



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8285/1
Permit Holder:	BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	18 March 2019 to 18 March 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 the extension of Water Corporation scheme water network.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Mandurah Road reserve (PIN: 11751819), Coo loongup

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.031 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8285/1.

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 known *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. Record keeping

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:

- (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*

25 February 2019

Plan 8285/1

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
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Legend

 CPS areas approved to clear base layers

 Local Government Authorities

 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



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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8285/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd
Application received date: 5 December 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Road Reserve - 11751819, Cooloongup
Local Government Authority: City of Rockingham
Localities: Baldivis

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.031	0	Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 25 February 2019
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 and 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 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 0.031 hectares of native vegetation within Mandurah Road reserve (PIN: 11751819), Cooloongup, for the purpose of extending the Water Corporation scheme water network.

Vegetation Description: The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex Cottesloe Complex – Central and South that can be described as Mosaic of woodland of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) and open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri); closed heath on the Limestone outcrops (Shepard, 2001).

A flora and vegetation survey of the application area undertaken by Western Botanical (2018) in November 2018 identified the following vegetation communities:

- *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* Tall Open Woodland over *Acacia rostellifera* Tall Open Shrubland (1-7m) over **Euphorbia terracina*, **Pelargonium capitatum* Low Open Shrubland over **Ehrharta calycina* Grassland,
- *Banksia sessilis* var. *sessilis*, *Acacia rostellifera* Tall Shrubland over **Pelargonium capitatum* Very Open Low Shrubland over **Ehrharta calycina*, **Avena fatua* Grassland; and
- *Banksia sessilis* var. *sessilis*, *Acacia rostellifera* Tall Shrubland over **Pelargonium capitatum* Open Low Shrubland over **Lupinus cosentinii* scattered herbs over **Ehrharta calycina* grassland.

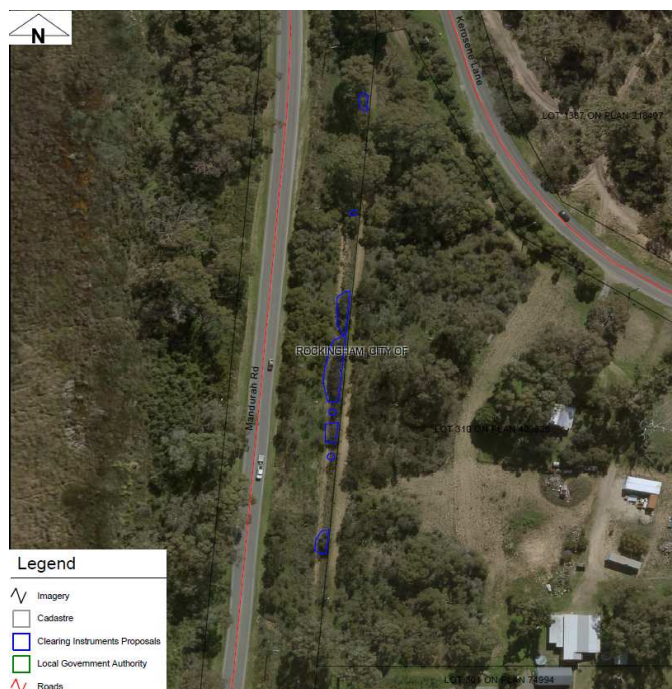
Vegetation Condition A flora and vegetation survey of the application area identified that the vegetation under application is in the following condition (Western Botanical, 2018):
Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and grazing (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Type The soil type within the application area is mapped as:
• Vasse V2 Phase subsystem described as Samphire covered sand and mud flats marginally higher than V1 and frequently inundated; with deep alkaline alluvial sands and clayey sands (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 32.57% 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 and the flora and vegetation survey provided by Western Botanical (2018), 4 threatened flora species and 12 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. The flora survey (Western Botanical, 2018) identified that the following conservation significant flora species may potentially occur within the application area: *Caladenia huegelii* (T), *Boronia juncea* subsp. *Juncea* (Priority 1), *Beyeria cinerea* subsp. *Cinerea* (Priority 3), *Cyathochaeta teretifolia* (Priority 3), and *Jacksonia sericea* (Priority 4). Noting the number of records, the distribution of these species within the local area, the vegetation condition within the application area and a high number (66% of species and over 90% of vegetation cover) of introduced species in the application area (Western Botanical, 2018), the proposed clearing of 0.031 hectares is unlikely to adversely affect the conservation status of these species.

According to available databases, 9 threatened fauna species, 15 fauna species protected under international agreement, 1 other specially protected fauna species, and 8 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Noting the habitat requirements of these species, the relatively small size of the proposed clearing, the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including species of conservation significance.

The application area is surrounded by remnant native vegetation. Considering the above, the application area is not likely to represent an area of high biological diversity value when compared to representative vegetation in a local and regional context. The disturbance from the proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent land. A weed management condition will assist in mitigating this risk.

According to available databases, the application area occurs within the buffer to Woodlands over sedge lands in Holocene dune swales of the southern Swan Coastal Plain (original description; Gibson et al. (1994) threatened ecological community (TEC) listed as critically endangered. Typical and common native shrub species of this TEC are summer-scented wattle (*Acacia rostellifera*), orange wattle (*Acacia saligna*) and grass tree (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*). Typical sedges include the bare twigrush (*Baumea juncea*), knotted club rush (*Ficinia nodosa*) and coast sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*). The native grass *Poa porphyroclados* is also common in the community. Some older occurrences have an overstorey characterised by tuart trees (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca raphiophylla*) and swamp banksia (*Banksia littoralis*) (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2011). Noting the species composition of this TEC, the type and condition of vegetation within the application area, and the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a TEC.

The local area, the vegetation complex and the Swan Coastal IBRA region, all retain more than 30 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent. Given this, the proposed clearing is not considered to be in an extensively cleared area.

The closest wetland or watercourse to the application area is the Conservation - Lake, located approximately 60 metres west of the application area. Given the distance to this watercourse and the extent of the proposed clearing, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, impact water quality, or cause or exacerbate the intensity of flooding. Given the application area and the lake are separated by a road, the vegetation in the application area is not considered to comprise of vegetation associated with a wetland or watercourse.

The closest conservation reserve to the application area is Leda Nature Reserve which occurs approximately 1.4 kilometres north east. Given the distance to this conservation area, and that there are no linkage values between conservation reserves and the application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 18 December 2018, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The City of Rockingham stated that it is supportive of the proposed clearing, as indicated in the City's letter to BHP dated 23rd October 2018 (City of Rockingham, 2018).

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

4. References

- City of Rockingham (2018). Advice from the Local Government Authority for clearing permit application CPS 8285/1. City of Rockingham (DWER ref: A1753914).
- 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 Environment and Conservation (2011). Interim Recovery Plan 2011-2016 for Sedgeland in Holocene dune swales. Interim Recovery Plan No. 314. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.
- 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.
- 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 Botanical (November 2018) Flora and Vegetation Assessment, Mandurah Road, Baldivis. Additional information related to Clearing Permit application CPS 8285/1 (DWER Ref: A1749426)

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