



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8443/1
Permit Holder:	Telstra Corporation Limited
Duration of Permit:	6 July 2019 to 6 July 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 infrastructure maintenance
- 2. Land on which clearing is to be done**
Lot 313 on Deposited Plan 49924, Boranup
- 3. Area of Clearing**
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.0106 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8443/1.
- 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 authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds*:
 - (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (b) ensure that no known *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. 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 5 of this Permit;
- (e) 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 provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 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 administering 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; and

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.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

6 June 2019

Plan 8443/1

34.078278°S

34.078278°S

115.028339°E

115.028339°E

115.028339°E






115.028339°E

34.078962°S

34.078962°S



Legend

-  Imagery
-  Cadastre
-  Clearing Instruments Activities
-  Local Government Authority
-  Roads



(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

GDA 94 (Lat/Long)

Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date 6 June 2019
Mathew Gannaway

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.: 8443/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Telstra Corporation Limited
Application received date: 2 April 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 313 on Deposited Plan 49924
Local Government Authority: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
Localities: Boranup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.0106		Mechanical	Infrastructure Maintenance

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 6 June 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 2 April 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 noted that the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

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 0.0106 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 313 on Deposited Plan 49924, Boranup, for the purpose of infrastructure maintenance.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Gracetown complex described as; closed heath of *Olearia axillaris-Rhagodia baccata-Agonis flexuosa* on seaward slopes in hyperhumid to humid zones (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).

Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the application area consists of *Agonis flexuosa* regrowth and mixed grasses (Figures 1 to 2 below) (Telstra Corporation Limited, 2019).

Vegetation Condition Based on aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Telstra Corporation Limited, 2019), the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded condition, described as: structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Description The soil type within the application area is mapped as Gracetown exposed flats phase subsystem, described as: Ridge crest, exposed to prevailing winds, with deep and shallow yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone (i.e. Spearwood sands) (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments The local area is defined as ten kilometre radius from the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 62 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.



Figure 1: Representative photograph of the vegetation within the application area



Figure 2: Representative photograph of the vegetation within the application area

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

As noted in Section 2 above, the vegetation within the application area contains *Agonis flexuosa* regrowth and mixed grasses and has previously been cleared. Based on the photographs provided by the applicant, the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

According to available databases, one Threatened flora species, three Priority 1 (P1) species, one P2, six P6 and five P4 flora species have been recorded within the local area. None of these flora records occur within the application area. The closest flora records are a P3 species, (*Stylidium lowrieanum*) and a P4 species (*Astartea onycis*) which are located approximately 980 meters and 1720 meters from the application area respectively. Advice provided by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA, 2019) noted that while there is a possibility of *Stylidium lowrieanum* (P3) and *Caladenia abbreviata* (P3) occurring within the application area, the impacts on these species would not be significant and would not adversely affect the survival of those species in the larger area (DBCA, 2019). The threatened flora species *Caladenia excelsa* has been recorded approximately 3400 meters from the application area but is not considered likely to be in the application area due to the habitat requirements of the species not being met by the soil and vegetation types within the application area.

According to available datasets, 21 Threatened fauna species, six species protected under international agreement, one Priority 3 species, six priority 4 species and one specially protected fauna species have been recorded within the local area. A review of photographs provided by the applicant (Telstra Corporation Limited, 2019), indicate that the vegetation within the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for the threatened fauna species recorded in the local area given the application area comprises of regrowth of *Agonis flexuosa* over mixed grasses. Suitable habitat for these species is well represented in the adjacent Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park.

According to available datasets, no threatened ecological communities (TEC) or priority ecological communities (PEC) have been mapped within the application area. The closest mapped PEC is 'Melaleuca lanceolata forests Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge' (Priority 2), and the closest mapped TEC is 'Aquatic Root Mat Community Number 2 of Caves of the Leeuwin Naturaliste Ridge' (Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*), these communities have been mapped approximately 2600 meters and 1200 meters from the application area, respectively. The application area is not considered to be representative of either of these communities and noting the distance, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on these communities or any other PEC or TECs.

Given that the application area has undergone previous clearing and is not likely to contain any threatened flora, TECs, PECs or significant fauna habitat, the vegetation within the application area is unlikely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has 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 application area is located within the Warren Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion, which retains approximately 79 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent, and mapped Beard vegetation association 949 retains approximately 58 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 62 per cent native vegetation cover. These remnant vegetation figures are all considerably greater than the abovementioned 30 per cent threshold. As the application area retains more than 30 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent, the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area, the relatively small size of the application area and the application area is not likely to contain conservation significant flora or fauna, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

According to available datasets, no watercourses or wetlands intersect the application area. The closest watercourse or wetland is a Palusplain wetland located approximately 1500 meters from the application area. The photographs of the application area indicate the vegetation within the application area is not riparian (Telstra Corporation Limited, 2019). Given the scope of the works, historical clearing and land use, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any unacceptable impacts to this watercourse.

The application area is located adjacent to the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park. The proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback into the adjacent vegetation. To minimise the risk, a condition has been placed on the permit requiring implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

The chief soils mapped within the application area are Gracetown exposed flats described as ridge crest, exposed to prevailing winds, with deep and shallow yellow brown siliceous sands over limestone. These soils are prone to wind erosion and have a moderate risk of salinity. Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area and the representation of intact vegetation surrounding the application area, it is unlikely that the removal of 0.0106 hectares of native vegetation will lead to appreciable land degradation, impact on the quality of groundwater, or result in the exacerbation of flooding on or off site.

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 16 April 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The application area is mapped within an Aboriginal Site of Significance, a registered site ID 784- Tunnel Cave (artefacts, scatter, arch deposit, camp). It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Advice received for Clearing Permit Application CPS 8443/1. DWER ref:A1790305
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 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.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.
- 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.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Telstra Corporation Limited (2019) Clearing Permit Application CPS 8443/1. DWER reference: A1778431

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Heritage
- DBCA Estate
- Hydrography linear
- Land degradation risk categories
- SAC BioDatasets
- Remnant vegetation
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands