

Proposed Installation of Conservation Fence for Offset Site access at Two Rocks Beach Access YANCHEP

Native vegetation clearing permit amendment
application CPS 9578-1
Supporting documentation

October 2023

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1. Introduction

The City of Wanneroo (hereinafter referred to as the City) is proposing to undertake the clearing of remnant vegetation on Two Rocks Beach, to facilitate the installation of a single rail conservation fence (TS 01-7-1) that will protect the revegetation areas and adjacent bushland. Additionally, a feral-proof fence will be installed along the outer extents of the vegetation areas to prevent grazing of plants.

The City of Wanneroo is hereby submitting this supporting documentation to assist the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) assessment of this clearing application amendment.

2. Background

The City is proposing the construction of a beach access, road access and carpark within boundaries of Lot 8613 on Deposited Plan 213232; Lot 8989 on Deposited Plan 213232; and Lot 15452 on Deposited Plan 40341, in Two Rocks. The City submitted a clearing application to facilitate the construction of the Two Rocks Beach Access (hereafter referred to as the TRBA). The City was granted CPS 9578-1 permit with clearing and rehabilitation conditions. For the City to meet its offset conditions (Condition 11 - Vegetation Management -Fencing), CPS 9578-1 requires amendment.

3. Changes in Clearing Area

The current clearing permit indicates fencing must be constructed along the perimeters of the areas coloured in red in the **Figure.1** below. To implement the construction of the conservation fence, the City will require the clearing of an extra 0.1189 hectares (1189.280 m²) of native vegetation along the conservation area.

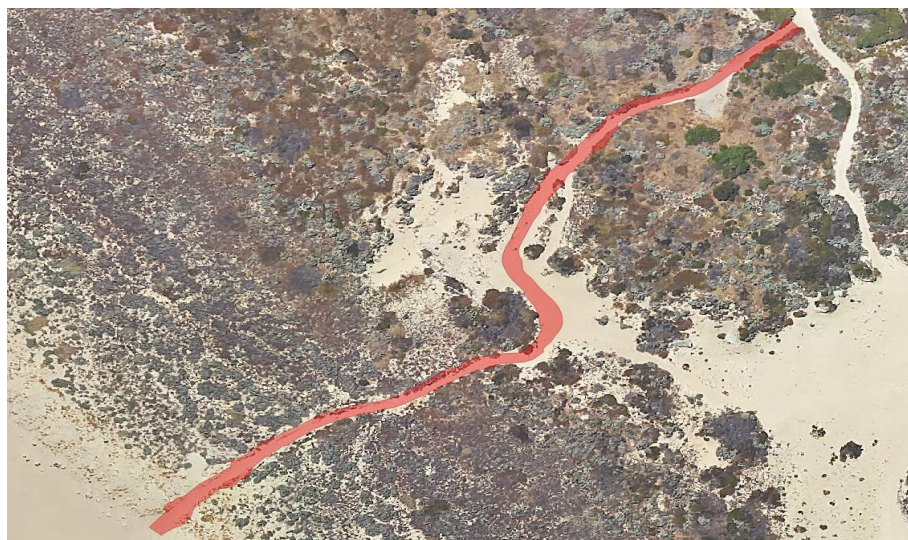


Figure 1: Proposed Clearing Area

4. Changes in Clearing Permit Timeframe

The City is also seeking an amendment for the Clearing permit dates. Currently, the clearing permit holder may not clear after 07 November 2027, and the clearing permit expires 7 November 2032 (to facilitate rehabilitation condition). The clearing was meant to commence in 2023 financial year but due to delays in the project, the project is anticipated to be delayed for an extra 2 years.

4.1 Potential Delays in Foreshore Management Plan

The City is formally requesting an extension of the clearing permit timeline, attributed to delays in the completion of the Foreshore Management Plan (FMP). The finalization of the FMP remains pending. Upon the completion of the FMP, it will be subjected to a series of administrative processes within the local government. Specifically, it will undergo reviews and approvals at the Executive Leadership Meeting (ELM), Council Forum, and subsequently, the Ordinary Council, before progressing to the advertising. Once advertised it would then need to go back to Ordinary Council this process is expected to take approximately 18 months to reach completion.

