



Information required to assess your Clearing Permit application

This summary sheet will assist you in determining the information that should be lodged along with your clearing permit application. **However, pre-consultation with the Native Vegetation Assessment Branch is highly recommended before lodging your application.**

Application Checklist

The clearing permit application must consist of:

- A completed application form, available from the DMP website: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/nvabinfo
- The prescribed fee.
- A letter of authority, if a person is signing the application on behalf of a company or incorporated body (Section 51E of *Environmental Protection Act 1986*).
- A letter from the tenement holder authorising you to apply for a clearing permit on their tenement, (if the clearing is to be done on a tenement other than your own).
- A scaled map of the area proposed to clear (see Mapping Information Required, below).
- A description of the proposed activities.
- Additional information, as appropriate (see Assessment Information Required, below).

Mapping information required

Preferred Format: Digital spatial data on a CDROM with the following properties:

- **Format:** ESRI Shapefile
- **Geometry Type:** Polygon;
- **Coordinate System:** GCS GDA1994 (Geographic)
- **Datum:** GDA 1994 (Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994)

Whilst an ESRI Shapefile format is preferred, other formats such as Autocad (dxf), Microstation (dgn) and Mapinfo (TAB, MIF) can be provided. Please be aware that formats other than ESRI will need to be converted, which may cause a delay in the processing of your application.

Important Notes:

CD's or DVD's should be clearly labelled with proponent name and contents of the disc.

Please state clearly what coordinate system and datum the data is provided in.

- **Purpose Permits**

The supplied shapefile should contain a polygon that represents the outer extent of the area in which the proposed clearing is to take place. If indicative locations of clearing within this outer extent can be determined, they should be provided in a separate PDF or hard copy, but not as a shapefile.

If multiple areas are to be cleared, the areas should be submitted as individual shapefiles and labelled, eg area to be cleared for pit development, stockpile, roads, etc

- **Area Permits**

Where the area of proposed clearing can be clearly defined, the supplied polygon shapefile should contain only the extent of the area(s) to be cleared.

If digital spatial information cannot be provided, a scaled map is required showing Latitudes and Longitudes (coordinates).

Assessment information required

To assist with the assessment of your clearing permit application in an expeditious manner, it is highly recommended that detailed information is submitted with the clearing permit application. DMP is required to assess applications for clearing permits against the 10 "Clearing Principles", as defined in Schedule 5 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. The Clearing Principles broadly relate to the potential impacts of clearing on biodiversity, land degradation, and ground and surface water quality. The level of information required will be determined by the complexity of the application to be assessed, in conjunction with the risk to the receiving environment associated with the proposed activity.



Factors include: (1) the size of the area to be assessed, (2) the techniques used to clear, (3) whether the area is of high biodiversity, and (4) the purpose for which the application is intended e.g. exploration, mining, development, infrastructure etc.

Standard information recommended for the assessment of the application includes:

- **Aerial photographs** and **site photographs** of the area proposed to be cleared.
- **A Flora and vegetation survey.** Detail should include:
 - Mapping of vegetation types/associations/communities, their condition, and their representation in a regional context. Photographs of each vegetation type to be cleared are also recommended;
 - Declared Rare and Priority Flora species present or likely to be present. Details should include the location(s) and size of the population(s); the impact of the proposed clearing on the population(s); and the likely impact of the proposed clearing on the continued existence of the species.
- **A Fauna assessment.** Detail should include:
 - the fauna present or likely to be present, and their conservation significance;
 - an assessment of the significance of the vegetation and landform to be cleared, as a habitat for fauna; including mapping of any significant fauna habitats.
- **A Site overview**, with a brief description of geology, landforms, soils and hydrology.
- A summary and/or map of the **proposed developments** on the site.
- A **hydrological summary**, which includes discussion of the likelihood of impact from the clearing on riparian vegetation, wetlands, watercourses, surface water or groundwater.
- A **vegetation degradation** summary, which includes discussion of the likelihood of the spread of dieback disease and/or weeds.
- A **land degradation summary**, which includes discussion of the likelihood of land degradation, including waterlogging, acidification, salinisation, deep subsoil compaction and erosion.
- **An outline of environmental management measures and rehabilitation practices** that will be undertaken during and subsequent to the completion of the project. Existing Management Plans and Mining Proposals should be submitted, if they are relevant to the clearing proposal.
- **Copies of any correspondence** with DEC or other Government Agencies regarding the proposal.
- **A statement against each of the 10 Clearing Principles.**

Important Notes:

- Flora, vegetation and fauna surveys should be conducted at the appropriate time of the year and in accordance with the EPA Guidance Statement No. 51 (2004a), EPA Guidance Statement No. 56 (2004b) and the EPA's Position Statement No 3 (2002).
- Vegetation condition should be described using a recognised rating scale, eg. Keighery (1994).
- Determination of the likelihood of Declared Rare Flora/Priority Flora or Rare/Priority Fauna occurring within the area proposed to be cleared should be based on current knowledge of those taxa and the existing physical environment/known records/past history.
- Before conducting surveys, contact DEC regional offices for advice.

Useful reference material

CALM 2002. *A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions in 2002.*

Environmental Protection Act 1986.

Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004.

EPA (2002). *Terrestrial Biological Surveys as an Element of Biodiversity Protection. Position Statement No. 3.*

http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1033_PS3.pdf

EPA (2004a). *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia. No. 51.* http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1839_GS51.pdf

EPA (2004b). *Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors: Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia. No. 56.* http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1850_GS56.pdf

Keighery, B.J. 1994. *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community.* Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), Nedlands, Western Australia.