



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8684/1
File Number: DWERV3504
Duration of Permit: From 13 March 2020 to 13 March 2022

PERMIT HOLDER

City of Kalamunda

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 44636, Forrestfield

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 6 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8684/1.

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 known *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 extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* 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) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.



Samara Rogers
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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


19 February 2020

Plan 8684/1





Legend

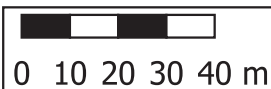
CPS layers

 CPS areas approved to clear

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 Road Centrelines

 Cadastre - LGATE 218



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.: 8684/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Kalamunda
Application received date: 25 September 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 44636 (Crown Reserve 17098), Forrestfield
Local Government Authority: Kalamunda, City of
Localities: Forrestfield

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
	6	Mechanical Removal	Building or structure

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 19 February 2020

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 may be at variance with Principle (e) and (h) and is not likely to be at variance with any of the other clearing principles.

The application area is located within Bush Forever site 320 and the proposed clearing may indirectly impact this conservation area through the loss of vegetation and the potential spread of weed and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in managing potential impacts to adjacent vegetation and the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact this Bush Forever site.

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 six native trees within Lot 3000 on Deposited Plan 44636 (Crown Reserve 17098), located in Hartfield Park, Forrestfield, for the purpose of upgrading the Kalamunda Rugby Union Club facilities.

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

A tree assessment report provided by the applicant (City of Kalamunda, 2019) indicates that the vegetation within the application area is composed of six native trees, including *Banksia menziesii*, *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and *Xylomelum occidentale*, over maintained lawn within a parkland and does not resemble the mapped vegetation type (Figure 1).

Vegetation Condition The vegetation within the application area is considered to be in a completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition described as; 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 Pinjarra, Phase Gf7 subsystem which is described as minor rises with deep rapidly drained brownish, siliceous or bleached sands underlain by mottled yellow clay. Low woodland of *B. prionotes* and some tall *E. calophylla* with *E. rudis* along streamlines (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments

Local Area referred to in the assessment of this application defined as a 10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 27 per cent of its native vegetation cover



Figure 1: Application area

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available datasets, 21 Threatened flora species, 11 Priority 1, nine Priority 2, 35 Priority 3 and 20 Priority 4 flora species have been recorded within the local area (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The targeted flora survey (City of Kalamunda, 2019) did not record any conservation significant flora within the application area. Although some species in the local area have been recorded on similar mapped soil types to the application area, they are unlikely to occur within the application area. Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area, and the photographic evidence provided by the applicant, (City of Kalamunda 2019), showing the complete absence of native understory species, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on habitat for threatened or priority flora.

The vegetation within the application area is composed of native trees: *Banksia menziesii*, *Allocasuarina fraseriana* and *Xylomelum occidentale* over parkland of maintained lawn and is not representative of the above mapped vegetation complex. Photographic evidence provided by the applicant (City of Kalamunda 2019) also indicates that this vegetation is not representative of any priority ecological community or threatened ecological community (PEC/TEC) mapped in the local area, as the understory is absent and the ground layer is dominated by introduced grasses.

Three threatened black cockatoo species have been recorded within the local area, including *Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo), *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) and *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo). Confirmed Carnaby's Cockatoo Breeding Areas and roost sites also occur within less than 100 metres of the application area. Suitable breeding habitat for these species includes trees which either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, including tuart and marri trees, a suitable DBH is 500 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). The City of Kalamunda (2019) commissioned an assessment of the remnant trees within the application area, in order to determine if the trees were used as breeding and/or roosting sites. Photographs within the report identified that the trees within the clearing area, are between 3 and 6 meters tall with a DBH of less than 500 millimetres and not of the preferred species to develop suitable hollows, and therefore are not likely to be suitable for breeding and/or roosting sites for black cockatoos.

