

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8722/2
Permit type: Area Permit

Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Armadale
Application received date: 5 January 2021

Property details

Property: Dawson Street road reserve (PIN 11857474), Armadale

Eighth Road reserve (PIN 11857491), Armadale Forrest Road reserve (PIN 11880603), Armadale Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11880604), Armadale

Eighth Road reserve (PIN 11857491 and PIN 12127256), Haynes

Forrest Road reserve (PIN 12127234), Haynes

Forrest Road reserve (PIN 11358155), Haynes and Hilbert

Lot 502 on Deposited Plan 416910, Hilbert Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11880604), Hilbert

Local Government Authority:

Localities:

City of Armadale Armadale

Haynes Hilbert

Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of:

1.08 Mechanical Removal Road construction or upgrades

Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 8 April 2021

Reasons for Decision: This clearing permit amendment application was received on 5 January 2021 and

has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments, and other matters in accordance with section 510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the assessment is unchanged since the assessment for Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1, and that the proposed clearing may be at variance to clearing principles (b) and (f), and is not at variance with, or not likely to be at

variance with, the remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer took into consideration that the proposed amendment relates only to amending condition 1(b) of CPS 8722/1 to include one additional tree within the area approved to be cleared. The Delegated Officer noted that the additional tree is within the footprint of the area approved to be cleared and will not result in a

net increase in the total clearing area.

The Delegated Officer considered that the additional tree to be cleared did not contain suitable hollows for use by Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptohynchus banksii naso*), and was unlikely to provide significant habitat for any threatened species. The Delegated Officer determined that, as the proposed amendment to condition 1(b) would result in the clearing of an additional mature tree, an amendment to condition 2(a) was also required to ensure replanting of native trees remained at a rate of one to one for every mature tree cleared. The Permit Holder is required to plant 27 native trees in the adjacent Powell Road reserve to enhance black cockatoo habitat in the local area.

The Delegated Officer considered that the existing conditions to retain habitat trees, replant native trees at a rate of one to one and undertake dieback and weed control are sufficient to limit the impacts of the proposed clearing. The Delegated Officer determined that, given the nature of the proposed amendments and the existing permit conditions, the proposed amendment is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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2. Site Information

Clearing Description

The proposed amendment to Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1 is for the purpose of amending condition 1(b) to include one additional tree within the area approved to be cleared. The Permit Holder has advised that during the initial assessment of CPS 8722/1, the additional tree was identified in fauna survey reports to be outside of the road construction boundary and was committed to be retained (City of Armadale, 2021). During a pre-construction works review, the Permit Holder identified that the geo-location of the tree was incorrect and that this tree occurred within the road construction footprint and was required to be cleared (City of Armadale, 2021).

The additional tree is within the footprint of the area approved to be cleared and will not result in a net increase in the total clearing area, which remains 1.08 hectares of native vegetation to facilitate upgrades to sections of Eighth Road and Forrest Road, Armadale, for a road, cycle and pedestrian path, and a median island. The 1.08 hectares is of Parkland Cleared vegetation, consisting of local native trees, and planted non-native trees, over introduced grasses or garden beds.

Vegetation Description

The vegetation within the application area is mapped as the following: Beard vegetation association (Shepher et al., 2001):

Pinjarra 968.3 Medium woodland; jarrah, marri and wandoo.

Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex (Mattiske et al., 1998):

- North-West (Eighth Road and Forrest Road west) is: Guildford Complex (32): Open Forest to Tall Open Forest and Woodland: A mixture of open forest to tall open forest of Corymbia calophylla (Marri) -Eucalyptus wandoo (Wandoo) - Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo (Wandoo) (with rare occurrences of Eucalyptus lane-poolei (Salmon White Gum). Minor components include Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum) - Melaleuca rhaphiophylla (Swamp Paperbark).
- South-East (Forrest Road east) is:
 Forrestfield Complex (29): Open Forest And Fringing Woodland
 Vegetation ranges from open forest of Corymbia calophylla (Marri) Eucalyptus wandoo (Wandoo) Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) to open
 forest of Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) Corymbia calophylla (Marri) Allocasuarina fraseriana (Sheoak) Banksia species. Fringing woodland of
 Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum) in the gullies that dissect this landform.

Local Description

 Native vegetation within the application area is parkland cleared, and consists of native eucalypt tree species over introduced grassess and garden beds alongside roads. Native tree species present are an admixture of: Corymbia calophylla (Marri), Eucalyptus rudis (Flooded Gum), and Eucalyptus ?wandoo (Wandoo).

Vegetation Condition

Vegetation across the application area is parkland cleared, and therefore Completely Degraded based on the condition scale of Keighery (1994).

Soil and Landform Type:

Three separate soil descriptions have been mapped over the application area (Schoknecht et al., 2004):

- Forrest Road east consists of the EnvGeol Cs Phase:

 Sandy Clay white/grey to brown, fine to coarse-grained, subangular to rounded sand, clay of moderate plasticity gravel and silt layers near scarp.
- Forrest Road west consists of the Pinjarra P3 Phase:
 Flat to very gently undulating plain with deep, imperfect to poorly drained acidic gradational yellow or grey-brown earths, and mottled yellow duplex soils, with loam to clay loam surface horizons.
- Eighth Road consists of 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 ironorganic hardpan one to two metres.

