



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8648/1
File Number: DWERVT3335
Duration of Permit: 30 November 2019 to 30 November 2021

PERMIT HOLDER

City of Armadale

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 8 on Diagram 64051, Forrestdale
Lot 421 on Plan 211292, Forrestdale
Commercial Road road reserves (PIN 11416975 and 11417489)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.36 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 8648/1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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 the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2 of this Permit;

4. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 3 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*

31 October 2019

Plan 8648/1



Legend

-  Area approved to clear
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
-  Image



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: CPS 8648/1
Permit type: Area

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Armadale
Application received date: 19 August 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 8 on Diagram 64051, Lot 421 on Plan 211292, Forrestdale and Commercial Road road reserves (PIN 11416975 and 11417489)
Local Government Authority: City of Armadale
Localities: Forrestdale

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 31 October 2019

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 19 August 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 with any of the clearing principles.

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 0.36 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 8 on Diagram 64051, Lot 421 on Plan 211292, Forrestdale and Commercial Road road reserves (PIN 11416975 and 11417489), for the purpose of road construction and upgrades.

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Swan Coastal Plain – Southern River complex, described as (Hedde et al., 1980):
Open woodland of *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - Banksia species with fringing woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* (Flooded Gum) - *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark) along creek beds.

A reconnaissance flora survey of the application area was conducted by Natural Area Consulting Management Services (Natural Area) on 2 July 2019. The survey identified that the application area comprised a high level of invasive weeds dominating the understory and mature, non-native trees throughout the area. The vegetation type was determined to be a mixed woodland of non-native *Eucalyptus* spp. over *Kunzea glabrescens* and *Jacksonia furcellata*, with an understory of non-native Perennial Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*) and Pigface (*Carpobrotus edulis*). Scattered native understory species included *Corynotheca micrantha*, *Burchardia bairdiae*, and *Dianella revoluta*, which were predominantly located in the degraded area of bushland (Natural Area, 2019).

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).

To Completely degraded – the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil Type	The soil type within the application area is mapped as Bassendean B2 Phase : Flat to very gently undulating sandplain with well to moderately well-drained deep bleached grey sands with a pale yellow B horizon or a weak iron-organic hardpan 1-2 m.
Comments	The local area is defined as a 10 kilometre radius from the boundary of the application area. A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 24.49 percent of its pre-European clearing extent. The vegetation condition was determined from a reconnaissance flora survey of the application area conducted by Natural Area Consulting Management Services (Natural Area, 2019).

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

The reconnaissance flora survey identified the application area as a degraded to completely degraded mixed woodland with a missed understorey of both native and non-native species (Natural Area, 2019).

Based on available datasets, a total of 26 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area. The site conditions within the application area were assessed as being suitable for 14 of these species, however, no flora species of conservation significance were recorded during the flora survey, with the survey area being considered too degraded to support conservation significant annual species (Natural Area, 2019). While the timing of the survey was not optimal for identification of all flora species, the application area was assessed as comprising a low native species diversity with a low likelihood of occurrence of conservation significant flora given the evidence of historical clearing which has resulted in a high degree of site modification.

The Commonwealth listed 'Banksia Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain' Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) has been mapped on the south side of Commercial Road, approximately 20 metres from the southern boundary of the application area. The flora survey identified that based on the remnant native vegetation, it is likely that the survey area was previously Banksia Woodland in the north and *Eucalyptus rudis* and *Melaleuca preissiana* woodland in the south, however, a series of historic clearing events and non-native plantings have altered this community to its current state. It was determined that the survey site did not have a vegetation community consistent with the listing information for Banksia Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain, nor does it satisfy the vegetation condition or size to trigger the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The application area was assessed as not resembling vegetation which would represent a Priority Ecological Community (PEC) or TEC (Natural Area, 2019).

The application area was also inspected by Natural Area for conservation significant fauna habitat. Although mature *Eucalyptus* spp. were present, they were non-native species with small fruits, and represent poor quality foraging habitat for Black cockatoos. No evidence of feeding, roosting or nesting by Black cockatoos was noted within the application area. There was no evidence of quenda diggings or suitable nesting habitat. The Swan Coastal Plain shield-backed trapdoor spider (*Idiosoma sigillatum*) predominantly use Sheoak (*Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina*) needles to form a burrow, however, as these plant species were not found on site it can be concluded that the habitat is not suitable for this species. The conservation significant short tongue bees (*Neopasiphae simplicior*, *Leioproctus douglasiellus* and *L. contrarius*) have been noted on perennial (*Goodenia filiformis*) and annual (*Lobelia tenuior*, *Velleia* sp., *Anthotium junciforme*) herbs. *Goodenia filiformis* was not noted on site, and the area is likely too degraded to support these annual herbs, hence, this area of remnant vegetation is likely unsuitable habitat for these conservation significant invertebrate species. Of the conservation significant reptiles outlined in the database searches, the Perth Slider (*Lerista lineata*) prefers patchy, well developed litter and is typically found in more coastal heath and shrublands, although it has been recorded in Forrestdale Lake previously. The Black-striped Snake (*Neelaps calonotos*) has been recorded in *Melaleuca* wetlands and Banksia Woodlands previously. Based on the understorey species composition and vegetation condition it is likely this site is not suitable habitat for these species (Natural Area, 2019).

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). As the application area is located within a local area with approximately 24.49 per cent vegetation representation retained, this proposal is considered to be in an extensively cleared landscape.

In the Perth Metropolitan and Bunbury regions, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has a modified objective to retain at least 10 per cent of the pre-clearing extent of vegetation complexes for defined constrained areas (intensely developed) (EPA, 2015; EPA, 2003). Given that the vegetation representations are above this modified objective, and that clearing will not reduce vegetation representation below this threshold, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will have a significant residual impact. Furthermore, given the degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the small size of the application area and the lack of significant habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna species, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

The RAMSAR listed Forrestdale Lake is located approximately 20 metres south of the application area. The soil type and flora species composition within the application area is significantly different from the adjacent wetland (Natural Area, 2019) and the proposed clearing is considered not likely to impact the conservation values of the wetland. The implementation of hygiene management practices will limit the risk of weeds or dieback spreading within nearby conservation areas.

Given the degraded to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, dominance of weeds and the small size of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to, or cause appreciable land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the clearing principles.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 7 October 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Two Aboriginal Sites of Significance are present within close proximity of the application area; Forrestdale Lake and a Mythological camp and hunting site. 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.

EPA (2003) Greater Bunbury Region Scheme. Bulletin 1108. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.

EPA (2015) Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million Environmental impacts, risks and remedies, Interim strategic advice of the Environmental Protection Authority to the Minister for Environment under section 16(e) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia July 2015.

Government of Western Australia (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth.

Hedde, E.M., Loneragan, O.W., and Havel, J.J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Natural Area (2019) City of Armadale - William and Alfred Skeet Oval Reconnaissance Flora Survey, July 2019, Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd.

GIS Databases:

- Base layers
- ESA and TEC's
- Fauna
- Flora
- Geoscience
- Reserves
- Title and Heritage
- Vegetation Complexes