



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	8880/1
Permit Holder:	City of Swan
Duration of Permit:	1 September 2020 – 1 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 upgrading a railway crossing and associated infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Railway Road reserve (PINs 1172344 and 1327548), Upper Swan
Apple Road reserve (PIN 1131325), Upper Swan
Almeria Road reserve (PIN 1327549), Upper Swan
Railway Reserve (PIN 11513505), Upper Swan.

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.20 hectares of native vegetation including 10 native trees within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 8880/1.

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 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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. 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) actions taken to avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and the extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 7 of this Permit.

9. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under Condition 8 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.



Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION






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

7 August 2020

Plan 8880/1



Legend


-  CPS areas approved to clear base layers
-  Local Government Authorities
-  Roads - Landgate 012
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218
-  Image



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MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
WA Crown Copyright 2018



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8880/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Swan
Application received date: 20 April 2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Railway Road reserve (PINs 1172344 and 1327548)
Apple Road reserve (PIN 1131325)
Almeria Road reserve (PIN 1327549)
Railway reserve (PIN 11513505)
Local Government Authority: City of Swan
Localities: Upper Swan

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
0.20	10	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit: Granted
Decision Date: 7 August 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 with principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance with any of the remaining clearing principles.

Through the assessment it was identified that the proposed clearing includes vegetation growing in association with a wetland. The Delegated Officer determined that no significant impacts to the environmental values of the wetland are expected given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) and completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation and minimal extent of the clearing proposed.

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

2. Site Information

Clearing Description The application is to clear 0.2 hectares of native vegetation including 10 trees, within Railway Road reserve (PINs 1172344 and 1327548), Apple Road reserve (PIN 1131325), Almeria Road reserve (PIN 1327549), and Railway Reserve (PIN 11513505), Upper Swan (the application area) (Figure 1), for the purpose of upgrading a railway crossing and associated infrastructure.

The application consists of five approximately 0.04 hectare areas fragmented by the existing road and railway infrastructure. The clearing is required to allow upgrading rail crossing infrastructure, which involves adding boom gates, flashing lights and a pedestrian maze. Adjacent road intersection and drainage will also be subject to minor improvements.

Vegetation Description The application area occurs within the 'Swan Coastal Plain' (SCP) Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion, and is mapped as the SCP vegetation complex Guildford, which is described as 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) and *Melaleuca raphiophylla* (Swamp Paperbark) (Hedde et al., 1980).

Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the application area is inconsistent with the mapped Guildford complex as it comprises scattered *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) over weedy understorey or only weedy understorey of introduced grasses. Representative photos are available in Figures 2a-d (City of Swan, 2020).

Vegetation Condition The condition of the vegetation within the application area is considered to be in degraded to completely degraded condition, described as:

- Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).
- Completely Degraded; No longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The condition of the vegetation was determined based on aerial imagery and supporting information provided by City of Swan (2020).

Soil type The application Area is mapped as the 'Hs - Herne sand (Pinjarra)' subsystem (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), 2020), which is described as grey to greyish-brown sand with nil to few gravels over mottled clay (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

Comments The local area is considered a 10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area.



Figure 1 Map of the application area



Figure 2a



Figure 2b



Figure 2c



Figure 2d

Figures 2a-d: Representative photos of the vegetation within the application area (City of Swan, 2020a)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

As detailed below, the proposed clearing is at variance with Clearing Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance with any other Clearing Principle.

According to available geographic information system (GIS) databases the closest record of a conservation flora species is *Stylidium longitubum* which is located approximately 510 metres north of the application area and the closest ecological linkage is Gngangara Mound Ecological Linkages (GSS Ecological Linkages) mapped approximately 620 metres west of the application area. Given the species identified within the application area, mapped soil type, 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.

As shown in Figures 2a – 2d, the application area does not contain any hollows or significant foraging or breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna recorded within the local area.

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). Within constrained areas (areas of urban development in cities and major towns) on the SCP, 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.

According to available databases, the local area retains approximately 35.04 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Noting this, 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 landscape.

The application area is mapped within the SCP vegetation complex Guildford, which retains approximately 5 per cent of its pre-European clearing extent, and therefore, the complex is considered to be extensively cleared. However, considering the species identified within the application area, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not representative of this vegetation complex.

According to available databases, the application area is mapped within an un-named wetland (ID 10574). Taking this into account, the proposed clearing is growing in, or in association with a wetland, and thus, is at variance with principle (f). However, noting the minimal extent of the proposed clearing and the vegetation in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) to a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition with invasive weeds dominated the area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact upon riparian vegetation or the mapped wetland values.

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 land degradation, deteriorate the quality of surface or underground water, cause or exacerbate flooding other than that which is currently present.

According to available databases, the closest conservation area is Ellen Brook Nature Reserve (R 27620, Class A) located approximately 620 metres northeast of the application area. Given the distance and the minimal extent of clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas.

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 Department of Water and Environmental Regulation website on 17 June 2020 with a 21 day submission period. No public submissions have been received in relation to this application.

On 17 June 2020, in accordance with section 51E(4)(b) of the EP Act, comments on the application was sought from the North Swan Local Conservation District Committee. No comments were received.

4. References

- City of Swan (2020) Photograph of the vegetation in the application area. Supporting documents received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 8880/1. Received on 20 April 2020. DWER Ref: A1886285
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2020). NRInfo Digital Mapping. Accessed at <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/> Accessed June 2020. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia.
- Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>
- 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.
- 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:

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Region Scheme – Scheme Boundary (DPLH-020)
- Soil and Landscape Mapping – Best Available

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)