



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8873/1
Permit Holder:	East Rockingham RRF Project Company
Duration of Permit:	30 September 2020 – 30 September 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 installing a transmission line.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 110 on Deposited Plan 400167, Kwinana Beach.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.33 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8873/1.

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.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. 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.

6. Dieback and weed control

When undertaking any clearing 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*:

- clean machines and other vehicles of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared
- ensure that no known *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared
- restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. 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 hectares);
- (d) the date clearing activities ceased;
- (e) the date that the installation of the transmission line began;
- (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5 of this Permit; and
- (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit.

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 7 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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

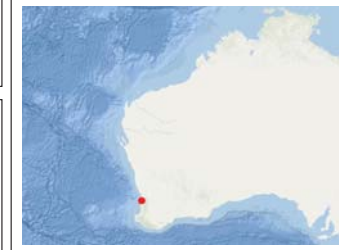


Meenu Vitarana
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

4 September 2020

Plan 8873/1



Legend

- CPS areas approved to clear
- Roads - State Roads
- Roads - Major Roads
- Roads - Minor Roads
- Cadastre


Meenu Vitarana
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 the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8873/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: East Rockingham RRF Project Company
Application received date: 16 April 2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 110 on Deposited Plan 400167
Local Government Authority: City of Kwinana
Localities: Kwinana Beach

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.33		Mechanical Removal	Water/gas/cable/pipeline/power installation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted
Decision Date: 4 September 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 not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

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 0.33 hectares of native vegetation within a footprint of 1.114 hectares within Lot 110 on Deposited Plan 400167, Kwinana Beach (the Application area), for the purpose of the installation of a 132 kV transmission line on Patterson Road to the approved East Rockingham Waste to Energy facility (refer to Figure 1).

Vegetation Description The vegetation within the application area is mapped within the Quindalup Coastal Dune Complex, described as; a coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances – the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance. Local variations include the low closed forest of *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Rottnest Teatree) - *Callitris preissii* (Rottnest Island Pine), the closed scrub of *Acacia rostellifera* (Summer-scented Wattle) and the low closed *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint) forest of Geographe Bay (Heddlé et al., 1980).

A site inspection completed by Aurora Environmental identified the following species of flora within the application area (where *indicates exotic species): *Acacia saligna*, *Nicotiana glauca**, *Acacia cyclops*, *Acacia rostellifera*, *Spyridium globulosum* (refer to Figure 2).

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the application area was determined from the information provided by the applicant (Aurora Environmental, 2020) to be Completely Degraded, described as; structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Soil type The application area has been mapped by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPRID) as the EnvGeol S13 Phase subsystem which is described as calcareous sand- white, medium-grained, rounded quartz and shell debris, well sorted, of eolian origin (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments The local area referred to in the assessment of this application is defined as a 10 kilometre radius measured from the perimeter of the application area. The local area retains approximately 31 per cent native vegetation cover.



Figure 1. Map of the application area. The areas cross-hatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

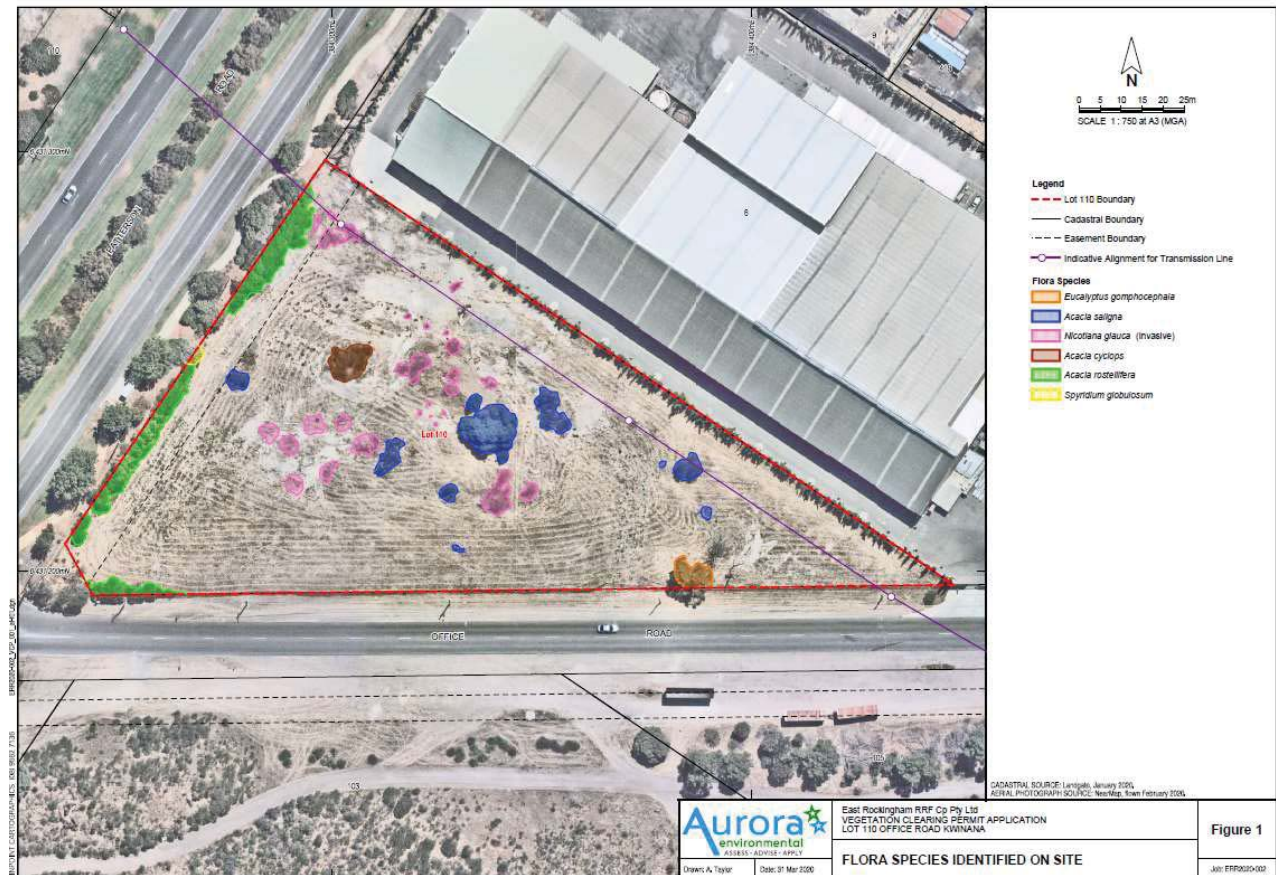


Figure 2 – Flora species identified within application area (Aurora Environmental, 2020)

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that clearing of vegetation within 10 metres each side of the transmission line is required, however the exact footprint of the transmission line has not yet been finalised. As such, the applicant has advised that some of the vegetation within the application area is able to be retained, but how much is able to be retained is not currently determined.

The desktop assessment identified that a *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart) tree was present along the southern boundary of Lot 110 within the original clearing area proposed by the applicant (refer to Figure 2). Photographs of the tuart tree provided by the applicant indicated that although no hollows suitable for black cockatoo habitat currently appeared to be present, the tree was of a size that it may provide breeding habitat for black cockatoos in the future. The applicant subsequently agreed to avoid this tree, and the application area was amended to reflect this.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Given the species identified within the application area, Completely Degraded condition, and its small size, 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 priority ecological community or threatened ecological community and is not considered to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

Given vegetation within the site is Completely Degraded and almost completely cleared and the species identified within the application area, the application area is not considered to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

As the application area retains more than 30 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019), the relatively small size of the application area and the lack of conservation significant flora and fauna, the proposed clearing is not likely to be considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

The closest wetland is a 'Resource Enhancement' wetland located around 1300 meters from the application area. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on this wetland or any other wetlands or waterways.

The proposed clearing is located within an industrial area with recordings of suspected or known contamination as reported under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, some of which have previously deteriorated groundwater quality. It is unlikely that the proposed removal of 0.33 hectares of native vegetation in a Completely Degraded condition would contribute to surface or groundwater deterioration.

Noting the moderate rainfall experienced by the region (800 millimetres per annum), the size of the proposed clearing and the well-drained sandy soils of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to exacerbate or contribute to further land degradation, deteriorate the quality of surface or underground water, cause or exacerbate flooding than that which is currently present.

The closest conservation area is Bush Forever Site 349 located approximately 1300 east of the application area. Given this and the extent of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with the clearing principles.

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

In relation to the proposed clearing, the City of Kwinana (2020) advised that development approval is not required under the Metropolitan Regional Scheme (City of Kwinana, 2020). The City also advised that it does not object to the clearing of the *Acacia saligna*, *Nicotiana glauca*, *Acacia cyclops* or *Spyridium globulosom*, however that the *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Acacia rostellifera* are ecologically significant and should be retained as both of these species are near the lot boundary and predominantly clear from the proposed transmission line. Otherwise, the City did not have any objections to the proposed clearing.

An application was submitted to Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for an MRS development approval for the works on 23 June 2020. Development approval was issued by WAPC on 14 August 2020.

The application area is classified on the Contaminated Sites database as "Report not substantiated", indicating that in accordance with a report submitted under section 11 or 12 of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*, it was determined that there is no ground to indicate possible contamination of the site.

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

The application area is within the Cockburn Groundwater Area.

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 06 May 2020 with a 14 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

5. References

- City of Kwinana (2020). Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8873/1. DWER reference: A1898816
- East Rockingham RRF Project Company (2020). Application for a Clearing Permit CPS 8873/1. DWER reference: A1885218
- East Rockingham RRF Project Company (2020b). Email correspondence from applicant indicating the intention to retain trees within the application area. Received by DWER on 2 July 2020 (DWER Ref: A1910880).
- Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. 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. 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.
- 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.

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Contaminated Sites (DWER-059)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Geomorphic Wetlands – Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography - Inland Waters - Waterlines
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Soil and Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil and Landscape Quality – Salinity Risk (DPIRD-009)
- Vegetation Complexes - Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-046)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- TECs and PECs
- TECs and PECs (buffered)
- Black Cockatoo roost sites
- Statewide Vegetation Complex Statistics