



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8509/1
Permit Holder:	City of Mandurah
Duration of Permit:	From 18 October 2019 to 18 October 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 disposal of dredge material.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Peel Harvey Estuarine System – Water Feature PIN 11834258.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1.42 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plans 8509/1A and 8509/1B.

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.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for *project activities* to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those *project activities* under the *Local Government Act 1995*, *Waterways Conservation Act 1976* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. 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.

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); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing 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 the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Project activities means those activities described in condition 1 of this Permit.

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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

18 September 2019




Plan 8509/1A

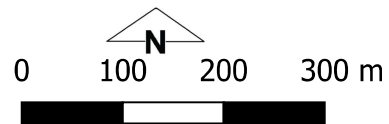
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Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Road Centrelines
-  Local Government Authorities



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Officer delegated under section 20 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Plan 8509/1B

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




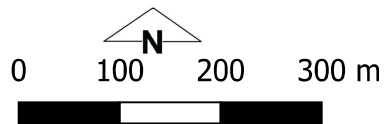
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Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Road Centrelines
-  Local Government Authorities



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Officer delegated under section 20 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8509/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Mandurah
Application received date: 28 May 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Point Grey Channel within the Peel Harvey Estuarine System (PIN 11834258)
Local Government Authority: City of Mandurah
Localities: Dawesville and Falcon

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
1.42	-	Flooding (Smothering of aquatic vegetation)	Waste disposal/management (Disposal of dredge material)

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 18 September 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 at variance to principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

The Delegated Officer noted that the application area is located within a conservation category and Ramsar wetland. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing will directly impact on aquatic vegetation growing in association with this wetland. The Delegated Officer had regard for the benthic habitat information provided by the applicant and the extent of the proposed clearing, and determined that impacts from the proposed clearing are likely to be short term and that the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in unacceptable environmental impacts.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to avoidance and minimisation conditions.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 1.42 hectares of native vegetation within the Peel Harvey Estuarine System (Water Feature PIN 11834258), for the purpose of disposing dredged material (Figures 1 and 2).

The application relates to the disposal of approximately 1,500 m³ of dredged material which will be transported via floating pipeline to the application area, located 100 to 150 meters off the Novara and Dawesville boat ramps entrance channels.

Vegetation Description Seagrass (*Ruppia* sp.) and macroalgae (*Chaetomorpha linum*) (BMT Western Australia Pty Ltd, 2018).

Vegetation Condition Good: Vegetation structure significantly altered by various signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it;

to

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

The condition and description of the vegetation was determined from a benthic habitat survey and photos provided by the applicant (BMT Western Australia Pty Ltd, 2018, on behalf of City of Mandurah) and historic use of the channel area within the Peel Harvey Estuarine System.

Comment The local area considered in the assessment of this application is defined as a five kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area.

