



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8773/2

File Number: DWERVT5046

Duration of Permit: From 10 April 2020 to 31 December 2022

PERMIT HOLDER

Australian Western Railroad Pty Ltd

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 41203, Kwinana Beach

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.403 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8773/2.

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.



Meenu Vitarana
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

29 April 2020

Plan - 8773/2



Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Roads - State Roads
- Roads - Major Roads
- Roads - Minor Roads
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)

0.0 0.02 0.0 Kilometers



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

Disclaimer: This map is used as a generic static output for reference purposes. Information on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. While the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of this data, the department accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies and persons relying on this data do so at their own risk.

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Locality Map



Government of Western Australia
 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8773/2
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Australian Western Railroad Pty Ltd
Application received date: 19 December 2019

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 41203, Kwinana Beach
Local Government Authority: City of Kwinana
Localities: Kwinana Beach

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.403		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire removal

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 29 April 2020
Reasons for Decision: This is an administrative amendment to extend the duration of the permit from 10 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 and to consider the findings of an additional survey over the application area. It has been concluded that the additional survey findings did not change the initial assessment against the clearing principles found in Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 8773/1.

Given the above, the Delegated Officer decided to grant CPS 8773/2, which expires on 31 December 2022, with no additional fauna management conditions included.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application proposes to clear 0.403 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 511 on Deposited Plan 41203, Kwinana Beach, within an area zoned "Railways". The application area is located between two railway lines, with a yard located immediately south of the application area. The purpose of the clearing is to improve visibility of this yard for safety reasons. The applicant advises that a safety audit was conducted following a yard collision in this area in 2018, which recommended removal of this vegetation.

Vegetation Description The Application area occurs within the "Swan Coastal Plain" Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion, and is mapped as the Swan Coastal Plain vegetation complex: Cottesloe Complex-Central and South, described as "mosaic of woodland of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) and open forest of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Tuart) - *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) - *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri); closed heath on the Limestone outcrops" (Heddl et al 1980).

A reconnaissance flora survey of Lots 511 and 512 Rockingham Road (which includes the application area within Lot 511) was conducted in May 2019 (Strategen 2019a). A further vegetation assessment of the application area was conducted by Strategen in September 2019 (Strategen 2019b). Strategen (2019b) identified three vegetation types within the application area:

- *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* mid woodland over *Acacia rostellifera* tall shrubland over mixed grassland and herbland of weedy species (0.21 hectares);
- *Acacia rostellifera* shrubland over herbland of introduced species (0.04 hectares);
- Areas completely cleared for infrastructure, fire breaks and informal tracks, as well as highly degraded areas devoid of native vegetation or with only occasional native species (0.16 hectares)

Vegetation Condition As indicated by the Strategen (2019b) report provided by the applicant, the condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered as:

- Completely Degraded (0.16 hectares), described as: structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species; to

- Degraded (0.25 hectares), described as: basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance, scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Soil type

The application area is mapped as Quindalup South Qf2 phase: Relict foredunes and gently undulating beach ridge plain with deep uniform calcareous sands (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2019).

Comment

The local area is defined as a ten kilometre radius from the application area.

A review of available databases has determined that the local area retains approximately 30 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent.



Figure 1 – Photograph of north-western portion of the application area



Figure 2 – Photograph of south-western portion of application area



Figure 3 – Vegetation within application area



Figure 4 – Vegetation within application area

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

On 13 March 2020, Clearing Permit CPS 8773/1 was granted to authorise the clearing of 0.403 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of hazard reduction.

No appeals were received against the grant of this permit.

Following the grant of Clearing Permit CPS 8773/1, DWER was made aware of an additional vegetation assessment of the application area by the applicant.

This vegetation assessment identified the presence of eight trees with a diameter of at least 500 mm diameter at breast height (DBH), one of which contained hollows, which were not identified in the flora survey taken into consideration by DWER (Strategen 2019b) as part of the initial assessment. A subsequent targeted Black Cockatoo hollow inspection showed that no trees within the application area were found to have hollows suitable for black cockatoo breeding (GHD, 2020). Noting this, the small size and

degraded nature of this application area, the vegetation is considered unlikely to support a significant habitat for black cockatoos or other native fauna.

Thus, DWER considered that there was no requirement to impose conditions for fauna management for this permit.

Furthermore, the applicant had requested until December 2022 to complete the clearing to integrate works with strategic land use plan for the Kwinana Depot. This was not considered in Clearing Permit CPS 8773/1, which as now been added to the amended permit.

The assessment against the clearing principles outlined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is unchanged and can be found in the Decision Report prepared for Clearing Permit CPS 8773/1.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

The assessment against planning instruments and other matters has not changed and can be found in clearing permit decision report CPS 8773/1.

4. References

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> (accessed 31 January 2020).
- GHD (2020) Targeted Black Cockatoo hollow inspection, April 2020.
- 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.
- Strategen (2019a). Lots 511 and 512 Rockingham Road, Kwinana Beach - Reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey and black cockatoo habitat assessment, August 2019.
- Straegen (2019b) Kwinana Island vegetation assessment, September 2019.
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee (TSSC) (2019). Approved Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community, [Online], Australian Government, Available from: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/131-conservationadvice.pdf>.