

To access our house we are currently required to travel across our neighbour's property as no road was constructed when the original farm was subdivided into three lots, see Picture 1. As the neighbouring property was only being used to graze stock this was not an issue for us or the previous owners, however this neighbouring block was recently sold and the new owners have since constructed a house and now reside on the property. Due to this we need to build a road on our own property to reach our house, but as our land is bisected by a wetland we seek clearing approval to construct a crossing over an area that is deemed environmentally sensitive. See Picture 2. Note: we have also applied for a permit to interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse.

The preferred location to construct a road would have been along the northern boundary line of our property, however that would have required the destruction of a large amount of existing native vegetation. Instead, we are proposing to construct the crossing in an area that was previously cleared over 15 years ago, see Picture 3. The regrowth of native vegetation in this area has been limited, see Picture 4, and the area now consists primarily of kikuyu, clover, weeds and some rushes, see Pictures 5, 6, 7 & 8 and has been used for both vehicle and stock movements.

In order for the road to be usable year round and to protect the surrounding vegetation from being damaged by regular vehicle movements we would construct a causeway from rock and gravel, sourced from the property, over this degraded area. It is anticipated there will be minimal impact on the existing tea trees bordering the northern and southern side of the crossing due to the sufficient width of the degraded area, but if any did need to be removed they would be replanted elsewhere, while conversely the construction of the crossing will result in the removal of invasive weeds from within the wetland area. As this project is a high priority for us and we recognise the importance of the local environment we would of course be open to any conditions to manage or mitigate effects of the project so it can proceed.



Picture 1 showing access to house, located near western boundary, is via northern neighbour's block due to wetlands bisecting the property. Source Landgate



Picture 2 showing proposed crossing located in an environmentally sensitive area. Source DWER



Picture 3: Image from 2007 showing the area cleared of existing native vegetation. Source Landgate



Picture 4: Image from 2017 showing limited vegetation regrowth over a 10 year period. Source Landgate



Pictures 5, 6, 7 & 8: Taken from within the proposed clearing area showing how the area is now primarily made up of kikuyu and other weeds

