



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 971 / 1

File Number: 22161

Duration of Permit: From 4 June 2006 to 4 June 2008

PERMIT HOLDER

HBH Consultants on behalf of WA Kaolin Holdings

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

LOT 3 ON PLAN 42679 (Ward Road, EAST ROCKINGHAM 6168)

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

1. Clearing of up to 1.34 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 971/1.
2. Selective removal of grasses and shrubs less than 1.5m in height within an area of 0.7 hectares marked cross-hatched red on attached Plan 971/1.

CONDITIONS

1. Nil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Rosair", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Rosair

Director of Regional Operations, Department of Environment
Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

4 May 2006



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 971/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: HBH Consultants on behalf of WA Kaolin Holdings

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3 ON PLAN 42679 (Ward Road, EAST ROCKINGHAM 6168)

Local Government Area: City Of Rockingham

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.04		Cutting	Industrial

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 3048: Shrublands; scrub-heath on the Swan Coastal Plain. Shepherd et al.(2001)	The proposal includes clearing of 2.04 hectares of native vegetation for the development of an industrial site. <i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> trees will be retained where they are not a potential human safety hazard, and the portion of the application that is in an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will only be grass raked or slashed to reduce weeds.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was obtained during a site visit on the 6th of December 2005.
Heddlle Vegetation Complex - Quindalup Coastal dune complex - low closed forest and closed scrub. Heddlle et al.(1980)			

The vegetation under application consists primarily of sparse understorey of *Acacia saligna*, *A.rostellifera*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii* and weed species, with an occasional very sparse overstorey of *E.gomphocephala* and *Melaleuca sp.*

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments: **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation under application is in a degraded condition, with minimal overstorey over most of the area under application, and an understorey consisting primarily of weeds. Given this, and that the lot is located within an industrial area, the area under application is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology: Site visit 6/12/05

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

There are a number of Conservation Category Wetlands (CCW) within the local area (5km radius of the application), the closest of which is located approximately 2km to the south. These wetlands support a high level of ecological attributes and functions and are the highest priority wetlands for protection (Water and Rivers Commission 2001). The coastal waterline is also located approximately 700m to the northwest of the area under application. No wetlands have been mapped within the area under application, however some wetland dependent vegetation was observed during the site visit.

Given the distance to the nearest CCW, the proposal is considered unlikely to impact wetlands of conservation significance.

Methodology Water and Rivers Commission (2001)
GIS Databases:
Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/9/04
Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) - DOE 13/4/05

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area under application consists of coastal dune formations backed by the low-lying deposits of inlets and estuaries, with chief soils of calcareous sands. Although there is a low risk of salinity and acid sulphate soils in the area under application, the soil type has a susceptibility to erosion and the removal of vegetation will further expose soils to the elements.

Due to the low relief of the area and the degraded condition of the vegetation, it is not considered likely that the removal of the vegetation under application will result in a significant increase in land degradation. Furthermore, a Part V Works Approval has been issued, which includes provisions for dust control.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DOE 04/11/04
Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The Bush Forever site and CALM managed Leda Nature Reserve, is located approximately 3.5km southeast of the area under application. There are no other conservation areas within a 5km radius of the area under application. Due to the distance to the nearest conservation area, and the degraded condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation area.

Methodology GIS Databases:
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area under application is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). There is a low risk of salinity and acid sulphate soils within the area under application; therefore the clearing of vegetation as proposed is not likely to cause a deterioration of groundwater quality.

The nearest waterbody is the coastal waterline, which is located approximately 700m to the west. Given this distance, the low relief in the area, and the small size of the area under application, the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DOE 04/11/04
Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)