



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7650/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Northampton
Duration of Permit:	25 November 2017 – 25 November 2022

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of expansion of a gold club.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 9501 on Plan 56048, Horrocks
Lot 12151 on Plan 193420, Horrocks

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 6.1 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 7650/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. Type of clearing authorised

This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. Avoid, minimise etc 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:

- avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. 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 *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;

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

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 species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or
- (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

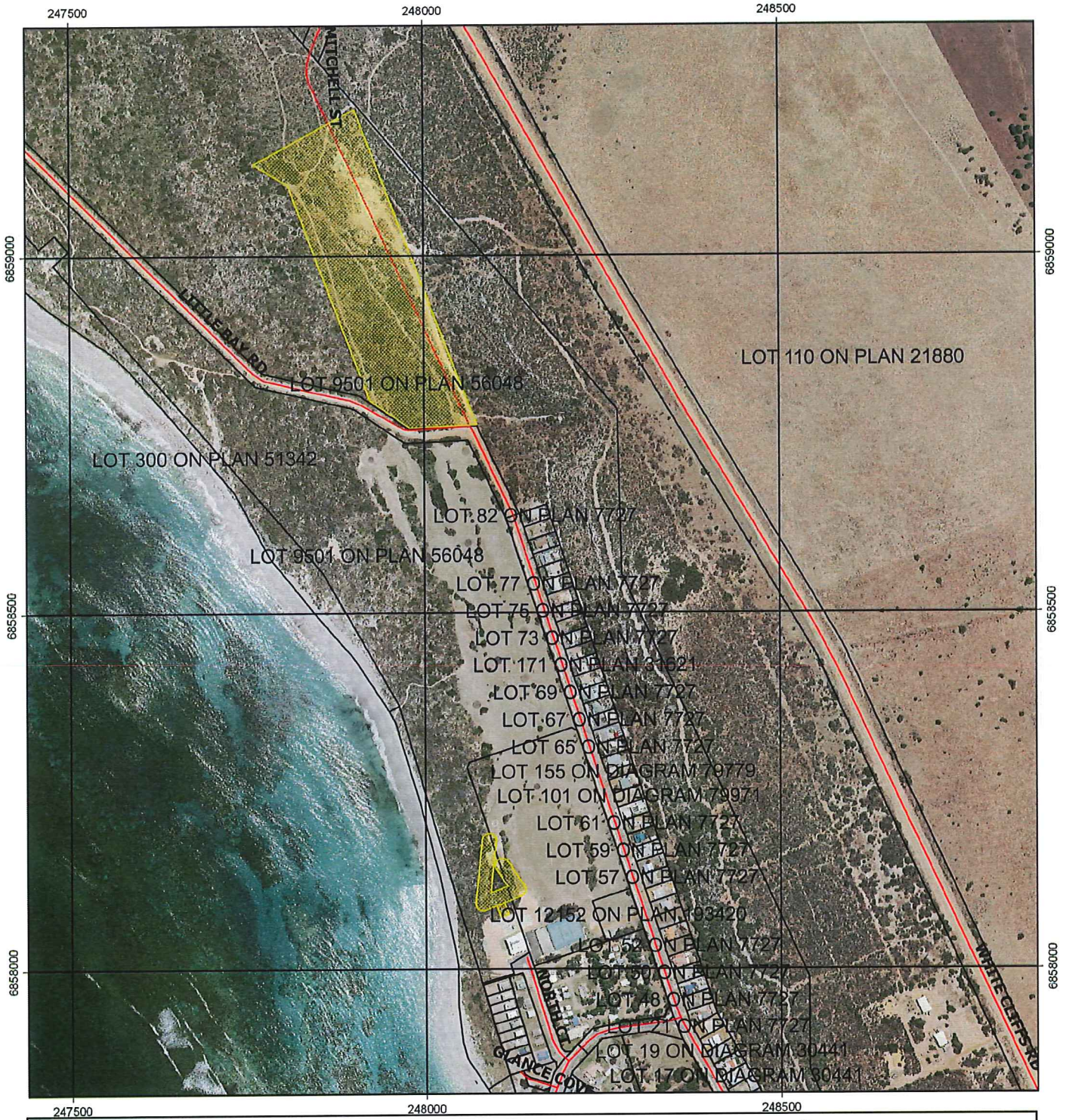


Mathew Gannaway
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION





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

27 October 2017

Plan 7650/1



Legend

-  Areas approved to clear
 -  Roads
 -  LGA
 -  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



1:7,734

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date: 27/10/17

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986





1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7650/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Northampton

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 9501 on Plan 56048, Horrocks
Lot 12151 on Plan 193420, Horrocks

Colloquial name: Northampton, Shire of

Local Government Authority: Northampton, Shire of

DER Region: Midwest

DPaW District: Geraldton

LCDC: Horrocks

Localities: Horrocks

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6.1	0	Mechanical Removal	Recreation

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 27 October 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 21 June 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 510 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and it has been concluded that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

The application area is located adjacent to remnant native vegetation; the proposed clearing may indirectly impact this vegetation through the spread of weeds and dieback. A weed and dieback management condition placed on the permit will help mitigate this risk.