4.2 Survey Conditions of Priority Species

In accordance with the stipulations outlined in condition 10 of CPS 9578/1, the City is obligated to undertake the identification of priority flora species, namely *Beyeria cinerea subsp. cinerea*, *Leucopogon maritimus*, and *Stylidium maritimum*, prior to any clearing activities, in order to ensure the preservation of these species and prevent over-clearing. The City recognizes that the most appropriate timing for the accurate identification of these priority species is during the spring season, when the vegetation is in bloom. This specific timing facilitates precise identification and enables the proper tagging of these species. Consequently, considering the time-sensitive nature of flora management, the City anticipates potential delays in the clearance of native vegetation for the aforementioned project

The City is therefore requesting an extension of the clearing permit duration for a period of two (2) additional years (i.e. permit validity dates changed from 07 November 2027 to 07 November 2029, and permit expiry dates changed from 7 November 2032 to 7 November 2034) to accommodate the requirements detailed above.

5. Scope

The purpose of this document is to provide an assessment against the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* – Ten Clearing Principles to determine whether the proposed clearing is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

The additional proposed clearing area, is depicted in the figure below depicted in **Figure 2** below, make up a total of 0.1189 hectares (1189.280 m²) (Attachment A – Clearing Plan, Attachment B – Clearing Area Shapefiles).

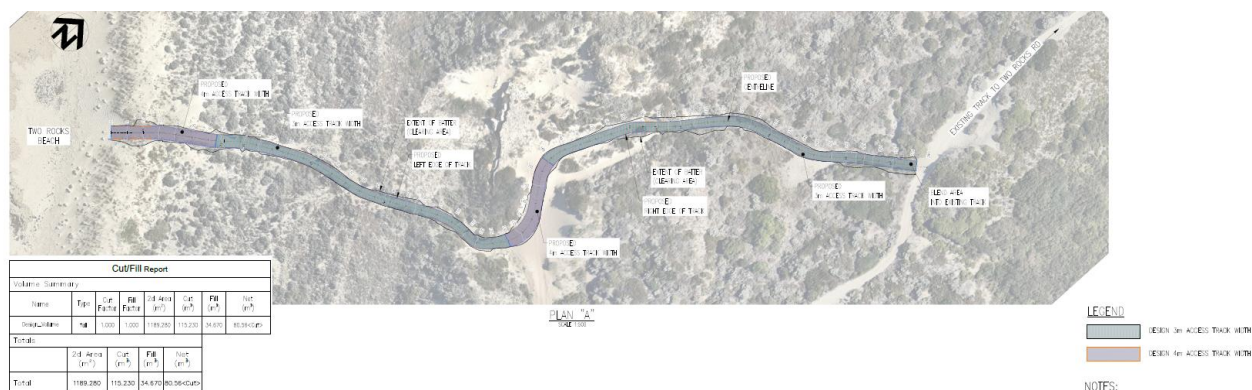


Figure 2: Clearing Plan

6. Flora and Vegetation

A full vegetation assessment of the whole area was conducted by One Tree Botanical (OTB) in YEAR and findings of the survey were reported and submitted to DWER 2020 (Attachment D). A further vegetation assessment was initiated on the 16 September 2022 and 25 October 2022 by the City's Environmental Planner. This vegetation assessment only targeted the boundary of the track where the fence will be installed.

The vegetation that was identified on the boundary of the track was not priority or threatened. In addition, the City's Environmental Planning Considerations Report (EPCR) and Native Vegetation Clearing (NVC) did not identify any instances of threatened or priority fauna species within the selected footprint.

