

# Report

## St John's Ambulance Station Busselton Western Australia



### **Vegetation Clearing and management of Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) & other significant fauna**

Prepared by

**ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS PTY LTD  
A.B.N. 19115287593**

For

**The Department of Parks and Wildlife & DeMarchi Constructions and their  
clients**

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2013**



PO Box 685  
DUNSBOROUGH WA 6281  
Ph: +61 8 9759 1960  
Fax: +61 8 9759 1920  
Mobile: 042 759 1960  
Email: [info@ecosystemsolutions.com.au](mailto:info@ecosystemsolutions.com.au)

## **Limitations Statement**

This report has been solely prepared for De Marchi Construction (and their clients) and the Department of Environment and Conservation. No express or implied warranties are made by Ecosystem Solutions Pty Ltd regarding the findings and data contained in this report. No new research or field studies were conducted other than those specifically outlined in this report. All of the information details included in this report are based upon the research provided and obtained at the time Ecosystem Solutions Pty Ltd conducted its analysis.

In undertaking this work the authors have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information used. Any conclusions drawn or recommendations made in the report are done in good faith and the consultants take no responsibility for how this information and the report are used subsequently by others.

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## 1. Introduction

Ecosystem Solutions were engaged by De Marchi Constructions to monitor the removal of vegetation within an area adjoining the St Johns Ambulance Centre in Busselton. The clearing is required to allow for an additional ambulance bay and access to and from the station. During the clearing Ecosystem Solutions were to ensure the protection and management of any Western Ringtail Possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) or other significant fauna, that may be present.

This report is a summary of the results of this process.

## 2. Vegetation Clearing

A licence to take fauna for educational or public purposes, under Regulation 15 of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950, was obtained (No. TF006227 – Appendix A), to enable any fauna within the trees to be removed and relocated into adjoining habitat areas that were not being impacted.

Gary McMahon (B.Sc. M.Env Mgmt) from Ecosystem Solutions conducted the possum monitoring during the clearing phase. He arrived at 7.00 am on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

The trees to be cleared consisted of 5 individuals (4 x *Callistemon* spp and 1 x *Agonis flexuosa*). The locations of the trees were recorded and are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

All of the trees marked for removal were inspected for WRP animals or signs such as dreys or scats (Figures 2 & 3). One of the *Callistemon* trees had a drey (115° 19.252 E: -33° 39.312 S) as indicated on Figure 1. This drey was unoccupied.

The clearing was conducted by Paul De Marchi from De Marchi Construction using a chainsaw with the spoil being removed from the site on the day.

Table 1: Location of removed trees.

Tree	Location (East)	Location (South)
1- <i>Callistemon</i>	115° 19.254	-33° 39.310
2- <i>Callistemon</i>	115° 19.253	-33° 39.312
3- <i>Callistemon</i>	115° 19.253	-33° 39.312
4- <i>Callistemon</i>	115° 19.252	-33° 39.313
5- <i>Agonis</i>	115° 19.258	-33° 39.313

Overall no Western Ringtail Possums were seen during the clearing event.

Gary left the site at 11am after all the trees had been removed to stump level and were not capable of supporting any animals (Figures 4 & 5).

### 3. Figures



Figure 1: Map of Site



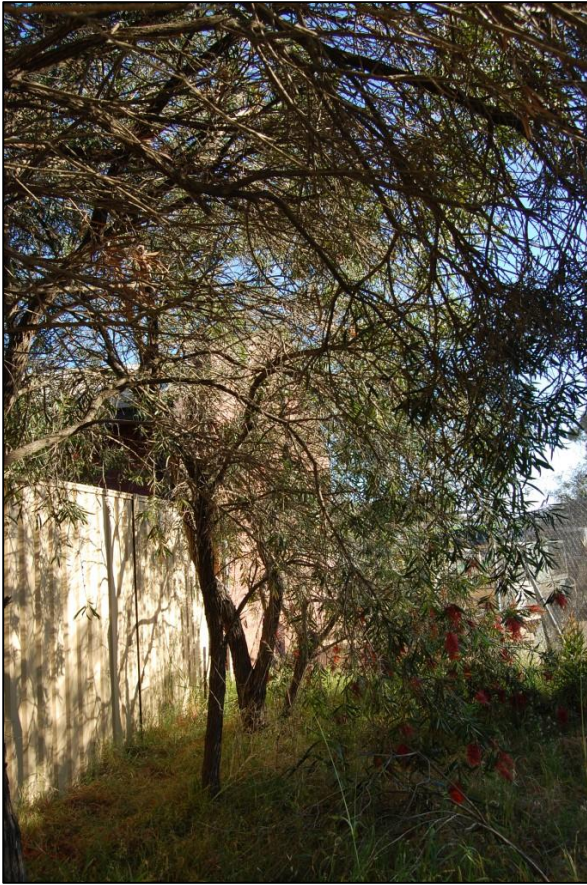


Figure 2: Area inspected prior to clearing (looking north)



Figure 3: Area inspected looking South



Figure 4: Area cleared looking south after removal (4 x *Callistemons*).



Figure 5: *Agonis* outside fenceline after removal (single *Agonis*)



## 4. Report




The following constitutes the form specified in DEC's draft WRP Vegetation Clearing Procedures - Appendix 4.

