



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8379/1
File Number: DWERVT2374
Duration of Permit: 25 May 2019 to 25 May 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Sinada Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 102 on Deposited Plan 42936, Cowaramup

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.27 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8379/1.

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);
- (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*;


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) 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.

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Abbie Crawford
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION


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

1 May 2019

CPS 8379/1 - Plan



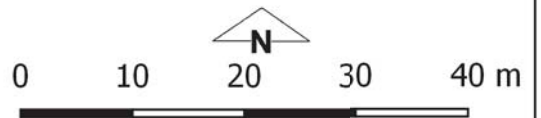
Legend

 CPS areas approved to clear base layers

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 Local Government Authorities

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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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Officer delegated under Section 20 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8379/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Sinada Pty Ltd
Application received date: 21 February 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 102 on Plan 42936, Cowaramup
Local Government Authority: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Localities: Cowaramup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.27		Mechanical Removal	Dam construction

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 1 May 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 21 February 2019 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 not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation. To minimise this impact, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

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 0.27 hectares within a footprint area of 0.393 hectares, at Lot 102 on Plan 42936, Cowaramup, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River for the purpose of expanding the existing water source and constructing a dam. The current water source exists as two small soaks on the southern end of the application area (Figure 1).

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Cowaramup Vegetation Complex (Cw1), consisting of a mixture of open forest to woodland of *Eucalyptus diversicolor* - *Corymbia calophylla* and woodland of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata* - *Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and low woodland of *Melaleuca preissiana* - *Banksia littoralis* on depressions in the hyperhumid zone (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

Vegetation Condition Degraded: Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Soil/Landform Type The application area is dominated by the Cowaramup vales Phase, Map Unit 216CoCOv described as minor V-shaped valleys with narrow open drainage depressions and small valleys incised into the surrounding Cowaramup Upland. Mainly loamy gravels and sandy loamy gravels (DPIRD, 2019).

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.

The vegetation condition of the application area is based on available aerial imagery, photographs supplied by the applicant and the site inspection report provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD, 2019).



Figure 1. Application area (cross-hatched blue)



Figure 2. Representative photographs of the application area supplied by the applicant (Sinada, 2019)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The proposed clearing of 0.27 hectares of native vegetation, from a footprint area of 0.393 hectares, will allow the expansion of the existing water source on Lot 102 on Plan 42936 that currently exists as two small soaks at the southern end of the application area, and to construct a dam. Photographs provided by the applicant show that the vegetation within the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, comprising scattered trees of *Agonis flexuosa*, *Eucalyptus marginata* and *Corymbia calophylla* (Sinada, 2019). The application area is open to livestock grazing and lacking in understorey (DPIRD, 2019).

A review of available databases determined that 27 flora species of conservation significance have been recorded in the local area, comprising one Priority 1 species, three Priority 2 species, fifteen Priority 3 flora species, six Priority 4 species and two Threatened flora species. No occurrences of these flora species are recorded from within application area (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-). Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation and the lack of understorey within the application area, the application area is not likely to provide suitable habitat for these flora species.

According to available databases, 414 fauna species have been recorded within the local area (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Of these, excluding the marine and coastal fauna species that are unlikely to utilise the application area, eighteen species are of conservation significance, comprising two Priority 3 fauna species, four Priority 4 fauna species, one species protected under international agreement, two fauna species classified as specially protected fauna, and nine threatened fauna species (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-). Given this, the local area can be considered as comprising high faunal diversity. Based on the photographs of the application area provided by the applicant and DPIRD, the trees within the application area are unlikely to contain hollows suitable to provide habitat for avian and arboreal fauna species, or sufficient understorey and ground litter for ground dwelling fauna species. Noting the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation found within the application area, it is not likely that the application area comprises a level of biological diversity higher than the surrounding area, or comprises vegetation necessary to maintain significant habitat for any fauna species.

There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the application area or in the local area. There are two Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) mapped within the local area, with the closest PEC being the 'Low shrublands on acidic grey-brown sands of the Gracetown soil-landscape system' (Priority 2), which is approximately 5040 metres northwest of the application area. The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be representative of these PECs. Given the above, the application area is not likely to comprise the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia have 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 Warren IBRA bioregion retains approximately 79 per cent of the pre-European extent, the mapped Cowaramup Vegetation Complex (Cw1) retains approximately 28 per cent, of the pre-European extent (Government of Western Australia, 2018a; Government of Western Australia, 2018b), and the local area retains approximately 39 percent of native vegetation. Based on photographs supplied by the applicant, the application area appears to contain some species that are representative of the Cowaramup Vegetation Complex (Cw1), however is in a degraded (Keighley, 1994) condition. Given the condition of application area, the local area retaining over 30 per cent of native vegetation, and the application area not containing significant habitat for conservation significant flora or fauna, the application area is not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape.

There are no watercourses or wetlands mapped within the application area, however a minor, perennial watercourse appears to originate adjacent to the northern boundary of the application area. There are two small soaks at the southern end of the application area that are currently being used as a water source by the applicant. The proposed clearing is to expand this water source and construct a dam. Based on the photographs supplied by the applicant, the vegetation within the application area does not comprise wetland or riparian species. It is not considered likely that the application area contains native vegetation that is growing in, or in association with watercourse or wetland.

No conservation areas are recorded within, or adjacent to the application area. A site inspection carried out by DPIRD on 9 April 2019 concluded that the risk of land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing is low (DPIRD, 2019), therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute or cause appreciable land degradation.

The application area falls within the Cape to Cape North Surface Water Area and the Busselton-Capel Groundwater Area, as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). Given the proposed clearing is limited to 0.27 hectares of native vegetation within an area that has undergone extensive clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to deteriorate the quality of surface or groundwater, and cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

4. Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The area under application is located within the Cape to Cape North Surface Water Area and Busselton-Capel Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the RIWI Act. Sinada Pty Ltd has a current licence to take groundwater (CAW202181) in accordance with the RIWI Act. The water licence has been amended to include the expansion of the water source locations, consistent with the proposed purpose of this clearing permit application.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance are mapped within the application area.

The clearing permit application was initially advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 18 March 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. The application was re-advertised on 5 April 2019 for another 7 days due to the incorrect amount of clearing being initially advertised. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

5. References

- 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 April 2019.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019) Advice on land degradation impacts associated with CPS 8379/1. Received 18 April 2019 (DWER Ref: A1782819).
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.
- Sinada Pty Ltd (Sinada) (2019) Supporting documents for native vegetation clearing permit application CPS 8379/1 (DWER Ref: A1767374).
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) Florabase – The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed April 2019).

6. GIS databases

- Aboriginal sites of significance
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Sac bio datasets (accessed April 2019)