



Clearing native vegetation for apiaries

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), native vegetation can only be cleared with a clearing permit unless exempt.

Clearing to set up or maintain an apiary site must be undertaken in accordance with a clearing permit.

How do I obtain a clearing permit?

Native vegetation clearing permit application forms can be found in the 'forms' page at <www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvp>. Select the purpose permit **Form C2** application. The application fee for this permit is \$200.

Send the original application form to:

Department of Environment and Conservation
Native Vegetation Conservation Branch
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre
BENTLEY WA 6983

For new apiary sites, it is recommended that you submit your application to clear at the same time as your application for an apiary authority so both applications can be processed at the same time.

If you wish to clear on private land that you do not own, include with your application written authority signed by the landowner. The written authority must state that you have permission from the landowner to clear for the purpose of establishing or maintaining an apiary site.

You must include a list of all the sites you intend to clear with your application. It is recommended that you also include all possible sites for a five year period, even if you may not clear those sites. This will avoid the need to amend your permit to add additional areas.

If you need to clear for access tracks beyond what is allowed under the limited clearing exemptions (see Fact Sheet 9) include these in your application.

The clearing permit application process is described in detail in Fact Sheet 10.

The application will be assessed against clearing principles that consider biodiversity, water quality and land degradation as outlined in the EP Act. This assessment is used to decide whether a clearing permit will be granted and what permit conditions may be required to minimise any environmental impacts identified during the assessment.

How long will it take for a decision to be made?

The Department has a target timeframe of 80 per cent of applications to be decided within 60 calendar days of receipt, with a decision on the remaining 20 per cent within 90 calendar days. A 'decision' means an application to clear has been granted, given an undertaking to grant, refused, declined, withdrawn or amended.

The timeframe commences from the date an application is received and ends on the day a decision is made, excluding the time taken by the applicant to provide further information if required.

How many clearing permits will I need?

A single application/clearing permit can cover all your apiary sites.

What will a clearing permit allow me to do?

A clearing permit will allow you to clear and maintain cleared areas of your apiary sites under certain conditions.

Conditions vary between clearing permits, depending on the potential impact the clearing has on the environment. Generally, conditions found on a clearing permit, for the purpose of setting up and maintaining apiaries, are consistent with the conditions found in an apiary authority and will:

- list the locations where clearing can occur
- limit the area you may clear for each apiary site
- require you to clear in a manner that minimises the impact to environment (e.g. hand mow, rake or prune)
- require you to retain mature trees
- require you to clear in a manner that minimises the risk of spreading weeds and dieback



- require you to keep records of the areas that have been cleared
- and
- provide the Department with a report of these records.

The duration of the clearing permit is generally five years.

Appeals

The applicant has the right to appeal:

- the decision to refuse to grant a clearing permit
- the decision to refuse to grant all the clearing applied for.

Anyone may appeal the condition of the clearing permit. Anyone, except the applicant, may appeal the decision to grant a clearing permit.

Appeals must be made within **21 days** of the decision.

Amending a clearing permit

A clearing permit can be amended to accommodate your operations. If you need to clear beyond what is allowed in your clearing permit to:

- relocate a hive
- provide more space at an existing apiary
- set up a new apiary site

apply for an amendment using **Form C4**. The application fee for a purpose permit amendment is \$200.

Form C4 may also be used to extend the duration of your clearing permit. To extend the duration of your clearing permit the form must be submitted before your clearing permit expires.

Form C4 is available from the 'forms' page at <www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvp>.

Support provided by local Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) offices

Prior to clearing native vegetation under your clearing permit, liaise with the local DEC office in the region where your apiary site(s) occur. Local DEC district apiary officers will be able to provide you with information that will be useful for your apiary activities and help meet your clearing permit conditions.

More information

DEC provides a range of information at <www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvp>

Fact sheets provide basic information to cover the most common questions DEC receives about the EP Act clearing provisions

Application forms include guidance on what information is required to complete the form

Guides provide additional detail to what is covered in the facts sheets or forms

Environmentally sensitive areas can be viewed from the Native Vegetation Map Viewer at <www.dec.wa.gov.au/nvp> in the 'Data' section

Be clear before you clear – if you require assistance please contact DEC's Native Vegetation Conservation Branch on 9219 8744 or email <nvp@dec.wa.gov.au>

If your clearing relates to **mining or petroleum project** please contact **Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP)** Native Vegetation Assessment Branch for assistance on 9222 3333 or visit: <www.dmp.wa.gov.au/nvabinfo>

Please note.....

The above information provides a general guide to the clearing provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (available at <www.slp.wa.gov.au>). DEC has endeavored to ensure the accuracy of the contents of this document, it accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies and persons relying on this document do so at their own risk.