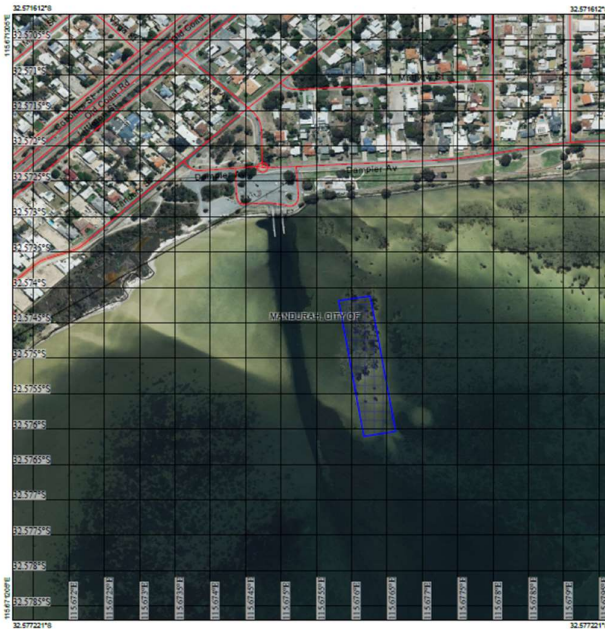


Figure 1: Novara boat ramp maintenance dredging proposed disposal area

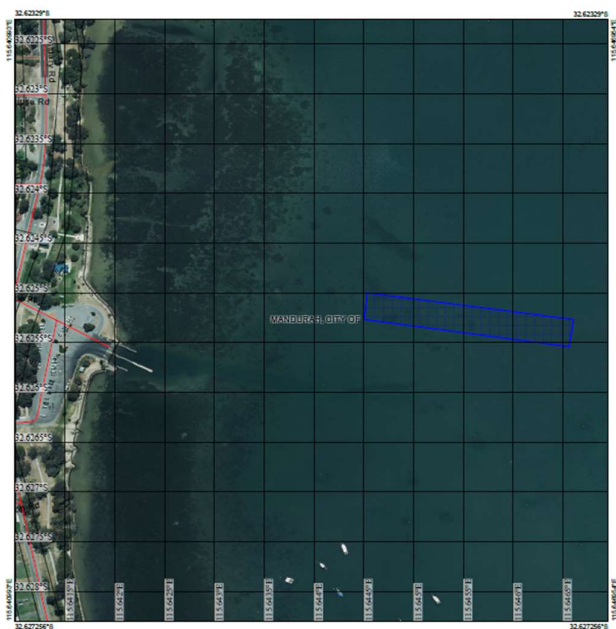


Figure 2: Dawesville boat ramp maintenance dredging proposed disposal area

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to clear up to 1.42 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of the disposal of dredging material from ongoing maintenance dredging of the Novara and Dawesville boat ramps entrance channels. The application area is located within the Peel-Harvey Estuarine System and the 'Peel-Yalgorup System' Ramsar Wetland. The vegetation within the Novara boat ramp proposed disposal area includes seagrass (*Ruppia* sp.) and macroalgae (*Chaetomorpha linum*), while the Dawesville boat ramp proposed disposal area mainly comprised of bare sediment (BMT Western Australia Pty Ltd, 2018). The proposed clearing may impact on the quality of surrounding waters through a resulting sediment plume and turbidity. Considering the relatively small scale of the proposed clearing, there is unlikely to be long term impacts on seagrasses from the proposed clearing (DBCA, 2019). Additionally, the species of seagrass present within the application area exist in turbid hypersaline environments (DBCA, 2019). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the application area is also unlikely to comprise a high level of biological diversity in the context of the broader estuarine system.

According to available databases, a number of records of threatened and priority fauna occur within the local area. The majority of these records are terrestrial or marine species and are unlikely to occur within the application area. However, there are several records of migratory waterbirds which utilise the Peel-Harvey Estuary, Peel Inlet Waterbody and Peel-Yalgorup System wetland. Benthic habitats and macrofauna observed during the pre-maintenance dredging environmental surveys at the Novara and Dawesville boat ramp proposed disposal areas were representative of known local estuarine habitats and macrofauna (BMT Western Australia Pty Ltd, 2018). Due to the size of the application area, it is unlikely that the vegetation within the application area comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

According to available databases, one Priority 3 priority ecological community (PEC), 'Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh', occurs within the local area and is present around the perimeter of the Peel Harvey Estuarine System. The nearest occurrence is approximately 900 metres east of the application area. Given that this PEC is a terrestrial community, the application area is not likely to represent this PEC.

Noting the absence of conservation significant species or ecological communities within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on threatened or priority flora, priority or threatened ecological communities. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be classified significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared due to the size of the application area in relation to the Peel Harvey Estuarine System.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is considered to be growing in an environment associated with a wetland, therefore the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (f). Noting that the application area is located within an estuary and below the water line, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation, is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater (noting the short term impacts to surrounding waters outlined above), and is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Due to the extent of the proposed clearing, it is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

The proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (f), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

4. Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Clearing impacts affecting the water column are managed through the *Waterways Conservation Act 1976* and the application to obtain a Licence to Carry Out Dredging and/or Reclamation works, under this Act. It is noted that approval for a dredging licence for the proposed activity has yet to be approved by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). The letter of authority provided by DWER (managing authority for the Peel Inlet Management Area) in support of the Native Vegetation

Clearing Permit (NVCP) application included a condition stating that no works under the NVCP may be undertaken without an accompanying DWER Licence to Carry out Dredging and/or Reclamation (City of Mandurah, 2019).

No registered Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 18 June 2019 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

BMT Western Australia Pty Ltd (2018) Memorandum for Novara boat ramp and Dawesville boat ramp pre-maintenance dredging disposal area environmental surveys (DWER ref. A1796358).

City of Mandurah (2019) Clearing Permit Application CPS 8509/1 (DWER ref. A1792470).

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/> (accessed September 2019).

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2019) Advice provided in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8509/1, received 30 August 2019 (DWER ref. A1821837).

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia
- Geomorphic Wetlands – Swan Coastal Plain
- Ramsar Sites
- SAC bio datasets
- TPFL data
- WA Herb data
- WA TEC PEC boundaries