



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8695/1
Permit Holder:	City of Bunbury
Duration of Permit:	18 March 2020 – 18 March 2025

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of constructing a slip lane from South Western Highway to Halifax Drive.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 250 on Deposited Plan 21798, Davenport

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 7 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8695/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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.

8. Western Ringtail Possum Management

- (a) In relation to the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8695/1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect that area immediately prior to, and for the duration of clearing, for the presence of (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) western ringtail possum(s);
- (b) Clearing must cease in any area where fauna referred to in condition 8(a) above are identified until either:
 - (i) the western ringtail possum(s) individual has been removed by a *fauna specialist*; or
 - (ii) the western ringtail possum(s) individual has moved on from that area to adjoining *suitable habitat*.
- (c) Any western ringtail possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) individuals removed in accordance with condition 8(b)(i) of this Permit must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to *suitable habitat*.
- (d) Where fauna is identified under condition 8(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder must provide the following records to the CEO as soon as practicable:
 - (i) the number of individuals identified;
 - (ii) the date each individual was identified;
 - (iii) the location where each individual was identified 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;
 - (iv) the number of individuals removed and relocated;
 - (v) the date each individual was removed;
 - (vi) the date each individual was relocated;
 - (vii) the location where each individual was relocated to, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
 - (viii) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, an individual.

9. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner from north to south to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records to 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 trees); and
- (d) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

11. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 10 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*;

fauna specialist means a person:

- (a) Who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, has a minimum of two years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed and holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; or
- (b) Who does not have appropriate professional qualifications, but has a minimum of seven years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed and holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.


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;

suitable habitat: means habitat known to support western ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) within the known current distribution of the species. This often includes stands of myrtaceous trees (usually Peppermint Tree (*Agonis flexuosa*)) growing near swamps, watercourses or floodplains, and at topographic low points which provide cooler, often more fertile, conditions.

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.


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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

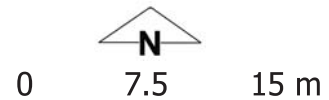
17 February 2020

Plan 8695/1

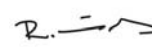


Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads
- Image



MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994


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 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8695/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Bunbury
Application received date: 14 October 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 250 on Plan 21798
Local Government Authority: City of Bunbury
Localities: Davenport

1.4. Application

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

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 17 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 is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance with any other clearing principles.

Through the assessment it was identified that the proposed clearing includes vegetation growing in association with a wetland, however, no significant impacts to the environmental values of the wetland are expected given the minimal extent of clearing required.

The assessment identified that the application area may contain suitable habitat for Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). The Delegated Officer determined that impacts to this species can be adequately minimised and/or avoided by imposing fauna management measures and requiring clearing to be undertaken in a slow, directional manner.

The proposed clearing may impact surrounding native vegetation through the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback. A weed management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise the risk of weeds spreading into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation.

In determining to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to have any unacceptable impacts to the environment.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear seven native trees (six *Agonis Flexuosa* (Peppermint tree) and one *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri)) within Lot 250 on Plan 21798, Davenport (the Application area), for the purpose of constructing a slip lane from South Western Highway to Halifax Drive (Figure 1, and Figure 2a-b).

Vegetation Description The application area occurs within the 'Swan Coastal Plain' Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion, and is mapped as the following Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex (Hedde et al., 1980):

- Southern River Complex which is described as 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.

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded condition, described as structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

The condition of the vegetation was determined based on aerial imagery and supporting information provided by the applicant (City of Bunbury, 2019a).

Soil type

The application area is mapped as the following land system (Schoknecht, 2004):

- Bassendean B2 Phase, which is described as 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 meter.

Comments

The local area is considered a 10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area (excluding ocean and inland water).



Figure 1 Application area cross-hatched blue



Figure 2a



Figure 2b

Figures 2a-b: Representative photos of the vegetation within the Application area (City of Bunbury, 2019a).

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

In relation to whether alternatives have been considered that would avoid or minimise the need for clearing, the City of Bunbury (2019b) has advised: "Clearing extents are the minimum required to construct the slip lane and associated drainage."

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles, planning instruments and other relevant matters

According to the available biological databases, five threatened and 30 priority flora species have been mapped within the local area. Of these, *Pultenaea skinneri* (threatened), *Vericordia attenuata* (threatened), *Caladenia speciose* (Priority 4) and *Lasiopetalum membranaceum* (Priority 4) have been mapped within a similar soil, landform, and vegetation type as that mapped within the application area. The remaining flora have been mapped within a different soil, landform and vegetation type than that mapped within the application area. However, noting the small extent of the proposed clearing, the degraded (Keighery, 1994)

condition of the vegetation in the application area and that the understorey within the application area contains a grassland of weeds, the proposed clearing is not likely impact conservation significant flora species.

According to the available biological databases, the application area is mapped within the State listed priority ecological community (PEC) category 3 'Banksia Dominated Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA Region'. Noting the vegetation typically dominated and co-dominated in this PEC and in the application area, the trees proposed to be cleared are not likely to comprise this PEC.

