



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 8910/1
Permit Holder:	Rockingham Golf Club Inc.
Duration of Permit:	23 July 2020 to 23 July 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 bushfire hazard reduction.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 2730 on Deposited Plan 215879, Coo loongup

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 1 hectare within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8910/1.

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 as 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 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*:

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

PART III – RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. Record keeping

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records 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(s) 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 5 of this Permit;
- (e) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *dieback* and *weeds* in accordance with condition 6 of this Permit; and

8. Reporting

The Permit Holder must produce the records required under condition 7 of this Permit when required 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.

Ryan Mincham

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Ryan Mincham
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

30 June 2020

Plan 8910/1


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
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Legend

CPS layers

 CPS areas approved to clear

base layers

 Road Centrelines

 Cadastre - LGATE 218

 Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)

Image

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Officer delegated under section 20 of the
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8910/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Rockingham Golf Club
Application received date: 19/05/2020

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2730 on Deposited Plan 215879
Local Government Authority: City of Rockingham
Localities: Coo loongup

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	Purpose category:
1		Burning	Reduce hazardous fuel loads on the course

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 30 June 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.

The application area is located within a Bush Forever site, however, it is also situated within an established golf course. The proposed clearing will not have a significant impact on the environmental values of the Bush Forever site. A weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to minimise the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in any significant environmental impacts.

2. Site Information

Clearing Description: The application is to burn individual grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), which will cumulatively total 1 hectare, within Lot 2730 on Deposited Plan 215879, Coo loongup for the purpose of reducing hazardous fuel loads, or fire control. A total of 100 grass trees will be burnt in the first season.

Vegetation Description: One vegetation complex (Heddl e et al., 1980) has been mapped within the application area:

- Quindalup Complex – 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) – *Callitiris preissii* (Rottnest Island Pine), the closed scrub of *Acacia rostellifera* (Summer scented Wattle).

Based on photographs provided by the applicant and aerial imagery, the application area comprises of small patches of remnant vegetation to scattered trees and shrubs comprising of tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), planted Eucalypts, *Acacia rostellifera* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* amongst cleared fairways. The understorey is predominantly cleared and dominated by introduced grasses and herbs.

Vegetation Condition: Good; vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbance. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate.

to

Completely degraded; the structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species.

The vegetation condition of the application area was determined by site photos supplied by applicant (Figure 2).

Soil type:

There is one soil type mapped within the application area (Schoknecht et al., 2001):

- Quindalup South Qf3 Phase – Relict foredunes forming a plain which is topographically lower than Qf2 with prominent ridges and swales. Swamps frequently occupy the swales. Deep calcareous sands with variable organic matter (211Qu_Qf3).

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.

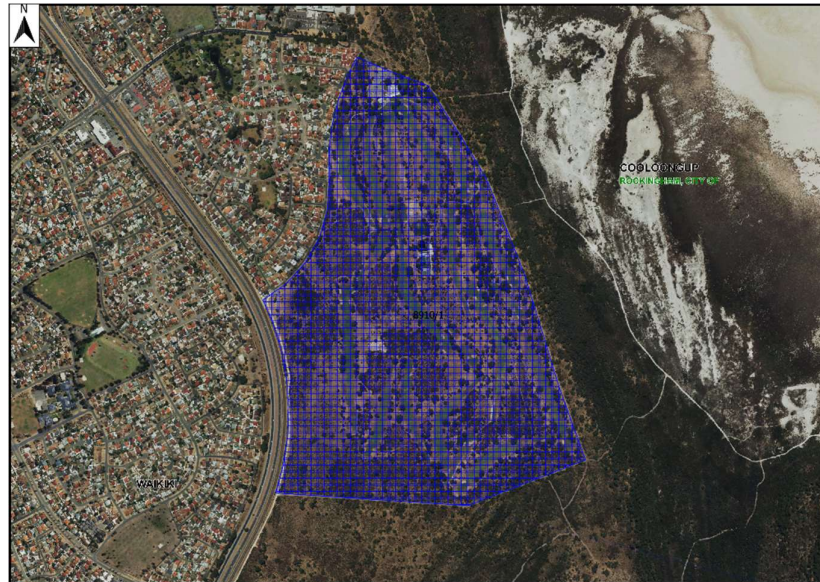


Figure 1: application area



Figure 2: photographs of application area

3. Minimisation and mitigation measures

The proposed work will not involve the clearing or physical removal of grass trees within the application area. The purpose of the burning of the grass trees is to reduce fuel loads and to encourage the growth of the native flora in the area.

The City of Rockingham will work with the Rockingham Golf Club to ensure that the burns are completed to the City's health and safety standards and so that the health of the grass trees are not unduly impacted. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) volunteer firefighters will be contacted to assist with the burn.

4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

The application is to burn individual grass trees (*Xanthorrhoea preissii*), which will cumulatively total 1 hectare for the purpose of reducing hazardous fuel loads or fire control. The application area is located within a Bush Forever site, however it is also situated within an established golf course. The Rockingham Golf Course is located on Reserve 38812 and it operates on a lease managed by the City of Rockingham. A management plan has been developed for the golf course.

The vegetation within the application area consists of small patches of remnant vegetation to scattered trees and shrubs comprising of tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), planted Eucalypts, *Acacia rostellifera* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* amongst cleared fairways. The understorey is predominantly cleared and dominated by introduced grasses and herbs. The vegetation ranges from Good to Completely Degraded condition (Keighery, 1994). The majority of the landscape has been modified by historical clearing and weed invasion.

According to available databases, no threatened flora or fauna species have been recorded within the application area. One record of Priority 1 flora species, *Acacia* sp. Binningup (G. Cockerton et al. WB 37784), is located along the eastern boundary of the application area. Given the purpose of the application is to specifically burn grass trees within the application area, it is unlikely this species will be impacted.

According to available databases, 55 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the local area. Based on the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area and the habitat requirements and current known range extents of these species, the application area may comprise suitable habitat for two Threatened species, Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) and one Priority species Quenda (*Isodon fusciventer*). The tuarts (and other Eucalypt species) within the application area provide suitable foraging habitat and potential roosting and breeding habitat for black cockatoos. However, no tuart trees or other suitable black cockatoo habitat (foraging roosting and breeding) will be impacted by the proposed burning. The burning of 100 grass trees may temporarily impact on the availability of shelter for some fauna species utilising the area, however there is suitable patches of remnant vegetation available in the local area and in neighbouring nature reserves. The burning of 100 grass trees is not considered to compromise significant habitat for indigenous fauna, including species of conservation significance.

Fourteen threatened ecological communities (TECs) and/or priority ecological communities (PECs) are known to occur within the local area. Of these, no State listed TECs have been recorded within the application area. The application area intersects one Priority 3 PEC 'Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain' (listed Critically Endangered – EPBC Act). This PEC is mapped along the eastern and southern boundary of the application area. The burning of 100 grass trees will not impact on the maintenance of a TEC or PEC.

The application area is situated within Bush Forever site 356 and is part of the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park. The Rockingham Lakes Regional Park is an important link in a series of reserves and regionally significant bushland in the region. The area has been defined as being significant for conservation due to its representation of ecological communities and being a location for JAMBA/CAMBA fauna species (due to the nearby salt lakes). The invasion of weeds is a major threat to the conservation value of the Park and fire can promote the growth of weeds. The purpose of the proposed burning of the grass trees is to reduce fuel loads and to encourage the growth of the native flora in the area. Indirect impacts to adjoining areas of the Bush Forever site and Regional Park may occur due to the potential for the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback. To minimise this impact, a condition has been placed on the clearing permit requiring the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

According to available databases, there are no wetlands or watercourses located within the application area. The closest wetland, Cooalongup Lake, is a Conservation Category Wetland (CCW) and is located approximately 100 metres east of the application area. No wetland dependent vegetation will be impacted by the proposed burning.

Consideration has been given to impacts to biodiversity, significant fauna habitat, conservation significant flora and fauna, threatened ecological communities, remnant vegetation values, wetlands, watercourses, land degradation, surface water quality, groundwater quality, and flooding. The assessment has found that the proposed burning is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles. Grass trees have the ability to survive fire, with the living growth-point buried underground, protected by tightly packed leaf bases. As the old leaves accumulate, they form a thick bushy 'skirt' around the trunk. This skirt is highly flammable, and in a bushfire, the tightly-packed leaf bases shield the stem from heat and allow grass trees to survive the passage of fire. Grass trees can recover quickly after a fire due to reserves of starch stored in their stem. Burning of grass trees can be undertaken as a low intensity cool burn, which will significantly reduce the fuel load and risk of a high intensity wildfire/bushfire.

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

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

As part of the City of Rockingham Golf Clubs lease agreement with the City of Rockingham, the Lessee are responsible to cut, water and properly maintain all greens, fairways, playing surfaces, lawns; hedges and gardens on the Premises and the Lessee must replace any trees, shrubs and plants which may die and may be destroyed (page 3 of the lease agreement). As stated on page 22 of the lease agreement, the Lessee is responsible for carrying out any fire prevention works within the boundaries of the golf course to comply with Fire Control Notices or directions for works issued by the City for bush fire hazard reduction under the Bush Fires Act. This would also include maintenance of the Firebreaks and to do regular burn offs on the course to minimise the available fire hazards on the course.

The City of Rockingham as the responsible agent of R38812 (known as Frank Browne Reserve) authorised the Lessee of this property being the Rockingham Golf Club Incorporated (RGCI) to make an application to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) for a native vegetation clearing permit for the purpose of undertaking hazard reduction burns to reduce fuel loads. Once the permit has been issued by DWER, an application can be made by the RGCI to the City for the burn/s to take place.

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on the DWER website on 9 June 2020 with a 14 day submission period. One public submission was received. The submission noted that if it was necessary to remove the 100 grass trees, the trees can be relocated by specialists for landscaping purposes. A concern was raised that the removal of grass trees would seriously reduce the availability of shelter for any local kangaroo populations. It was also noted that when grass tree species are burnt, they regenerate and grow flower heads and are rarely, if ever, killed by fire. However they can be sensitive to dieback disease.

The City of Rockingham was notified of the clearing application and invited to submit comments. A letter from the City of Rockingham was received 10 June 2020, stating that the Rockingham Golf Club Incorporated has lease over the land within Lot 2730 on Deposited Plan 215879, Cooloongup. As such the Club is required to manage bushfire mitigation activities inclusive of formal fire breaks and vegetation management. The Club approached the City to undertake burning of grass tree skirts to remove the accumulation of dead vegetative debris. The City supports this as part of the Clubs bushfire mitigation measures. The City will work with the Club to ensure that the burns are completed to the City's health and safety standards and so that the health of the grass trees are not unduly impacted. It is likely that the DFES volunteer firefighters will assist with the burn (City of Rockingham, 2020).

5. References

- City of Rockingham (2020) Advice provided to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation regarding clearing permit application CPS 8910/1 (DWER ref A1901938)
- 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
- 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.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-2019) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> Accessed November 2019.