7. Fauna

The City's Environmental Planning Considerations Report (EPCR) (Attachment F) and the City's 'Desktop Assessment Report for Native Vegetation Clearing (NVC) Application' (Attachment E) did not identify any instances of threatened or priority fauna species within the selected footprint. Protected fauna species were however identified within a 5km radius of the selected area (Attachment E and F).

8. Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

To proactively prevent and mitigate any potential clearing activities that may impact priority and/or threatened flora, as identified during the 2020 Flora survey conducted by OTB, the design of the access track has been strategically situated to align with an existing track located in the vicinity of the offset site. This location also coincides with an area characterized by vegetation ranging from a good to degraded state.

Furthermore, in accordance with CPS 9578/1, provisions for an offset have been established to mitigate the substantial residual impact on Bush Forever Area 397. The City is committed to implementing measures that will reduce the impact of clearing within the area.

Moreover, the proposed fencing design has been developed in a manner that will not impede the movement of fauna within the surrounding vegetation. Additionally, rehabilitation efforts will be undertaken in temporarily cleared areas and the offset site to ensure the preservation of fauna habitat, thereby mitigating the overall loss of habitat. These actions are aligned with the goal of minimizing the risk of introducing and spreading weeds and dieback into the adjacent vegetation.


9. Clearing Principles




The City of Wanneroo generated a 'Desktop Assessment Report for Native Vegetation Clearing tool (NVC) (Attachment F), the impacts listed in the report are categorised in Table 1, below.







An 'Environmental Planning Considerations Report' (EPCR) (Attachment F) was also generated by the City as supporting documentation for the below clearing principle assessment.



The following table summarises the identified environmental impacts and the level of variance against the clearing principles.

Table 1: Identified Impacts against Clearing Principles

Clearing Principle	Impacts	Proposed Project Impacts
Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity	Orange 	<p>The proposed clearing area is a mapped Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). The City's EPCR and NVC (Attachment F and E) identifies the following flora and fauna attributes for the proposed clearing site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No records of Federal or State listed TECs, PECs, Threatened and Priority Flora records or Threatened and Priority Fauna records within the selected site boundaries. The proposed clearing area is within an important birding area (Northern Swan Coastal Plain IBA). <p>The City's EPCR and NVC (Attachment F and E) identifies the following flora and fauna attributes within 5kms of the proposed clearing site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal and State listed TECs and PECs (or their buffers) located within a 5km radius of the proposed clearing site. Federal and State listed Threatened and Priority Flora records located within a 5km radius of the proposed clearing site. Federal and State listed Threatened and Priority Fauna and Fauna Habitat records located within a 5km radius of the proposed clearing site. Confirmed Carnaby's Black Cockatoo breeding and breeding habitat within the proposed clearing site, however the vegetation survey conducted by an Environmental Planner in 2022 did not identify any

		<p>Black Cockatoo habitat (Attachment 4 Vegetation Assessment)</p> <p>Given the lack of biodiversity within the proposed clearing areas, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with principle (a).</p>
<p>Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna</p>	<p>Orange</p> 	<p>The City's EPCR and NVC (Attachment F and E) identified the proposed clearing area within an important birding area (Northern Swan Coastal Plain IBA) and within a Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Confirmed 'roosting and breeding area buffer'. The City's Vegetation Assessment did not document any priority flora within the extent of the proposed clearing. In addition, the vegetation identified is not Black Cockatoo foraging, breeding or roosting habitat.</p> <p>The proposed clearing will be at the edge of an already existing track. Clearing will only be 0.1189 ha along the track. The clearing of vegetation will not result in the loss of significant habitat for indigenous fauna.</p> <p>Please take note that the project area possesses a constrained population of vertebrate wildlife, a population that is likewise found in various other coastal regions.</p> <p>The track area is highly disturbed or cleared and provides little habitat value the proposed additional clearing may be at variance with principle (b).</p>
<p>Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The City's EPCR and NVC (Attachment F and E) identified Threatened and Priority Flora species within a 5km radius of the application area, however no Federal or State Threatened or Priority Flora species were identified within the application area.</p> <p>As no threatened or conservation significant flora were recorded during the vegetation assessment, and noting the area is highly disturbed/ cleared, it is unlikely that the City's proposed clearing would include vegetation that is necessary for the continued existence of threatened flora. Consequently, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (c).</p>
<p>Principle (d) - Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a Threatened Ecological Community.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The City's EPCR and NVC (Attachment F and E) identified both Federal and State Threatened Ecological Communities (and buffers) within a 5km radius of the application area, however no Threatened or Priority Communities are present within the proposed application area or within the boundaries of the access track.</p> <p>Given that the application area has been previously cleared the vegetation it is not considered to represent a TEC. The proposed clearing is not at variance to principle (d).</p>