Comments:

The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre (km) radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The application area is located within the Swan Coastal Plain (SWA02) bioregion as described by Thackway and Cresswell (1995), with the Jarrah Forest bioregion

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(JAF01) just 1.5 kilometres to the east. The local area contains approximately 33.6 per cent native vegetation cover.





Figure 1. Photographs of the additional tree to be cleared under CPS 8722/2 (City of Armadale, 2021).

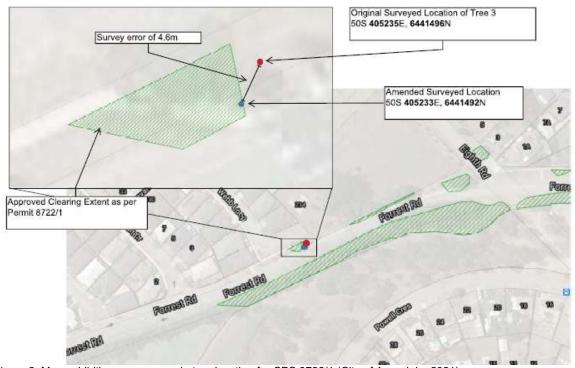


Figure 2. Map exhibiting survey error in tree location for CPS 8722/1 (City of Armadale, 2021).

3. Avoidance and minimisation measures

The Permit Holder advised that the additional tree was located less than 100 metres from the proposed roundabout within Eighth Road and the existing intersection at Nesbit Drive, which did not allow the required space to divert the road around the tree for an adequate tie in while maintaining a clear zone in the roundabout approach (City of Armadale, 2021). Given this, the Permit Holder advised that the road design was unable to be altered to accommodate the retention of this tree, while also maintaining the safety of the proposed roundabout (City of Armadale, 2021).

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The remaining avoidance and minimisation measures implemented by the Permit Holder are unchanged and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1.

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

As identified in the original assessment of Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1, the proposed clearing area includes suitable roosting and foraging habitat, as well as potential breeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*), and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptohynchus banksii naso*). A black cockatoo habitat assessment undertaken by Focused Vision (2020) and Insight Ornithology (2020) identified that the additional tree proposed to be cleared contains one potential hollow, however this is not of suitable size, angle or orientation for use by any of the three black cockatoo species (Focused Vision, 2020). While the additional tree is likely to provide suitable roosting habitat and low to moderate quality foraging habitat for the three black cockatoo species (Focused Vision, 2020), it is noted that 16 habitat trees will be retained along Forrest Road reserve and that native trees comprising suitable habitat for black cockatoo species are conditioned be replanted within the adjacent Powell Road reserve to mitigate impacts to suitable habitat for black cockatoo species. The Delegated Officer considered that, as an additional mature tree would be cleared under the proposed amendment, an amendment to condition 2(a) to increase the number of trees to be replanted to 27 was also required, to ensure replanting of native trees remained at a rate of one to one for every mature tree cleared. Given the above, it is not considered likely that the clearing of one additional tree will significantly impact breeding, roosting or foraging habitat habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo, and forest red-tailed black cockatoo, or significantly alter the previous assessment of Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1.

Noting that the clearing permit amendment application relates only to amending condition 1(b) of CPS 8722/1 to include one additional tree within the area approved to be cleared, and that no changes to the total clearing footprint are proposed, the remaining assessment against the clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is unchanged and can found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1. Noting the above, the Delegated Officer considered that the existing conditions under Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1 are sufficient to limit the impacts of the proposed clearing and that the proposed clearing can be managed to be environmentally acceptable with the existing conditions to retain habitat trees, replant native trees at a rate of one to one, and undertake dieback and weed control.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 26 March 2021, inviting submissions from the public within a 7 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The remaining assessment against planning instruments and other matters is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 8722/1.

4. References

- City of Armadale (2021) Clearing Permit Amendment Application form and supporting documents for CPS 8722/2, received 5 January 2021 (DWER Ref: DWERDT398125).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2017) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Available from: https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/ (accessed February 2021). Government of Western Australia.
- Focused Vision Consulting (Focused Vision) (2020) Memorandum. Black-cockatoo Habitat Tree Survey Results Eighth and Forrest Roads. Unpublished memorandum from Focused Vision Consulting to the City of Armadale. 19 February 2020. (DWER Ref: A1872452).
- Heddle, 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.
- Insight Ornithology (2020) Forrest Road, City of Armadale, Habitat Tree Assessment. February 2020. Report prepared by Insight Ornithology, Parkerville, WA (DWER Ref: A1877595).
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) *Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status*. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.
- Thackway, R and Cresswell, I.D. (eds) (1995) *An interim biogeographical regionalisation of Australia*. Australian Nature Conservation Agency (now Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment), Canberra.

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)

- DBCA Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Statewide Vegetation Statistics
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography Inland Waters Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Land Degradation Risk Mapping
- Local Planning Scheme Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Offsets Register Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping Systems
- Vegetation Complexes Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-046)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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