



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8311/2
File Number: DWERVT1996
Duration of Permit: 6 March 2020 to 6 March 2022

PERMIT HOLDER

City of Rockingham

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 4240 on Plan 21088, Warnbro

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 2.21 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8311/2.

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 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.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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


29 June 2020

Plan 8311/2



Legend

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


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

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8311/2
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Rockingham
Application received date: 24 February 2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 4240 on Plan 21088, Warnbro
Local Government Authority: Rockingham, City of
Localities: Warnbro

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.48ha (amendment area)	Mechanical Removal	Recreation
2.21ha (total permit area)		

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 29 June 2020

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was made to amend Clearing permit CPS 8311/1 to increase the size of the application area by 0.48 hectares, to result in a total proposed clearing of 2.21 hectares of native vegetation. The application to amend 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 with any of the clearing principles.

The proposed clearing may increase the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent vegetated areas. A weed management condition has been placed on the permit to mitigate the impact of spreading weeds into adjacent vegetation.

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

2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The application is to clear an additional 0.48 hectares, to result in a total proposed clearing of 2.21 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 4240 on Plan 21088, Warnbro, for the purpose of facilitating the development of playing fields and associated facilities (Figure 1). The extent of native vegetation within the proposed clearing area increased from 0.93 hectare to 1.39 hectares.

Vegetation Description

The application area has been mapped as the Swan Coastal Plain (previously Hedde) Quindalup vegetation complex which is described as 'Coastal dune complex – low closed forest and closed scrub' (Hedde et al., 1980).

A survey undertaken in September 2018 determined that the area consists of two vegetation units (Eco Logical Australia, 2018):

- ArJf: '*Acacia rostellifera* and *Jacksonia furcellata* open shrubland over *Bromus diandrus* open grassland over *Euphorbia terracina*, *Pelargonium capitatum* and *Senecio pinnatifolius* sparse formland over *Lepidosperma pubisquamum* sparse sedgeland'; and
- Revegetation: '*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Agonis flexuosa* var. *flexuosa* over grass weeds. Other planted species include *Casuarina glauca*'.

Vegetation Condition

The application area is determined to be in a Completely Degraded to Good condition by Eco Logical Australia (2018) using the Keighery (1994) scale.

- Completely Degraded: The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994); to
- Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure of ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Type

The application area has been mapped as the following soil types;

- Quindalup South Qf2a Phase which is described as “More prominent relict foredune ridges which occur within unit Qf2, with deep uniform calcareous sands (Schoknecht et al., 2004); and
- Quindalup South Qf2 Phase which is described as “Relict foredunes and gently undulating beach ridge plain with deep uniform calcareous sands (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Local Area

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the centre of the application area.



Figure 1: The amended application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2020). The red outline indicates the survey area with the additional 0.48ha shown by oblique lines.

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The City advised that the application area avoids potentially significant remnant trees for Carnaby’s cockatoo, corresponding to 1.19 hectares of vegetation in the reserve that will be retained as part of the development (City of Rockingham, 2018).

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear an additional 0.48 hectares within Lot 4240 on Plan 21088, Warnbro, for the purpose of facilitating the development of playing fields and associated facilities. This will bring the total area to be cleared to 2.21 hectares.

According to available databases, one threatened flora and nine priority flora species have been recorded within the local area. *Beyeria cinerea* subsp. *cinerea* (Priority 2) and *Jacksonia sericea* (Priority 4) have been mapped occurring within the same soil, vegetation and landform type than that mapped within the application area. A flora survey undertaken in September 2018 (Eco Logical Australia, 2018), found that no threatened flora and priority flora listed under the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)* or under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act (2016)* within the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018*, were recorded within the application area. Given this, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on conservation significant flora.

According to available databases, 21 threatened fauna species, 29 fauna species protected under international agreement, 10 Priority 4, three Priority 3 fauna species and two fauna species classified as other specially protected fauna have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Of these 21 threatened fauna species, 13 terrestrial species were mapped within the local area. Of these species, the application area is known to contain habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*) and Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*).

