



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 8298/1
File Number: DWERVT1957
Duration of Permit: From 20 March 2019 to 20 March 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Gary and Verna Elks

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 370 on Plan 205924, Thomson Brook

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.3 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8298/1.

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. 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*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *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);
- (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* 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*;

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.



Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

25 February 2019

Plan 8298/1

115°59'24.000"

-33°35'24.000"

-33°35'24.000"



115°59'24.000"

Legend

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



0 50 100 m

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

Samara Rogers

2019.02.25

12:12:57 +08'00'

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



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8298/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Gary and Verna Elks
Application received date: 18 December 2018

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 370 on Plan 205924, Thomson Brook
Local Government Authority: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Localities: Thomson Brook

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.3	0	Mechanical Removal	Dam construction or maintenance

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* (EP Act). It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer considers 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 0.3 hectare within Lot 370 on Deposited Plan 205924, Thomson Brook, for the purpose of dam construction.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Balingup Complex described as 'Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* on the valley floor in the humid zone' (Government of Western Australia 2018b)

Vegetation Condition 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).

The condition of the vegetation was determined through a review of aerial imagery.

Soil Type The application area is mapped as Balingup upper valleys Phase (255LvBLu). Described as being upper valley phase, with slopes 5-15% and relief 30-70 m.

The soil within this unit is characterised by friable red-brown loamy earths, brown loamy earths, loamy gravels and brown deep loamy duplexes (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments The local area is defined as 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.

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

According to available databases, no threatened flora or threatened ecological communities (TEC) are recorded within the application area or within the local area. One Priority flora species was recorded within the local area – *Acacia semitrullata* (Priority 4), which was recorded approximately 6.4 kilometers north north west from the application area and was recorded in vegetation complexes different to that of the application area. Given the degraded condition of the vegetation with the application area, the structure and composition of the vegetation, the application area is not likely to comprise of habitat for threatened and priority flora and TEC's.

Seven threatened fauna species, four Priority 4 species and one Other Specially protected fauna were also recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Based on the vegetation type and known extent of occurrences, 3 Threatened fauna species may utilise the application area. These being:

- Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii subsp. naso*) - T
- Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) - T
- Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) - T

Forest Red-tailed Cockatoo and Carnaby's Cockatoo are listed as endangered under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). These species nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Black cockatoos have a preference for foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands and forest heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species such as *Banksia sp.*, *Hakea sp.*, and *Grevillea sp.* (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Given the vegetation mapped, the application area may comprise of foraging habitat for black cockatoos. Given the small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact black cockatoo habitat.

The Chuditch is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act. Chuditch are known to have occupied a wide range of habitats from woodlands, dry sclerophyll forests, riparian vegetation, beaches and deserts. The Chuditch now has a patchy distribution throughout the Jarrah forest and mixed Karri/Marri/Jarrah forest of south-west Western Australia (DBCA 2012). Given the small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact Chuditch habitat.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area falls within the Jarrah Forest Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and is mapped as the Balingup Complex, retaining 29.4% of the pre-European vegetation extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018a; Government of Western Australia 2018b). Noting the vegetation complex, is less than 30 per cent, the proposed clearing of 0.3 hectares is only a loss 0.001 per cent of this complex. The application area is not a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

No wetlands, watercourses and conservation areas are recorded within close proximity to the application area.

Given the relatively small size of the application area and its isolation in the landscape, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of surface or ground water and cause or exacerbate flooding.

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 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 12 January 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No public submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species. Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2012) Chuditch Fauna Profile. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed February 2019
- 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 February 2019
- Government of Western Australia (2018a) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of February 2018. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Government of Western Australia (2018b) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.
- Schoknecht et al. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in south-Western Australia: an overview of methodology and outputs, Department of Agriculture and Food, Perth.

5. GIS databases

- Aboriginal sites of significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Sac bio datasets access November 2018