<p>Principle (e) - Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been significantly cleared.</p>	<p>Red</p> 	<p>The project area is a part of Bush Forever Site 397: “Coastal Strip from Wilbinga to Mindarie” (Government of Western Australia 2000), which is a relatively intact, often narrow strip of coastal vegetation which also provides a linkage between larger intact remnants.</p> <p>As the proposed clearing directly impacts Bush Forever Site 397, the clearing is at variance to Principle (e).</p>
<p>Principle (f) - Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or a wetland</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>No wetlands or watercourses are mapped within the proposed clearing areas.</p> <p>As the proposed clearing does not occur within a mapped water course or wetland, the project is not likely to decrease groundwater quality.</p> <p>Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (f).</p>
<p>Principle (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The areas proposed for clearing is not mapped in Acid Sulphate Soils.</p> <p>Clearing of 0.1189 ha of vegetation is unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation or soil erosion and therefore the proposed clearing area is not likely to be at variance with Principle (g).</p>
<p>Principle (h) - Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The project area is a part of the Bush Forever 397: “Coastal Strip from Wilbinga to Mindarie” (Government of Western Australia 2000. Although the clearing is linear and narrow along an existing cleared track, the proposed clearing will contribute to cumulative loss of coastal vegetation on the Swan Coastal Plain.</p> <p>Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (h).</p>
<p>Principle (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The proposed clearing area is within the Perth Groundwater Area RIWI Act area (Attachment F).</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to result in a significant change to groundwater levels or surface water runoff. As a result, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in deterioration of surface or groundwater quality.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance with Principle (i).</p>
<p>Principle (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>Green</p> 	<p>The proposed clearing area is not within an area with associated flood hazard (DPIRD, 2023).</p> <p>The clearing is not likely to cause, or exacerbate the incidence, or intensity of flooding. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to principle (j).</p>

 ***Red** – Likely to be at variance,
 **Orange** – May be at variance,

■ **Green** – Not likely to be or not at variance

10. Conclusion

The City of Wanneroo has assessed the proposed clearing against the 10 clearing principles and has found that the clearing of 0.1189 ha along Two Rocks Beach Access, is likely to be at variance with the clearing principles (a), (c) and (e).

9. References

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). (2023). Flora base – the Western Australian Flora. Available at <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), 2022. Natural Resource Information (WA) Mapping Tool. <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/>. Accessed 11 September 2023.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, 2023. Perth Groundwater Map. Available at <https://maps.water.wa.gov.au/Groundwater/>. Accessed 11 September 2023.

EPCR. (2023). Environmental Planning Tool. Environmental Considerations Report.

Government of Western Australia. 2000. Bush Forever.

NVC (2023). Environmental Planning Tool. Desktop Assessment Report for Native Vegetation Clearing Application Report.

One Tree Botanical (2020). Two Rocks Beach Access Way. Flora and Vegetation Survey- Detailed and Targeted.

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020). Vertebrate Fauna Survey - Two Rocks Beach Access, Two Rocks

Terrestrial Ecosystems and One Tree Botanical (2020). Flora, Vegetation and Vertebrate Fauna Environmental Impact Assessment – Two Rocks Beach Access, Two Rocks.