

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

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19 08 2019

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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Dear Sir/Madam

CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION – ARMADALE AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTRE

The City of Armadale (the City) is proposing to undertake vegetation clearing within the road reserve and 64 Champion Drive, Seville Grove. A total of nine semi-mature Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) trees are proposed to be cleared to facilitate visual clearance of the Aquatic Centre's sign (Plate 1; Attachment 1). The aquatic centre has recently been upgraded and the sign is obstructed by the tree's trunks therefore, pruning of the trees would not provide visual clearance.

The proposed clearing is not considered likely to have a significant impact on environmental values.

Environmental Values

Flora and Vegetation

The proposed clearing area has been modified, with little to no native understory remaining. The remaining vegetation comprises Jarrah and Banksia, considered to be in Degraded condition, based on the Keighery (1994) Vegetation Condition Scale.

There are no Commonwealth or State Listed Threatened or Priority flora known to occur within the proposed clearing area.

There are no Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities known to occur within the proposed clearing area. However, the proposed clearing area is within the buffer of a Threatened Ecological Community (Plate 2). The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the adjacent Threatened Ecological Community.





Plate 1: The proposed clearing area, facing east along Champion Drive, Seville Grove

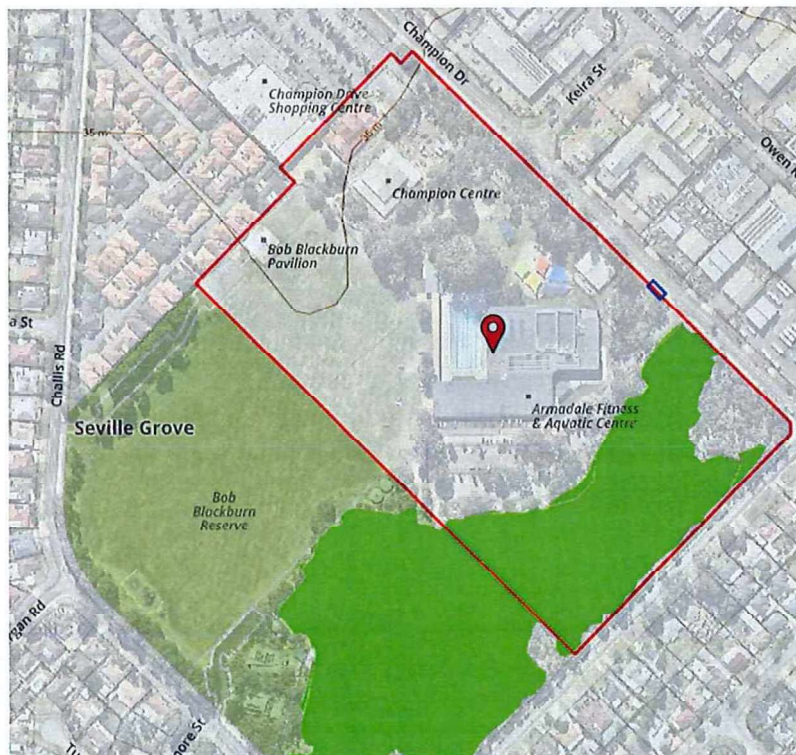


Plate 2: The proposed clearing area in relation to the nearest Threatened Ecological Community (Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain) – Bush Forever Site No. 62

Fauna

Potential Black Cockatoo breeding trees are those that have a suitable nest hollow, or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. Suitable DBH is >500 mm for most Eucalypts, >300 mm for salmon gum and wandoo. The semi-mature Jarrah trees within the proposed clearing area do not meet the criteria for potential breeding trees. Furthermore, the trees are not considered mature enough or tall enough to be considered suitable for roosting.

The Jarrah trees in the proposed clearing area are suitable for Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. The proposed clearing of nine Jarrah trees is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on any Black Cockatoo populations, particularly given the availability of better quality habitat nearby within Bush Forever Site 62 (Plate 2).

The site may provide habitat to local fauna such as Quenda and reptiles, however the proposed clearing area is adjacent to Bush Forever Site 62, which contains better quality fauna habitat. Therefore it is highly unlikely that the minimal clearing proposed to be undertaken will significantly impact local fauna populations.

Wetlands and Watercourses

There are no Commonwealth or State listed wetlands of conservation value within the proposed clearing area, and no watercourses traverse the proposed clearing area.

The proposed clearing is minimal, and no wetlands or watercourses will be directly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Conservation Reserves

64 Champion Drive, Seville Grove contains part of the Bush Forever Site No. 62 conservation estate. The proposed clearing will take place outside of the conservation estate within the road reserve and 64 Champion Drive (see Plate 2). The conservation reserve will not be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) layer indicated that the proposed clearing area is within an ESA, however this is because the area is within the Threatened Ecological Community buffer area. The nearest ESA is a the *Banksia Woodland of the Swan Coastal Plain Threatened Ecological Community* located within Bush Forever Site No. 62, which is adjacent to proposed clearing area (see Plate2) and will not be impacted by clearing.

Conclusion

The City is of the view that the proposed clearing will not result in any significant impacts to the environment. Given the above, the City is of the view that the proposed clearing will not be at variance to any of the ten clearing principles, as summarised in Attachment 2. The City proposes a 10:1 planting response with local native seedlings, within the Armadale Fitness and Aquatic Centre grounds.