A fauna survey undertaken in September 2018 (Eco Logical Australia, 2018) did not observe any Commonwealth or State listed Threatened or Priority fauna species within the application area. The survey did identify 12 potential breeding Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) trees within the survey area (Figure 1). However, the City has advised that these trees are to be excluded from the application area (City of Rockingham, 2018) (Figure 1).

Black cockatoos prefer foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands and forest heathland and woodland dominated by Proteaceous species such as *Banksia* sp., *Hakea* sp., and *Grevillea* sp. (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). The application area contains an additional 0.46 ha of black cockatoo foraging habitat. This brings the total foraging habitat to 1.39 ha of black cockatoo foraging habitat of variable quality. This area is described as revegetation and is limited to *Eucalyptus species*, *Agonis flexuosa* and *Jacksonia furcellata* (Eco Logical Australia, 2020).

Of the 1.39 ha, 0.81 ha is described as 'good' foraging habitat containing 'a high density of species suitable for foraging by black cockatoos (i.e. foliage cover of suitable species >60%) with food sources only present at one or two strata' (Eco Logical Australia, 2018;2020). The application area also contains 0.58 hectares of 'very poor' foraging habitat described as 'very low density of species suitable for foraging (i.e. foliage cover of suitable species <10%) and food sources at only 1 stratum' (Eco Logical Australia, 2018;2020). Given, the small size and species mix of the foraging habitat in the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact black cockatoo foraging habitat.

According to available databases, six threatened ecological communities (TEC) and three priority ecological communities (PEC) have been recorded in the local area. The Commonwealth-listed TEC "Woodlands over sedgeland in Holocene dune swales of the southern Swan Coastal Plain" (listed as endangered) occurs approximately 669 metres from the application area. The State-listed PEC "Microbial community of a coastal saline lake (Lake Walyungup)" occurs approximately 1.16km from the application area. The remaining TECs and PECs occur more than 1.3km from the application area. Noting the species composition of these TECs, the mapped vegetation type within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2018), and the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is not likely to be comprised of these TECs, or be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

The National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation includes a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with extents below 30 per cent of their pre-European extent (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The application area falls within the Swan Coastal Plain Interim Biogeographical Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and is mapped as the Swan Coastal Plain (previously Heddlé) Quindalup vegetation complex, retaining 38.6 per cent and 60.4 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Additionally, the City of Rockingham retains approximately 31.6 per cent of their pre-European extent. Given these extents are above the 30 per cent threshold, the application area is not considered a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

According to available databases, ten conservation areas have been mapped within the local area. The closest conservation area is an un-named nature reserve located approximately 2.4km southwest of the application area. The remaining conservation areas occur more than 3.6km from the application area. Given the distance, residential development and roads occurring between the application area and these conservation areas, the application area is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

There are no wetlands or watercourses mapped within the application area. Subsequently, it is considered that the application area is unlikely to impact on vegetation growing in association with a wetland or watercourse, deteriorate the quality of groundwater or surface water or cause or, exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Given the application area is predominately in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (Eco Logical Australia, 2018;2020) and the relatively small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause appreciable land degradation.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely at variance to 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 7 March 2020 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- City of Rockingham (2018) Application Form Excerpt, City of Rockingham, Western Australia, DWER A1753795.
- 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) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed June 2020.
- Eco Logical Australia (2018) Koorana Reserve Flora and Fauna Survey, Ecological Australia, Western Australia.
- Eco Logical Australia (2020) Amendment to NVCP – CPS 8311/1, Ecological Australia, Western Australia.
- 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 (2019) 2018 Swan Coastal Plain Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2018. 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.
- 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, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in south-Western Australia: an overview of methodology and outputs, Department of Agriculture and Food, Perth.

6. GIS databases

- Aboriginal sites of significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Sac bio datasets accessed June 2020