

Our ref: EEL12022.010

Date: 20 January 2020

Department of Water and Environment Regulation
Locked Bag 33 Cloisters Square
PERTH WA 6850

Dear Sir / Madam,

Clearing permit application: Dalyellup Beach Estate

Please find attached a purpose permit clearing application to clear up to 0.15 hectares (ha) of native vegetation.

Background

The Dalyellup Beach Estate is located approximately 6 kilometres (km) south of Bunbury in the Shire of Capel (Figure A).

Requirement for clearing permit

The native vegetation that may be cleared is situated within the western portion of a future stage of the Dalyellup Beach Estate (Figures A and B). A soil investigation consisting of the excavation of 24 sample pits and access tracks, if required, is proposed to be implemented (Figure C). Existing cleared areas will be utilised for the sample pits and tracks, where possible. The potential impact to native vegetation is anticipated to be minimal.

A Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions 2019; Appendix B) was undertaken to determine suitable sample pit and access track locations to minimise the potential impacts to flora, vegetation and fauna from the implementation of the works.

Supporting the above purpose permit clearing application, the following figures and documents have been provided:

- Figures A to C
- Appendix A: Application for a clearing permit (purpose permit)
- Appendix B: Vegetation and Fauna Assessment, Greenpatch Dalyellup (Ecosystem Solutions 2019)
- Appendix C: Certificate of Title
- Appendix D: Landholder consent
- IBSA data pack.

Landholder context

The Department of Communities have been consulted regarding the proposed clearing of native vegetation within their landholding (Appendix C), which has resulted in the Satterley Property Group obtaining landholder consent to clear native vegetation (Appendix D).

Proposed clearing area

Figure C shows the spatial extent of the 0.15 ha of native vegetation (i.e. sample pits and access tracks) that may be cleared. As previously noted, existing cleared areas will be utilised for the sample pits and tracks, where possible. The potential impact to native vegetation is anticipated to be minimal. A summary of the purpose permit clearing application is provided below in Table 1.

Table 1: Clearing proposal summary

Location	Portions of Lot 9105, Minninup Road
Clearing area	0.15 ha
Timing	The clearing will occur in the 2020 calendar year.
Clearing method	The native vegetation will be cleared mechanically, if required.
Purpose of clearing	To facilitate the digging of sample/ trial pits for soil investigation
Vegetation proposed to be cleared	Up to 0.15 ha of revegetation area (if required)

Vegetation and flora

The 0.15 ha potential clearing area is in a currently vacant, revegetation area. The key findings of the Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions 2019) (Appendix B), for flora and vegetation are summarised as follows:

- The survey area is a currently vacant, revegetation area with mostly less than 10% vegetation cover.
- No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) were recorded. No Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) listed Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) were recorded.
- No Threatened species listed under the BC Act or any species protected under the EPBC Act were recorded. No DBCA-listed Priority flora species were recorded.

The trial pits have been located within cleared land to avoid the removal native vegetation, wherever possible. Given the implementation the minor extent of clearing (i.e. up to 0.15 ha), it is considered that that the general risk to the biological diversity and ecological of flora and vegetation values is extremely low.

Fauna

The desktop fauna assessment undertaken as part of the Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions, 2019) identified that the Threatened species likely to be within or utilise the site include *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (western ringtail possum; WRP) and *Setonix brachyurus* (quokka). The *Isoodon fusciventer* (quenda), *Notamocropus irma* (western brush wallaby), *Idiosoma sigillatum* (Swan Coastal Plain - shielded-back trapdoor spider) Priority species and the *Phascogale tapoatafa subsp. wambenger* (south-western brush-tailed phascogale), specially protected species, have also been identified as potentially being within a 5 km radius of the survey area. The three black cockatoo species, *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) species or species habitat may occur within the survey area.

The field survey undertaken as part of the Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions, 2019) identified that:

- No trees within the survey area with a diameter at breast height (DBH) over 500 mm that can support nesting of any black cockatoo species

- No black cockatoo species observed during the survey
- No populations of WRP or any other fauna of significance was observed within the survey area.

The trial pits have been located within cleared land to avoid the removal or fragmentation of fauna habitat, where possible. Given the implementation the minor extent of clearing (i.e. up to 0.15 ha), it is considered that the general risk to the conservation significant and common fauna species is extremely low.

