



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8520/1
File Number: DWERVT2905
Duration of Permit: From 22 November 2019 to 22 November 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Waroona

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Preston Beach Road North road reserve (PIN 1346589), Preston Beach

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 1 native tree within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8520/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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; and
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in trees).

3. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 2 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.



Ryan Mincham

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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION




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

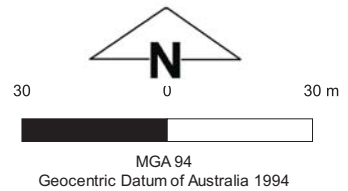
23 October 2019

Plan 8520/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
- Image




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





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8520/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Waroona
Application received date: 5 June 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Preston Beach Road North road reserve (PIN 1346589), Preston Beach
Local Government Authority: Shire of Waroona
Localities: Preston Beach

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	1	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 23 October 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 not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

It was determined that a clearing permit be granted subject to conditions for weed and dieback management.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear a single tree within Preston Beach Road North road reserve (PIN 1346589), Shire of Waroona, for the purpose of road safety improvement.

Vegetation Description The application area is mapped as the following Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex (Hedde et al., 1980):

Vasse Complex consisting a mixture of the closed scrub of *Melaleuca* species fringing woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum), *Melaleuca* species and open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart), *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri). This will include areas dominated by *Tecticornia* and *Sarcocornia* species (Samphire) near Mandurah.

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 Type Soil mapping database classifies the soil in the vicinity of the tree as two soils of the Spearwood system:
Spearwood S2b Phase - Lower slopes (1-5%) of dune ridge with shallow to deep siliceous yellow-brown sands and common limestone outcrop;
Spearwood S4a Phase - Flat to gently undulating sandplain with deep, pale and sometimes bleached, sands with yellow-brown subsoils.

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 was confirmed through photographs supplied by the applicant (Shire of Waroona, 2019).



Figure 1. Application area (hatched blue)



Figures 2-3. Photographs of the application area provided by the applicant (Shire of Waroona, 2019).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Based on available databases, the Commonwealth listed 'Tuart woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) has been mapped across the entire application area. This TEC comprises of a woodland of *Melaleuca* species and open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart). It is considered that the proposed clearing of a single tree which is isolated on two sides by a current road will not significantly impact this TEC and its ecological function, given the broader occurrence of the TEC within the local area.

A total of six priority flora have been identified within the local area on similar soil types; *Hakea oligoneura* (P2), *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptotheca* (P3), *Lasiopetalum membranaceum* (P3), *Pimelea calcicola* (P3), *Sphaerolobium calcicola* (P3) and *Stylidium maritimum* (P3). The vegetation within the application area is in a degraded condition (Keighery, 1994) and the high weed load is likely to reduce the likelihood of any conservation significant flora species establishing themselves within the application area (DBCA, 2019). Based on the above, the application area is not likely to provide significant habitat for conservation significant species or comprise high biodiversity value, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to principle (a).

According to available databases, a total of eight conservation significant fauna species have been previously recorded within the local area; Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) (EN), Eastern curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) (CR), Hooded plover / hooded dotterel (*Thinornis rubricollis*) (P4), Graceful sun-moth (*Synemon gratiosa*) (P4), Western ringtail possum, ngwayir (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (CR), Chuditch, western quoll (*Dasyurus geoffroii*) (Vu), Quenda, southwestern brown bandicoot (*Isodon fusciventer*) (P4) and the Coastal Plains skink (*Ctenotus ora*) (P3) (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, 2007-).

Of the above listed species, the Eastern Curlew and Hooded Plover are of least concern as they are primarily coastal birds which nest closer to the coast, usually near mud flats and salt lakes. They are more likely to be found on the flatter areas of sand dunes, feeding, sheltering or resting. The Graceful sun-moth can also be discounted as a likely inhabitant of the application area and surrounds as they are most commonly found in sedgeland, heathlands, woodlands and sometimes in open parts of the forest where they feed on grasses, sedges and mat-rushes. The Graceful sun-moth breeds on two species; *Lomandra maritima* and *Lomandra hermaphrodita*, both of which can be found in areas to the west of the application area. The Chuditch, Quenda and Coastal Plains skink are all timid and highly mobile, therefore they are expected to move at the first sign of disturbance.

The Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) is listed as Endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act). Carnaby's Cockatoo breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands, forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). These species nest in hollows in live or dead trees of karri, marri, wandoo, tuart, salmon gum, jarrah, flooded gum, York gum, powder bark, bullich and blackbutt (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Black cockatoos have a preference for foraging habitat that includes jarrah and marri woodlands, forest heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species such as *Banksia* sp., *Hakea* sp., and *Grevillea* sp., (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). The tree under application appears to be a Tuart which is not a preferred foraging source for the Black cockatoo. Based on the images supplied, the tree has a horizontally spreading habit which is considered sub-optimal for the development of hollows suitable for utilisation by Black cockatoo's. The branches appear too narrow to contain or develop hollows of dimensions suitable/large enough for Black cockatoos to nest within. Although Tuarts are not a preferred foraging source for the Black cockatoo, the tree could be utilised for roosting, however, it is not considered to provide significant habitat for this purpose given the broader representation of suitable habitat within the local area. This does not discount the Carnaby's Cockatoo from being present within the application area, as suitable habitat occurs within the surrounding bushland.

Western ringtail possums are listed as critically endangered under EPBC Act) and BC Act. They are most frequently found in the south-west of Western Australia. The habitat within close proximity of the application area is suitable for Western ringtail possums and there are reliable records of their presence in the local area. Their preferred habitat is near coastal areas of peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*) woodland and peppermint/tuart associations from the Australind/Eaton area to the Waychinicup National Park (DEC, 2012). It is considered that the clearing of a single tree would not result in a significant impact to suitable habitat for the Western ringtail possum, or impact on the conservation status of this species. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (b).

According to available databases, a total of six threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area; *Hakea oligoneura*, *Hibbertia spicata* subsp. *leptotheca*, *Lasiopetalum membranaceum*, *Pimelea calcicola*, *Sphaerolobium calcicola* and *Stylidium maritimum*. All of these threatened species have different soil and habitat requirements than those which are present within the application area. The application area is a relatively flat, inter-dune area, while the abovementioned species have all been recorded on ridges, or the base of ridges associated with limestone or wetland areas. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (c).

According to available databases, there are no State listed TEC's within the application area, with the nearest being the 'Stromatolite like freshwater microbialite community of coastal brackish lakes' located approximately 3 kilometres east of the application area. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (d).

The proposed clearing area is small and occurs alongside an existing road. The application area is in degraded condition and the single tree under application is not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation within an extensively cleared area. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (e).

The application area is not associated with a wetland or watercourse, with the nearest wetland (a multiple-use sumpland) being located 150 metres south west of the application area. The nearest waterway, the Harvey River is 7.5 kilometres to the north-east. The proposed clearing will not impact on either of these and is not likely to be at variance with principle (f).

The area to be cleared is in an area which is described as having a >70% of the map having a high to extreme risk of soil degradation by flooding or water erosion. Wind erosion is also considered to have >70% of the map unit being a high to extreme hazard. The clearing of a single tree will not result in appreciable land degradation and is not likely to be at variance with Principle (g).

The application site is on the boundary of the Yalgorup National Park conservation area and within a proposed extension of the National Park. The tree proposed to be removed is situated in an already impacted area and its removal is considered unlikely to impact on the conservation values of the National Park. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (h).

As addressed under principle (f), there are no waterbodies, wetlands or waterways within 100 metres of the application area, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (i).

The application area is situated in an area which has a <3% of moderate to very high chance of waterlogging and a <3% of the map area having a moderate to high chance of flooding. The proposed clearing of a single tree will not exacerbate the potential for waterlogging or flooding and is not likely to be at variance with Principle (j)

The proposed clearing has the potential to introduce weed species into the surrounding vegetation, potentially degrading better quality habitat for flora and fauna species of conservation significance. Weed and dieback management measures have been included in the Permit conditions, which should mitigate this potential impact.

4. Planning instruments and other relevant matters

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

The Native Title rights for the area are registered to the Gnaala Karla Booja People, represented by the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 27 June 2019 with a 14 day submission period. One submission was received, citing concerns in relation to the potential habitat values of the tree for Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) and threatened species of Black cockatoo, namely the Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*). The submission also cited concerns in relation to the clearing of the tree as it potentially constitutes part of the Commonwealth listed 'Tuart woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain' TEC. These matters have been addressed in the assessment against the relevant clearing principles.

5. References

- 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 (2007) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed Aug. 2019.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2018) Vegetation Statistics swan Coastal Plain 2018 Report -DWER
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2017). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary industry and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/>. Accessed Aug. 2019.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2019) Western Australian Organisms List (WAOL). Available from: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/bam/western-australian-organism-list-waol>. Accessed Aug. 2019.
- Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 Statewide Vegetation Statistics (formerly the CAR Reserve Analysis) – Full Report. Current as of December 2017 (based on most recent date of input datasets). Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis Section. Geographic Information Services and Corporate Records Branch. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. February 2018.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (accessed Aug. 2019)

GIS databases

- Flora & fauna
- Geoscience
- Base layers
- ESA & TEC
- Reserves
- Title and Heritage