The Delegated Officer has determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to result in any significant environmental impacts.

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
The mapped Beard vegetation association 359 is described as Shrublands; <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Banksia</i> scrub (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The application is to clear 6.1 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 9501 on Plan 56048 and Lot 12151 on Plan 193420, Horrocks, for the purpose of golf club expansion.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).	The vegetation description and condition was determined via aerial imagery and photographs provided by the applicant (Shire of Northampton, 2017).
		To Good; Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).	The applicant advised that the application area predominantly consists of wattle and boxthorn (Shire of Northampton, 2017).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments The clearing of 6.1 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 9501 on Plan 56048 and Lot 12151 on Plan 193420, Horrocks, is for the purpose of golf club expansion.

According to available databases, four rare flora and seven priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions [DBCA], 2007-). Given the vegetation and soils present within the application area, the application area is not likely to provide suitable habitat for any rare flora species. One Priority 1 flora species, *Melaleuca huttensis*, is located approximately 600 metres north of the application area and suitable habitat for this species may be present within the application area (DBCA, 2017). However, this species is known from large populations within the surrounding area and therefore if a small population was present within the application area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing would impact the conservation status of this species (DBCA, 2017). No *Melaleuca* species were observed in the photographs provided by the applicant. The application area is not likely to provide significant or suitable habitat for the remaining priority flora species.

According to available databases no fauna listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). Given the degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area that consists of thick *Acacia* scrub that has been heavily impacted by current golf course activities, the application area is not likely to comprise of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

No watercourses or wetlands, conservation areas, threatened or priority ecological communities have been recorded within the vicinity of the application area.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) and the mapped Beard vegetation association 359 within the Geraldton Sandplains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia bioregion retain approximately 28 and 24 per cent of their pre-European vegetation extents respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2016). This is below the recommended 30 per cent threshold, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). Therefore the application area may be considered to be located within an extensively cleared area. However, given the degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area that is not likely to provide significant habitat for fauna, conservation significant flora or threatened or priority ecological communities, the vegetation is not likely to be considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation.

The application area is located adjacent to remnant native vegetation; the proposed clearing may indirectly impact this vegetation through the spread of weeds and dieback. Weed and dieback management practices will help mitigate this risk.

The sandy soils present within the application area may be prone to wind erosion. However, impacts are likely to be minimal and given that the purpose of clearing is for a golf course expansion, perennial grass will be established within the application area and therefore will mitigate the impact of wind erosion.

The proposed clearing of 6.1 hectares of native vegetation in a degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition, that has been heavily impacted by current golf course activities and is part of a larger remnant, is not likely to contribute to or cause land degradation, deteriorate the quality of ground water, cause or exacerbate flooding or contain a high biological diversity.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
DBCA (2007-)
DBCA (2017)
Government of Western Australia (2016)
Keighery (1994)
Shepherd et al. (2001)

GIS Datasets:
SAC Biodata sets accessed October 2017
Hydrography linear
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation
DBCA, tenure
Geomorphic Wetlands (Classification), Swan Coastal Plain
Soils, statewide

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application was advertised on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's website on 18 July 2017 for a 21 day public submission period. On 4 September 2017 the application was readvertised as a result of the applicant increasing the application area from 5.8 to 6.1 hectares for a 7 day public submission period. No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been recorded within the application area. It is the applicant's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The application area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area proclaimed under *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). Any proposed increase use of groundwater or requirement to drill a bore for commercial purposes may require licenses to be issued under the RIWI Act.

Methodology GIS Datasets:
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (BDCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed April 2017
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (BDCA) (2017) Flora Advice for CPS 7650/1. Species and Communities Branch. DWER Ref: A1519978
- Government of Western Australia (2016). 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2016. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.
- Shire of Northampton (2017) Supplementary Information for Clearing Permit Application CPS 7650/1. Western Australia. DWER Ref: A1526709