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Department of Biodiversity,
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Southern Forest Region

Guidelines for Removal or Disturbance of Native Vegetation on adjoining Crown Land

The Government and Community are Committed to Protecting and Conserving Native Vegetation on Public Land.

Why:

Conserving native vegetation reduces salinity, erosion and greenhouse effects, and promotes biodiversity.

Government and local authorities manage reserved areas of public (Crown) land for specific reasons such as water catchment, wildlife habitat, recreation, and cultural purposes. Remnant vegetation forms the basis of a network that maintains our natural systems and creates wildlife corridors. National Parks and Nature Reserves, road, rail and stream reserves are included. Impacts on these environments must be managed by the relevant agency.

Where:

Government agencies and local shires are often your neighbours and must give permission for your operations that impact on any Crown land.

How:

If you intend to clear any native vegetation, including regrowth, (e.g., to fence or access your land) the relevant agency will advise you of its policy and may arrange a written agreement allowing for the work.

A site inspection may be needed to ensure all practical, cultural and environmental factors, such as timber ownership, fire risk, dieback, debris disposal and rare species are considered.

Legislative protection:

The Department of Conservation and Land Management administers the Wildlife Conservation Act which protects native flora on Crown land. This legislation requires anyone disturbing or removing native vegetation to have lawful authority.

A penalty up to \$10,000 is provided for illegal clearing of vegetation.

Local shires and other government agencies also have legislation protecting native vegetation on lands they manage.

Your responsibility:

As a landowner, manager, supervisor, employee or contractor, you have a responsibility to make sure approval is obtained before work commences.

- Locate and mark the surveyed boundaries.
- Get permission from your neighbours, in writing if necessary.
- If you are repeating an operation, check again for new developments (e.g. a land use change or rare plant discovery).

If in doubt contact your local Shire or Department of Conservation and Land Management office before you start!

Department of Conservation and Land Management phone contacts

Manjimup District Office
Phone (08) 9771 7988

Pemberton District Office
Phone (08) 9776 1207

Walpole District Office
Phone (08) 9840 1027