within the dam but this is likely to be short term.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to principle (f), may be at variance to principle (i) and not likely to be at variance to any of the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The clearing permit application accepted by DWER on 21 March 2018 and was advertised on the DWER website on 21 March 2018 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions were received.

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

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2018) Advice received from Warren Region (DWER Ref: A1704109)
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2018). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 8 March 2018).
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 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.
- 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.
- Shire of Denmark (2018) Photographs of the application area (DWER Ref: A1704108).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Heritage
- DBCA Estate
- DEC Covenant
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed March 2018)
- Soils, Statewide
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands