



## CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 8923/1  
File Number: DWERTV5838  
Duration of Permit: From 5 August 2020 to 5 August 2022

### PERMIT HOLDER

City of Swan

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Reen Road reserve (PIN 11840656), Gidgegannup

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.037 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 8923/1.

### 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.



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Mathew Gannaway  
MANAGER  
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION




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

13 July 2020

# Plan 8923/1



## Legend

-  CPS areas approved to clear
-  Road Centrelines
-  Cadastre - LGATE 218

0 10 20 30 40 m



Mathew  
Gannaway  
2020.07.13  
15:58:30 +08'00'

Officer delegated under section 20 of the  
Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 8923/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: City of Swan

### 1.3. Property details

Property: Reen Road reserve (PIN 11840656)  
Local Government Authority: City of Swan  
Localities: Gidgegannup

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.037	0	Mechanical Removal	For excavations to replace failing box culvert

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted  
Decision Date: 13 July 2020

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 26 May 2020 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principle (i) and is not likely to be at variance with the remaining clearing principles.

Based on the assessment of the application, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing may impact on vegetation growing in association with a water course and may cause deterioration in the quality of surface water. Noting the minimal extent of the proposed clearing, condition of the vegetation within the application area and being located adjacent to an existing road, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to cause significant environmental impact to a minor non perennial watercourse, or cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

The excavation and potential erosion may increase the spread of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist mitigating any potential impacts to the adjacent riparian vegetation.

## 2. Site Information

**Clearing Description:** The vegetation applied to be cleared is contained within the road reserve, adjacent to an existing road. The application is to replace a failing culvert bridge including clearing as necessary for excavation, demolition and replacement of a failing box culvert.

**Vegetation Description:** The vegetation within the application area is mapped as Yaragil 1 (yg1) vegetation complex. This complex is described as an open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata* subsp. *marginata-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes with mixtures of *Eucalyptus patens* and *Eucalyptus megacarpa* on the valley floors in humid and subhumid zones (Shepard et al., 2001).

Based on images provided by the applicant (City of Swan, 2020) the application area is mostly cleared road reserve, with a stand of vegetation in the north east portion of the application area, representative of the Yaragil 1 vegetation complex.

**Vegetation Condition:** Based on available aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (City of Swan, 2020), most of the vegetation within the application area is completely degraded (Keighery, 1994). Completely degraded vegetation is described as the structure of the vegetation being no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

The north east portion of the application area, covering an area of approximately 100m<sup>2</sup>, is considered to be in Good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Good condition is described as the vegetation structure significantly altered with obvious signs of multiple disturbance, retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).

**Soil and Landform Type:** The application area is mapped as yaragil 4 phase and is described as containing valley floors with some poorly drained mottled yellow duplex soils and gentle lower slopes with moderately well to well drained loamy and sandy earths, gravels and duplex soils (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.