Assessment against the 10 Clearing Principles

Table 2 below provides an assessment of the proposed clearing activities against the “10 Clearing Principles” as outlined in Schedule 5 of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 to determine whether the proposed clearing is at variance to the Principles.

Table 2: Assessment of the clearing area against the 10 Clearing Principles

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity	Up to 0.15 ha of native vegetation may require clearing to facilitate a soil investigation consisting of the excavation of 24 sample pits, and access tracks. Existing cleared areas will be utilised for the sample pits and tracks where possible, and impact to vegetation will be minimal. The survey area is a currently vacant, revegetation area with mostly less than 10% vegetation cover No TECs listed under the BC Act or the EPBC Act were recorded within the clearing area. No DBCA listed PECs were recorded. No Threatened species listed under the BC Act or any species protected under the EPBC Act were recorded. No DBCA-listed Priority flora species were recorded.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous Western Australia	The Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions 2019) found no evidence of Black Cockatoos utilising the survey area, and no trees with a DBH over 500mm were observed. The survey did not identify a population of WRP or any other fauna of significance. The potential clearing will not significantly impact on any indigenous fauna populations.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	The survey area is a currently vacant, revegetation area with mostly less than 10% vegetation cover. No Threatened species listed under the BC Act or any species protected under the EPBC Act were recorded. No DBCA-listed Priority flora species were recorded.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community	No TECs listed under the BC Act or the EPBC Act, and no DBCA-listed PECs were recorded within the survey area.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared	The survey area is a currently vacant, revegetation area with mostly less than 10% vegetation cover. To minimise the requirement of clearing native vegetation, the proposed sample pits, and access tracks have been positioned in locations without vegetation, where possible. Consequently, only minor clearing (up to 0.15 ha) of native vegetation may be required. Given the small amount of clearing, the impact is considered to be insignificant.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle
Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland.	The proposed clearing is not growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Land degradation can be caused or exacerbated by uncontrolled run-off and wind or water erosion. Clearing associated with the proposal has been minimised to reduce potential impacts on land values. The proposed sample pits, and access tracks have been positioned in locations without vegetation, where possible, and the sample pits will be refilled directly after the sampling has been completed. The proposed clearing will not cause appreciable land degradation.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.
Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	To minimise the requirement of clearing native vegetation, the proposed sample pits, and access tracks have been positioned in locations without vegetation, where possible. Consequently, only minor clearing of native vegetation (up to 0.15 ha) may be required. Given the small amount of clearing, the impact is considered to be insignificant. The potential clearing of vegetation will not have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle.
Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water	The small amount vegetation (up to 0.15 ha) proposed for clearing will not cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	The proposal is not at variance with the principle
Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding.	The small amount vegetation (up to 0.15 ha) proposed for clearing will not cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding	The proposal is not at variance with the principle

The proposed soil investigation sample pit and access track locations have been guided by the findings Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions 2019, Appendix B). This has resulted in the sample pits and access track being located within bare areas (e.g. existing access tracks and degraded areas) to avoid any environmental values, where possible.

The proposed soil investigation has been designed to minimise potential impacts on native vegetation, although some minor impact may occur (up to 0.15 ha).

We trust this information is sufficient for your purposes, however should you require further details or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the writer by telephone.

Yours sincerely,
for RPS Australia West Pty Ltd



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Figures

Appendix A: Application for a clearing permit (purpose permit)

Appendix B: Vegetation and Fauna Assessment (Ecosystem Solutions 2019)

Appendix C: Certificate of Title

Appendix D: Landowner consent

IBSA data pack (attached to email accompanying this letter)

FIGURES



Figure A

Site location

Doc Number: 001
Date: 06.11.19
Scale: 1:8,000 @ A3
Created by: MA
Source: Cadastre & Landgate
Orthophoto: 2019

GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
0 75 150 300 m



Figure B

Topography and geology

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GDA 1984 MGA Zone 50





Figure C

Proposed sampling locations

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Job Number: 120221-011
Doc Number: 003
Date: 06.11.19
Scale: 1:2,500 @ A3
Created by: MA
Source: Cadastre - Landgate
Orthophoto - Landgate, 2019

