



CLEARING PERMIT
Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose permit number:	CPS 847/1
Permit holder:	Commissioner of Main Roads Western Australia
Purpose of clearing:	Road Construction
Duration of permit:	21 December 2007 to 21 December 2012

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The permit holder is authorised to clear native vegetation for the above stated purposes, subject to the conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Land on which clearing is to be done

- (a) Avon Location 25926, Gorge Rock;
- (b) Lot 29293 on Plan 193964, Gorge Rock;
- (c) Old Kulin Road Reserve, Gorge Rock; and
- (d) Unmade Road Reserve off Old Kulin Road, Gorge Rock.

2. Area of Clearing

Clearing of up to 1.6 hectares of native vegetation cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 847/1.

3. 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.

4. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the permit holder to clear native vegetation for activities to the extent that the permit holder has the power to clear native vegetation for those activities under the *Main Roads Act 1930* or any other written law.

5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1 and 2 of this Permit, the permit holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the purposes of road and drain construction and maintenance 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.

7. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *dieback*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) avoid the movement of soil in wet conditions;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback*-affected *road building materials, mulches* or *fill* or other material are brought into an area that is not affected by *dieback*; and
 - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) When undertaking any clearing, or other activity pursuant to this Permit the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
- (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected *road building materials, mulch, fill* or other material are brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

8. Fauna Management

- (a) Prior to clearing within the area described in Clearing Authorised above, the area shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* who shall identify trees that contain hollows suitable to be utilised as habitat by Brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecular*) and fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005*.
- (b) Prior to clearing, any habitat identified by condition 8(a) shall be inspected by a *fauna specialist* for the presence of Brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecular*) and fauna listed in the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005*.
- (c) Prior to clearing the Permit Holder shall ensure that any fauna identified in condition 8(b) shall be removed and relocated by a *fauna clearing person*, in accordance with a licence issued by the Department of Environment and Conservation.

9. Offsets

- (a) Determination of offsets:
- (i) If part or all of the clearing to be done is, or may be, at variance with one or more of the clearing principles, then the permit holder must implement an *offset* in accordance with conditions 9(a) and 9(b) of this Permit with respect to that native vegetation.
 - (ii) In determining the *offset* to be implemented with respect to a particular area of native vegetation proposed to be cleared under this Permit, the permit holder must have regard to the offset principles contained in condition 9(b).
 - (iii) Once the permit holder has developed an *offset* proposal, the permit holder must provide that *offset* proposal to the CEO for the CEO's approval prior to undertaking any clearing to which the *offset* relates, and prior to implementing the *offset*.
 - (iv) Clearing may not commence until and unless the CEO has approved the *offset* proposal.
 - (v) The permit holder shall implement the *offset* proposal approved under condition 9(a)(iii).
 - (vi) Each *offset* proposal shall include a *direct offset*, timing for implementation of the *offset* proposal, and may additionally include *contributing offsets*.

(b) Offset principles

For the purpose of this Part, the offset principles are as follows:

- (i) *direct offsets* should directly counterbalance the loss of the native vegetation;
- (ii) *contributing offsets* should complement and enhance the direct offset;
- (iii) *offsets* are implemented only once all avenues to avoid, minimise, rectify or reduce environmental impacts have been exhausted;
- (iv) the environmental values, habitat, species, ecological community, physical area, ecosystem, landscape, and hydrology of the offset should be the same as, or better than, that of the area of native vegetation being *offset*;
- (v) a ratio greater than 1:1 should be applied to the size of the area of native vegetation that is offset to compensate for the risk that the *offset* may fail;
- (vi) *offsets* must entail a robust and consistent assessment process;
- (vii) in determining an appropriate *offset*, consideration should be given to ecosystem function, rarity and type of ecological community, vegetation condition, habitat quality and area of native vegetation cleared;
- (viii) the *offset* should either result in no net loss of native vegetation, or lead to a net gain in native vegetation and improve the condition of the natural environment;
- (ix) *offsets* must satisfy all statutory requirements;
- (x) *offsets* must be clearly defined, documented and audited;
- (xi) *offsets* must ensure a long-term (10-30 year) benefit; and
- (xii) an *environmental specialist* must be involved in the design, assessment and monitoring of *offsets*.

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit, as relevant:

- (a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation undertaken pursuant to the purpose of clearing:
 - (i) The species composition, structure and density of the cleared area;
 - (ii) The location where the clearing occurred, recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
 - (iii) The date that the area was cleared; and
 - (iv) The size of the area cleared (in hectares).

- (b) The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for Fauna Management pursuant to condition 8:
 - (i) The location of each habitat tree identified recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
 - (ii) The species of each habitat tree identified;
 - (iii) The species of fauna reasonably likely to utilise, or that have been observed utilising the habitat trees;
 - (iv) The species and number of each species relocated; and
 - (v) The location and date where relocated fauna was released, using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994.

- (c) In relation to the offsets of areas pursuant to condition 9:
 - (i) The location of any area of offsets recorded using Geocentric Datum Australia 1994;
 - (ii) A description of the offset activities undertaken; and
 - (iii) The size of the offset area (in hectares).

11. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* and the Roadside Conservation Committee, on or before 30 August of each year, a written report of records requested under condition 10 and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on *native vegetation*;

contributing offsets has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

direct offsets has the same meaning as is given to that term in the Environmental Protection Authority's *Position Statement No.9 Environmental Offsets*, January 2006;

environmental specialist means a person who is engaged by the permit holder for the purpose of providing environmental advice, who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this Permit;

fauna specialist means a person with training and specific work experience in fauna identification or faunal assemblage surveys of Western Australian fauna;

fauna clearing person means a person who has obtained a licence from the Department of Environment and Conservation, issued pursuant to the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970* (as amended) authorising them to take fauna in order to carry out the approved clearing associated with this permit.

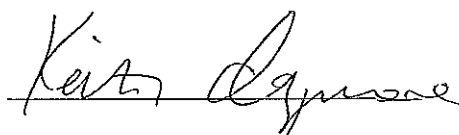
fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

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;

offset means an offset required to be implemented under condition 9 of this Permit;

road building materials means rock, gravel, soil, stone, timber, boulders and water;

weed means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.



Keith Claymore
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Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

22 November 2007