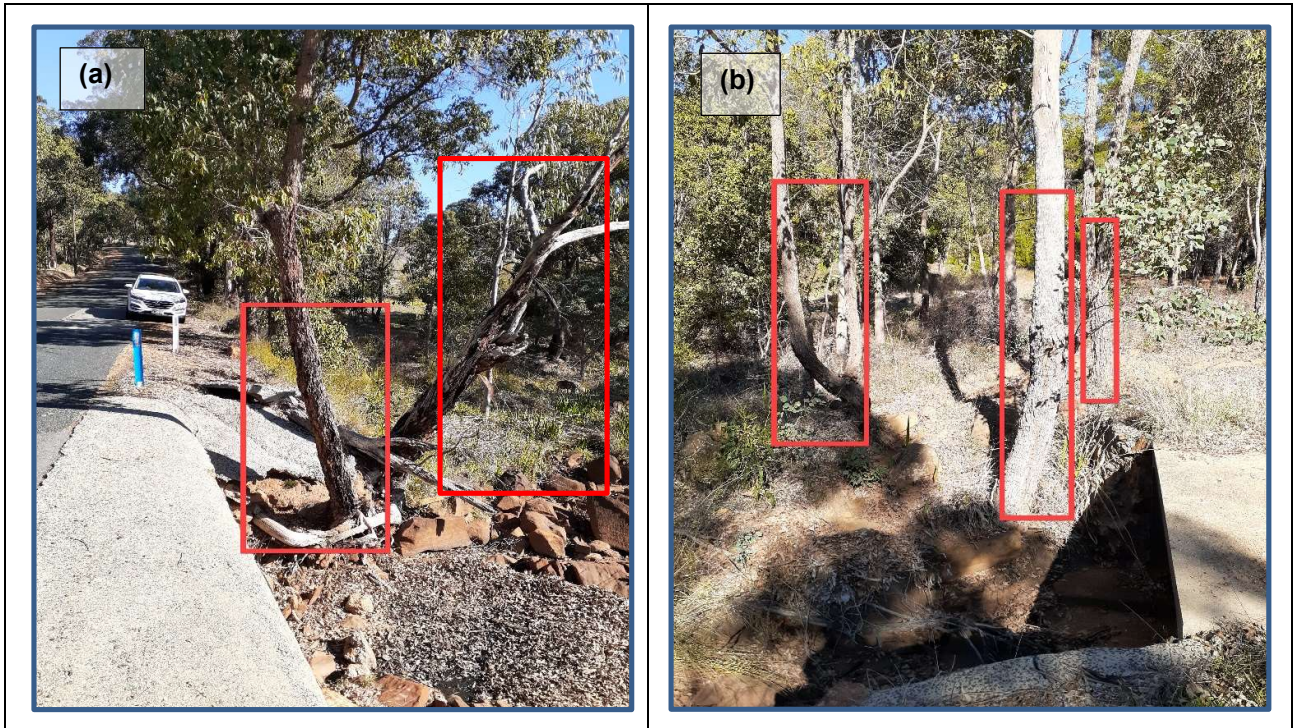


Figure 1: (a) Vegetation within the application area on north-west side of the road and (b) is representative of vegetation on the south-east side of the road. Trees outlined in red are proposed to be cleared. Images provided by City of Swan (2020).



Figure 2: aerial imagery showing the application area (Blue cross hatch) and a minor drainage line flowing west, into adjacent riparian vegetation outlined in black.

### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

According to available datasets, there are no threatened or priority flora species, or conservation significant ecological communities mapped within or adjacent to the application area. Noting this, and given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of a large portion of the vegetation within the application area, lack of understory, 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 or threatened ecological community and is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

The application area is mapped as a breeding area, and a confirmed roost site for the Threatened species Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). Suitable breeding habitat for this species includes trees which either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, including jarrah and marri trees a suitable DBH is 500 millimetres (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Noting the small size of the application area and that the five trees proposed to be cleared (Figure 1) are not large enough to form hollows, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact breeding and roosting habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo.

According to available databases the threatened species Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*) has been recorded within a one kilometre radius of the application area. Chuditch are mostly solitary animals, that utilise a number of habitats including woodland, dry sclerophyll forests, riparian vegetation, beaches and deserts. Chuditch are known to establish a home range, of approximately 15 square kilometres and females have a home range of 3-4 square kilometres (DEC, 2012). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact the home range of any Chuditch, if utilising the clearing area.

Given the degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of a large portion of the vegetation within the application area, lack of understory, and its small size, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact significant habitat for any of the additional 19 conservation significant fauna species recorded in 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). The Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion retains approximately 53.25 per cent of the pre-European extent, and the mapped Yarangil 1 vegetation complex retains approximately 81 per cent (approximately 64,927 hectares), of the pre-European extent within the bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Therefore, given the extent of vegetation remaining within the region and with the degraded condition of the larger portion of the application area, the proposed clearing is not considered a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Land degradation risk mapping indicates that 30-50% of the mapped land unit within the application area has a high to medium risk of water erosion, water logging, wind erosion and subsurface acidification. Also, 10-30 per cent of the mapped land unit has a moderate to very high flood risk and 10-30% has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, 2018).

The application area includes a minor non perennial drainage channel that will be excavated for the purpose of replacing a failing box culvert and may impact vegetation associated with a water course. However, the main risk relates to the potential for soil erosion resulting in turbidity and siltation of surface water within the watercourse. Siltation may also impact adjacent riparian vegetation (Figure 2) downstream from the proposed clearing. However, noting that the failing box culvert is a safety concern, and excavation will occur within a minimum clearing area and time frame, impacts to surface water quality are likely to be short-term and minimal. On this basis, the proposed clearing is also unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. Also, considering that vegetation adjacent to the box culvert is completely degraded (Keighery, 1994), the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on vegetation growing in association with the water course.

The excavation and potential erosion may increase the spread of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist mitigating any potential impacts to the adjacent riparian vegetation (Figure 2).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance with principle (f), may be at variance with principle (i) and is not likely to be at variance with any of the other clearing principles.

### Planning instruments and other relevant matters

The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 10 June 2020, inviting submissions from the public within a twenty-one day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

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

The proposed clearing is located within the San River System, proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, where there may be a requirement to obtain a licence to take water or a permit to interfere with the Bed and Banks of a water course. The applicant is encouraged to contact the Department's Swan Avon Region office to discuss water management options.

### 4. References

- City of Swan 2020 Application for clearing permit (CPS8923/1). DWER reference: A1897350
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed July 2020.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) (2012). Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*) Recovery Plan.

Wildlife management program No.54. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, Western Australia.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth, <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca>  
Government of Western Australia. (2018) 2017 South West Vegetation Complex Statistics. Current as of October 2017. WA  
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.

**GIS Databases:**

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Bush Forever Sites
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- Carnaby's Cockatoo: breeding, roosting, feeding
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain
- Groundwater salinity, statewide
- Heddle Vegetation
- Hydrology, linear
- IBRA Australia
- Land for Wildlife
- PDWSA, CAWSA, RIWI Act Areas
- Remnant vegetation
- SAC Biodatasets (accessed July 2020)
- Soils, statewide
- Town Planning Scheme Zones