GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8282/1
Permit Holder:	SRV AGWF Pty Ltd as trustee for AGWF Trust
Duration of Permit:	21 January 2019 to 21 January 2024

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 facilitating repairs of wind turbines as a result of lightning strikes

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 60582, Sandpatch

3. **Area of Clearing**
   The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.74 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8282/1.

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:
   (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.

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*:
   (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

7. Record keeping

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:
   (i) 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;
   (ii) the date(s) that the area was cleared;
   (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);
   (iv) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
   (v) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must produce the records required under condition 7 of this Permit when required 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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

21 December 2018

Plan 8282/1

Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Local Government Authorities
- Cadastre
- Roads

Image

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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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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.: 8282/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: SRV AGWF Pty Ltd as trustee for AGWF Trust
Application received date: 3 December 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 60582, Sandpatch
Local Government Authority: City of Albany
Localities: Sandpatch

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.74	0	Mechanical Removal	Infrastructure maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 21 December 2018

Reasons for Decision:

The clearing permit application 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 maybe be at variance to principle (a), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Through assessment it has been determined that the applicant comprises supporting habitat for of *Thomasia quercifolia* priority 4 flora. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of this species. A weed and dieback management condition will mitigate impacts to nearby populations.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delgetated Officer considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description:

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.74 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 60582, Sandpatch, for the purpose of facilitating repairs of wind turbines as a result of lightning strikes.

Vegetation Description:

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Beard vegetation association 49, described as low shrubs of mixed composition (Shepard, 2001).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area undertaken in November 2018 identified the following vegetation communities:

- Coastal Limestone Heath/ Coastal Heath (Turbine 3 area; 0.33 hectares): Mixed tall shrub layer with *Adenanthos sericeus, Spyridium globulosum, Banksia praemorsa, Banksia sessilis, Leucopogon parviflorus, Acacia littorea, Allocasuarine lehmanniana* and *Scaevola nitida* dominant mixed with diverse mixed heaths with *Cyathochaeta equitans* a dominant sedge and interspersed with *Agonis flexuosa* clumps; and
- Peppermint Low Forest/ Coastal Heath Mosaic (Turbine 11 area; 0.41 hectares): Thickets with *Agonis flexuosa* dominant or co-dominant with diverse mixed heaths with *Cyathochaeta equitans* a sominant sedge and interspersed with *Agonis flexuosa* clumps (BDS, 2018).

Vegetation Condition

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area identified that the vegetation under application is in the following condition (BDS, 2018):

- Excellent: Vegetation structure intact, disturbance affecting individual species and weeds are non-aggressive species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Type

The soil type within the application area is mapped as:

- Meerup leached calcareous sand Phase (Turbine 3 area), described as calcareous sand with shallow leaching; peppermint woodland; and as
- Meerup podzols over calcareous sand Phase (Turbine 11 area), described as Podzols over calcareous sand; banksia-bulich-yate woodland (DPIRD, 2017).

Comments

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 45 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent.

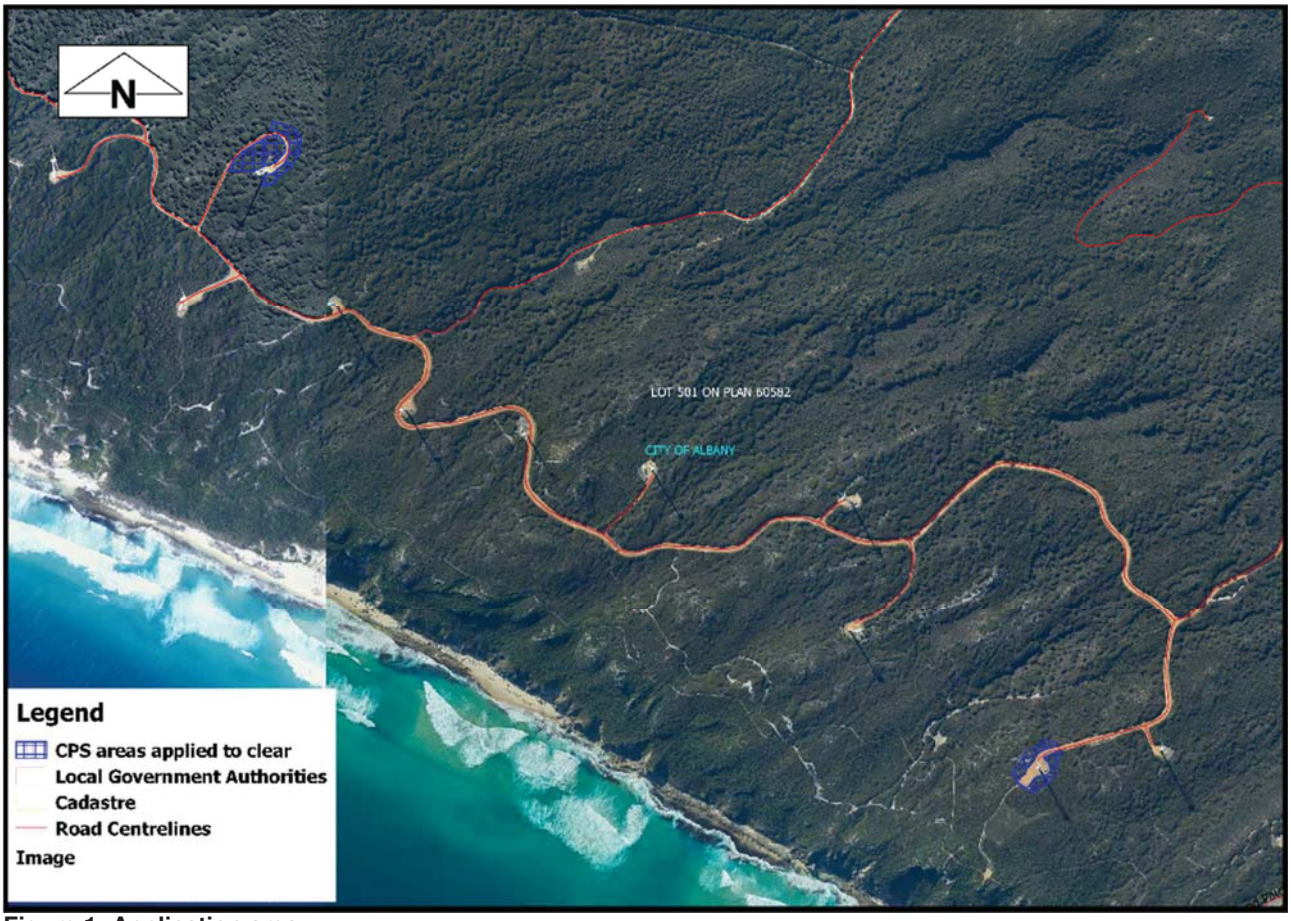

Figure 1: Application area

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles and planning instruments and other matters

According to available databases, seven rare flora species and 40 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. A flora survey of the application area recorded that there is potential suitable habitat for 18 conservation significant flora species within the application area (BDS, 2018). The flora survey identified a population of *Thomasia quercifolia* (Oak leaved Thomasia; Priority 4) flora species southwest of Windmill 3 area, with 36 individuals found within 10 metres of the application area. The application area has been modified to exclude nine individuals of the species initially recorded within the proposed clearing area (BDS, 2018). *Thomasia quercifolia* is known from a total of 42 records (DBCA, 2007-) from Walpole, Denmark, Albany and Esperance areas, at sites generally associated with grey sand over limestone on coastal cliffs, with heathland vegetation (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Noting the number of records and the distribution of this species, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the conservation status of this species should any individuals occur within the application area. Noting this and the extent of the remnant vegetation in the local area, the application area does not comprise critical habitat for conservation significant flora species.

According to available databases, 33 threatened fauna species, 23 fauna species protected under international agreement, four other specially protected fauna species, and 12 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Noting the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area, and the habitat requirements and current known range extents of these species, the application area may comprise suitable habitat for threatened fauna species Quenda, southwestern brown bandicoot (*Isoodon fusciventer*), Western Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) and Main's assasin spider (*Zephyrarchaea mainae*). A fauna survey of the application area recorded several Quenda (*Isoodon obesulus*) diggings at Turbine 11 area, however noted that the activity level was quite low within the survey area and that the application area is likely marginal habitat for Quenda (BDS, 2018). A targeted survey for Main's assasin spider reported that Turbine 3 area contains marginal habitat for the threatened spider, with seven plots sampled; however no individuals were detected at either of the areas (BDS, 2018). Noting this, the extent of the proposed clearing, and the proximity and extent of remnant vegetation in the local area (Figure 1), the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including species of conservation significance.

No conservation areas or priority or threatened ecological communities are recorded within close proximity to the application area and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on any such areas.

The local area retains more than 30 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent, and noting relatively small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

No watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area. The coastline is approximately 300 metres south of the application area. Noting the size of the application area and the type of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse. Noting the above, the mapped soil type within the application area, and that the application area is surrounded by intact vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, or cause deterioration in the quality of underground water, or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing maybe be at variance to principle (a), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 13 December 2018, inviting submissions from the public within a seven day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The City of Albany (City) advised that the reserve surrounding the wind farm has been mapped as Dieback Protectable and that all machinery, vehicles and tools entering the site must be free of soil and plant material, work should perferably be undertaken in dry conditions, machinery and tools should also be brushed down of loose soil and vegetation before leaving the site; The City adviced that if any material needs to be brought in to form a pad for the crane, this material must be clean (no top soil contamination) limestone, as this is the best available material that is low risk dieback, no dieback free gravel is available in Albany; The only other product is crushed granite, however, limestone is more conducive with the soil type at that site; Vegetation to be retained must not be disturbed e.g. do not push cleared vegetation onto surrounding vegetation, and do not drive over vegetation; Cleared material must be stockpiled in existing cleared area at the site; To assist with rehabilitating the cleared area, please loosen any compacted material and spread the cleared top soil and vegetation back out on cleared area and it is preferred that it is not mulched but left in large pieces to provide habitat for fauna and to deter people from accessing this area. The city also advices to minimise disturbance to the soil and once works are completed, to leave the site tidy (City of Albany, 2018).

The application area is located wtihin South Coast Water Reserve, a Priority 1 Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). DWER's Regional Delivery (Water) advised that they have no objection to the proposed clearing in the South Coast Water Reserve; The area of proposed clearing is small, and the land-use associated with the clearing isn't considered to be a threat for the public drinking water resource, which is approximately 90 metres deep at this location (DWER, 2018).

No aboriginal sites of signficance have been mapped within the application area.

4. References

Bio Diverse Solutions (BDS) (2018) Level 1 Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Survey Windmills 3 and 11 Albany Windfarm. Prepared for Synergy via Eco Logical Australia. 22 November 2018

City of Albany (2018). Advice from the Local Government Authority for clearing permit application CPS 8282/1. City of Albany (DWER ref: A1749207).

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 December 2018.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/ Accessed September 2018. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (Regional Delivery – Water) (2018) Advice for CPS 8282/1 in relation to clearing in Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER Ref: A1750535).

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ Accessed December 2018.

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Beard vegetation
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain
- Groundwater salinity, statewide
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Land for Wildlife
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed December 2018)
- Soils, statewide