



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 9312/1
File Number: DWERVT8056
Duration of Permit: From 16 August 2021 to 16 August 2023

PERMIT HOLDER

Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation T/A Synergy

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 22 on Diagram 73210, Naval Base

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.22 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Eto".

Erika Eto
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

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

23 July 2021

SCHEDULE 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Map of the boundary of the area in which clearing may occur.



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 9312/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation T/A Synergy
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of battery energy storage system
Property:	Lot 22 on Diagram 73210, Naval Base
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Kwinana

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.22 hectares of native vegetation to facilitate the construction of a battery energy storage system within Lot 22 on Diagram 73210, Naval Base. The vegetation within the application area is a mixture of native species, predominantly *Agonis flexuosa*, interspersed with a mixture of non-native vegetation (Synergy, 2021a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	23 July 2021
Decision area:	0.22 hectares

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) on 4 June 2021. The department advertised the application for public comment for a period of 7 days, and no submissions were received.

In undertaking the assessment, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, photographs of the vegetation, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment. The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will have negligible impact on habitat for flora, fauna and ecological communities, conservation areas or wetlands.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with nil management conditions.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has advised that the facility has been positioned in the current location to reduce the extent of clearing of a larger amount of vegetation within the eastern boundary of the available footprint (Synergy, 2021a). All areas of vegetation within the western and central portions of the application area will be removed, whilst only understorey vegetation (up to 2 metres in height) will be removed from the eastern portion (Synergy, 2021a).

Noting the small scale and low impact of the clearing it was deemed that no further consideration is required to minimise impacts on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment

The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna, and does not contain, or form a part of a threatened or priority ecological community. The application area is not located within an environmentally sensitive area, and there are no watercourses or wetlands within the application area.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is believed to be a mixture of planted vegetation and regrowth vegetation from historical clearing during the 1960's and 1970's (Synergy, 2021a). The native vegetation within the site to be cleared predominantly consists of *Agonis flexuosa* trees, which is unlikely to provide foraging or breeding habitat for any black cockatoo species (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*, *Calyptorhynchus baudinii*, or *Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), or any other conservation significant fauna species. The vegetation proposed to be cleared occurs in small, isolated patches, and is unlikely to provide habitat linkage for fauna species present in the broader area. Given the above, it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing will impact significant habitat for any conservation significant fauna species or significantly reduce vegetation connectivity for fauna species in the local area.

The tuart trees (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) within the application area are not proposed to be removed. Understorey vegetation beneath these trees is proposed to be removed to a height of up to 2 metres. This vegetation is not considered representative of the 'tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community' as it does not meet the condition thresholds in the approved conservation advice for the community, due to the completely degraded condition of vegetation, and lack of native understorey. No impacts to any threatened ecological communities are likely to occur as part of the proposed clearing.

At the bioregion (Swan Coastal Plain) and local (five kilometre radius from the perimeter of the application area) scale, over 19 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains. This is consistent with the Environmental Protection Authority's modified objective of retaining at least 10 per cent of the pre-clearing extent within constrained areas, such as the Perth metropolitan area. The nearest conservation area, Beeliar Regional Park, is located approximately 440 metres north-west of the application area. Noting the proposed clearing is separated to this conservation area by existing cleared industrial land, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impacts surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding.

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

A development approval (DA9965) has been issued for the battery energy storage system by the City of Kwinana and Western Australian Planning Commission (Synergy, 2021b).

No Aboriginal sites within the application area were found. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Appendix A – References and databases

1. GIS datasets

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- 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)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)

- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems

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)

2. References

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013). *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019). *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF.

Synergy (2021a). *Clearing permit application and supporting information for Clearing Permit CPS 9312/1*, received 4 June 2021 (DWER Ref: DWERDT460924).

Synergy (2021b). *Additional information to support clearing permit application CPS 9312/1*, received 20 July 2021 (DWER Ref: A2028388).