The vegetation within the application area is not mapped as an ecological linkage and given the minimal extent of the vegetation to be cleared it is not likely to impact on any surrounding vegetation functioning as an unmapped ecological linkage. The vegetation within the application area does not contain any hollows or significant foraging or breeding habitat for other conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

Considering the above, the vegetation within the application area is not likely to comprise of a high level of biodiversity.

According to available databases, no watercourses, wetlands, or conservation areas intersect the application area. The closest wetland is a Dampland (seasonally waterlogged area) located approximately 154 metres from the application area. Topographical mapping does not indicate that the proposed clearing area and the inundation area are connected with the application area.

The application area falls within a Bush Forever site 320, and the proposed clearing may increase the spread of weeds and dieback within the adjacent conservation areas. Noting the minimal extent of proposed clearing, six native trees with no native understory, the clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of the Bush Forever site. Therefore the proposed clearing may be at variance with principle (h). Implementation of weed management and dieback management measures would reduce this risk.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation include a target to prevent the clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-European settlement (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Within constrained areas (areas of urban development in cities and major towns) on the Swan Coastal Plain, the threshold for representation of the pre-clearing extent of a particular native vegetation complex is 10 per cent (EPA, 2008). The application area is classified as a constrained area. The application area falls within the Swan Coastal Plain Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion and is mapped as the Swan Coastal plain (previously Hedde) Southern River Complex, retaining 39 per cent and 18 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extent, respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2018). The local area retains approximately 27 per cent native vegetation remaining. Therefore the application area is within an area that has been extensively cleared. Noting the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation within the application area, minimal extent of clearing proposed and the lack of conservation significant flora and fauna, the proposed clearing may be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape.

Given the completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, minimal extent of clearing proposed, and absence of nearby significant hydrological features, the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, or cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be variance with Principle (e) and 7(h) and is not likely to be at variance with any of the remaining clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The application area is situated within Hartfield park which is mapped as a registered Aboriginal Heritage Site, Welshpool Reserve, Maamba Reserve (Camp). It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

As outlined above, the application area is within Bush Forever site 320. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has previously advised that an offset package should be prepared and approved by DWER, in accordance with WA Environmental Offsets Policy (2011) and guidelines, including guidance from Appendix 4 of SPP 2.8. Under Clause 5.1.2.1 (i) (e) of SPP 2.8, proposals should support a general presumption against the clearing of regionally significant bushland or other degrading activities, except where a proposal or decision is consistent with the overall purpose and intent of the existing Crown reserve or can be reasonably justified with regard to wider environmental, social, economic or recreational needs, and all reasonable alternatives have been considered in order to avoid or minimise any direct loss of regionally significant bushland, and reasonable offset strategies are secured to offset any loss of regionally significant bushland where appropriate and practical (WAPC, 2010). The Delegated Officer has had regard for the extent of the proposed clearing of six native trees and determined that the proposed clearing of 6 native trees, is not likely to have significant residual environmental impacts on Bush Forever site 320, and that an offset is not required in this instance.

The clearing permit application was advertised on DWER's website on 31 October 2019, inviting submissions from the public within a 14 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

4. References

- City of Kalamunda (2019). Internal report supplied by the applicant, DWER reference: A1826596.
- 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, Canberra. .
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2008) Environmental Guidance for Planning and Development Guidance Statement No 33. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of March 2018. 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. (19444494) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Schoknecht, N., Tille, P. and Purdie, B. (2004) Soil-landscape mapping in South-Western Australia – Overview of Methodology and outputs' Resource Management Technical Report No. 280. Department of Agriculture.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 15/01/2020).
- Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) (2010) Planning and Development Act 2005. State Planning Policy 2.8. Bushland Policy for the Perth Metropolitan Region. Government Gazette, WA. 22 June 2010. Available from https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/DepartmentofPlanningLandsHeritage/media/policies/SPP/SPP_2_8_bushland_Policy_Perth_Metro.pdf

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- DAFWA Subsystems
- Groundwater salinity
- Hydrography, linear
- National Trust WA Covenant
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC bio datasets (accessed January 2019)
- Topographic contours
- Wetlands