Please find the Clearing Permit Application Form enclosed (Attachment 3). If you have any further queries in regard to the above, please contact the City's Environment Officer on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

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Environmental Officer

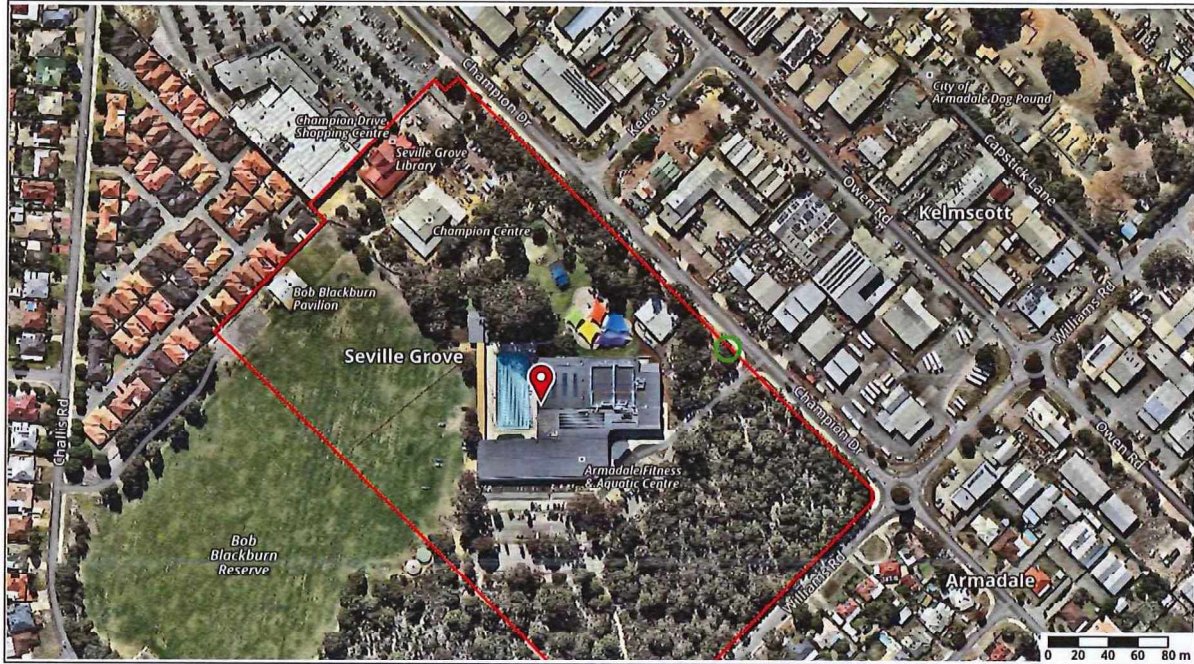
Enclosures:

Attachment 1: Proposed clearing area

Attachment 2: Assessment against the Ten Clearing Principles

Attachment 3: Clearing Permit Application Form

Attachment 1: Proposed clearing area



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Attachment 2: Assessment against the Ten Clearing Principles

Principle Number	Principle Description	Assessment	Outcome
(a)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	<p>The proposed clearing area comprises road reserve and the edge of a small degraded patch of bush. As a result there is limited biodiversity within the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>All individuals proposed to be removed are of species that are well represented within the remainder of the small patch of bush, and the adjacent Bush Forever site.</p>	The proposal is not at variance with Principle A.
(b)	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 to Western Australia.	There is no Black Cockatoo potential breeding or roosting habitat within the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing area contains 9 semi-mature Jarrah trees considered potential Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. The proposed clearing at the site is minimal, and the site is adjacent to better quality vegetation and refuge within Bush Forever Site 62, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on fauna.	The proposal is unlikely to be at variance with Principle B.
(c)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.	There are no known Threatened or Priority flora within the proposed clearing area.	The proposal is not at variance with Principle C.
(d)	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.	<p>There are no known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing area is within the buffer of a TEC and adjacent to the TEC, however the minimal amount of clearing required will not significantly impact any TEC.</p>	The proposal is not at variance with Principle D.
(e)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	<p>The vegetation within the proposed clearing area is degraded, and comprises low diversity.</p> <p>Given the small amount of clearing proposed it is highly unlikely to have a significant negative impact.</p>	The proposal is not at variance with Principle E.
(f)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in	There are no wetlands or watercourses within or adjacent to the	The proposal is unlikely to be

Principle Number	Principle Description	Assessment	Outcome
	association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	proposed clearing area.	variance with Principle F.
(g)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	A total of 9 semi-mature Jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>) trees are proposed to be cleared. Therefore, the land proposed to be cleared is minimal, and already considered to be degraded.	The proposal is not at variance with Principle G.
(h)	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.	The proposed clearing area is adjacent to Bush Forever Site 62. Clearing is minimal and will consider the nearby conservation reserve to ensure that impacts are contained within the proposed clearing area.	The proposal is not at variance with Principle H.
(i)	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.	There are no wetlands or natural watercourses within the proposed clearing area.	The proposal is not at variance with Principle I.
(j)	Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Given the minimal proposed clearing area, clearing is not considered likely to cause, or exacerbate the intensity of flooding.	The proposal is not at variance with Principle J.