According to the available biological databases, 34 threatened fauna species have been mapped within the local area. From these, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) (black cockatoos), and western ringtail possum (WRP) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*), may occur within the application area.

The fauna survey (Harewood, 2019) of the application area was undertaken with a focus upon but not limited to WRP and black cockatoo habitat. A single marri tree containing no hollows of any size was identified in the application area. In addition, neither evidence of black cockatoo roosting, nor foraging was observed during the fauna survey, and it was considered unlikely that the marri tree in the Application would ever be used for roosting. With regards to WRP, the application area represents WRP habitat and the results of the fauna survey (Harewood, 2019) indicate it is occasionally utilised by the species (evidence of single unoccupied drey observed). The night time survey did not observe any WRP in, or near the application area, but two brushtail possums (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) were spotted on the marri tree in the Application area. Based on the survey findings, it was concluded that the application area has very low habitat values (Harewood, 2019). Given the vegetation in the application area has potential to be occupied by WRP, the proposed clearing may be at variance with Principle (b). The requirement to undertake clearing in a progressive manner from north to south, and to have a fauna spotter present during clearing will mitigate the likelihood of WRP being injured during the clearing process.

Given that the application area is not likely to contain any threatened or priority flora species, is unlikely to comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of a state listed PEC or the Commonwealth listed threatened ecological community (TEC) and would only be utilised by only a very small range of fauna species given its very low habitat values, the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

No State listed TEC has been mapped in the application area. The closest TEC is 'Herb rich shrublands in clay pans' (Vulnerable) located approximately 360 metres south from the Application area. Noting the dominant species in the TEC and the extent of the proposed clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to be comprise the whole or a part of, of is necessary for the maintenance of a State listed TEC, and therefore, is not likely to be at variance with Principle (d).

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). The Swan Coastal Plain IBRA bioregion retains approximately 38.6 per cent of the pre-European extent, and the mapped Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex Southern River retains approximately 18.4 per cent (approximately 10,832 hectares), of the pre-European extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Based on the photographs provided (City of Bunbury, 2019a), the vegetation within the application area does not resemble the extensively cleared Southern River vegetation complex. The local area retains approximately 23 per cent native vegetation cover. Noting the local area retains less than 30 per cent pre-European vegetation extent, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared landscape. However, given the size of the proposed clearing of vegetation in a degraded condition, that does not contain a high level of biodiversity, has low fauna habitat value and does not comprise conservation significant flora, fauna or ecological communities, the application area is not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape.

According to the available biological databases, the application area has been recorded within an unknown Palusplain (object ID 5201). Given this, the vegetation in the application is growing in an environment associated with a wetland or a watercourse. However, noting the small size of vegetation associated with the wetland, the proposed clearing is not considered significant.

Soils within the application area have been mapped as having a high wind erosion and phosphorus export risk (>70% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk and >70% of map unit has a high to extreme phosphorus export risk) (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), 2020). Given the extent of the proposed clearing, and the presence of native vegetation adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The disturbance caused by the proposed clearing may impact adjacent native vegetation through an increase of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will assist in mitigating this risk.

The closest conservation area is Crown land (PIN 1050354) for the purpose of use and requirements of the Department of Environment and Conservation located approximately 900 metres north from the application area. Considering the extent of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas.

According to the available databases, no watercourse has been mapped within the application area. As mentioned above, the application area is mapped within an unknown Palusplain. Groundwater salinity is mapped as between 500 and 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is considered marginal (Mayer, Ruprech & Bari, 2005) salinity. Due to the relatively small size of the proposed clearing, clearing of the application area is unlikely to increase sedimentation and runoff into the wetland. Therefore, the application area is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface of underground water or cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with Principle (f), may be at variance with Principle (b) and is not likely to be at variance with any other clearing principle.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 23 January 2020 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- City of Bunbury. (2019a). Supporting documents in relation to the clearing permit application CPS 8695/1. DWER Ref: A1831437
- City of Bunbury. (2019b). Application form related to the clearing permit application CPS 8695/1. DWER Ref: A1853472.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2006, Canberra.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2020). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 28 January 2020).
- Government of Western Australia (2018b) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Harewood, G. (2019). *Halifax Drive – Davenport – Turning Lane Project 2019 – CPS 8695/1 – Fauna Survey*. Fauna survey undertaken in relation to the clearing permit application CPS 8695/1. DWER Ref: A1858864.
- 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.
- Mayer, XM, Ruprecht, JK & Bari, MA 2005, *Stream salinity status and trends in south-west Western Australia*, Department of Environment, Salinity and Land Use Impacts Series, Report No. SLUI 38.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) 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.

GIS databases:

NatureMap (conservation significant fauna)
Soils of WA
Beard vegetation associations
Managed Tenure
Environmentally Sensitive Areas
TPFL Data January 2020
WAHerb Data January 2020
Aboriginal Sites Register
IBRA Vegetation WA
WA TECPEC