### 4.1. Vegetation Clearing

<b>Was DEC notified prior to clearing occurring</b>			
		Yes	
<b>Date and Times Clearing was undertaken</b>			
<b>Date</b>	29 October 2013		
<b>Start</b>	7.00 am		
<b>Completion</b>	11.00 am		
<b>Name of Clearing Contractor</b>			
		Paul DeMarchi – DeMarchi Construction	
<b>Name of Possum Spotter</b>			
		Gary McMahon – Ecosystem Solutions	
<b>Number of WRP observed/relocated</b>			
		None	
<b>Location where WRP were relocated</b>			
	<b>Animal</b>	<b>Initial Location</b>	<b>Released Location</b>
	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Number of dreys observed/removed</b>			
		1	
<b>Number of WRP injured/killed</b>			
		None	
<b>Name of rehabilitator/veterinarian surgery who holds injured WRP</b>			
		N/A	
<b>Was the management/mitigation plan objectives met</b>			
		Yes	
<b>Other Comments</b>			
		Nil	
<b>Name of person preparing report</b>			
		Gary McMahon – Ecosystem Solutions	



## 5. APPENDIX A.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE	
	<b>Department of Parks and Wildlife</b>
	<b>Enquiries:</b> Telephone: 08 9334 0333 Facsimile: 08 9334 0242
<b>Correspondence:</b>	17 DICK PERRY AVE, KENSINGTON, WESTERN AUSTRALIA Locked Bag 30 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983
	<b>PAGE</b> 2 <b>NO.</b> TF006227
<b>DATE OF ISSUE</b>	11/10/2013
<b>VALID FROM</b>	11/10/2013
<b>DATE OF EXPIRY</b>	30/11/2013
<b>LICENSEE:</b>	MR GG MCMAHON
<b>ADDRESS</b>	ECOSYSTEM SOLUTIONS PO BOX 685 DUNSBOROUGH WA 6281
	 <b>LICENSING OFFICER</b> (GARY GLEN)
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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE



Department of  
Parks and Wildlife



Enquiries:  
Telephone:  
Facsimile:

17 DICK PERRY AVE, KENSINGTON, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
08 9334 0333  
08 9334 0242

Correspondence:

Locked Bag 30  
Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983

PAGE  
NO.

1  
TF006227

RECEIPT NO.

AMOUNT  
\$0.00

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT 1950  
REGULATION 15

LICENCE TO TAKE FAUNA FOR EDUCATIONAL OR PUBLIC PURPOSES

THE UNDERMENTIONED PERSON MAY TAKE, FOR THE PURPOSES SPECIFIED,  
THE SPECIES OF FAUNA LISTED BELOW, SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS  
ENDORSED ON AND ATTACHED TO THIS LICENCE.

DIRECTOR GENERAL

CONDITIONS

- 1 THE LICENSEE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT AND REGULATIONS AND ANY NOTICES IN FORCE UNDER THIS ACT AND REGULATIONS.
- 2 UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORISED IN THE CONDITIONS OF THIS LICENCE OR OTHERWISE IN WRITING BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, SPECIES OF FAUNA DECLARED AS LIKELY TO BECOME EXTINCT, RARE OR OTHERWISE IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION SHALL NOT BE CAPTURED OR OTHERWISE TAKEN.
- 3 NO ENTRY OR COLLECTION OF FAUNA TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON ANY PRIVATE PROPERTY OR PASTORAL LEASE WITHOUT THE CONSENT IN WRITING OF THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER, OR FROM ANY ABORIGINAL RESERVE WITHOUT THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS.
- 4 NO FAUNA SHALL BE TAKEN FROM ANY NATURE RESERVE, WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, NATIONAL PARK, MARINE PARK, TIMBER RESERVE OR STATE FOREST WITHOUT PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. NO FAUNA SHALL BE TAKEN FROM ANY OTHER PUBLIC LAND WITHOUT THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY MANAGING THAT LAND.
- 5 NO FAUNA OR THEIR PROGENY SHALL BE RELEASED IN ANY AREA WHERE IT DOES NOT NATURALLY OCCUR, NOR BE HANDED OVER TO ANY OTHER PERSON OR AUTHORITY UNLESS APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, NOR SHALL THE REMAINS OF SUCH FAUNA BE DISPOSED OF IN SUCH MANNER AS TO CONFUSE THE NATURAL OR PRESENT DAY DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIES.
- 6 THIS LICENCE AND THE WRITTEN PERMISSION REFERRED TO AT CONDITIONS 3 & 4 MUST BE CARRIED BY THE LICENSEE OR AUTHORISED AGENT AT ALL TIMES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVING THEIR AUTHORITY TO TAKE FAUNA WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO THEIR RIGHT TO DO SO BY A WILDLIFE OFFICER, ANY OTHER STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE OR ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC.
- 7 FURTHER CONDITIONS (IF APPLICABLE) ARE ATTACHED.

PURPOSE

CAPTURE AND RELOCATION OF WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUMS (PSEUDOCHEIRUS OCCIDENTALIS) IF REQUIRED DURING TREE REMOVAL, AS PER APPROVED VEGETATION CLEARING, AT ST JOHNS AMBULANCE CENTRE BUSSELTON. ANY FAUNA CAPTURED WILL BE RELEASED INTO ADJACENT OR NEARBY SUITABLE HABITAT.

**WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT 1950  
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION REGULATIONS**

**Regulation 15:- Licence to Take/Capture Fauna For Educational or Public Purposes**

**FURTHER CONDITIONS** (OF LICENCE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_)

1. The licensee shall ensure that all due care is taken in the capture and handling of fauna to prevent injury or mortality resulting from that capture or handling. Where traps or other mechanical means or devices are used to capture fauna these shall be inspected at regular intervals throughout each day of their use.
2. At the conclusion of research all markers and signs erected by the licensee and all traps shall be removed, all pitfalls shall be refilled and the study area returned to the condition it was in prior to the research/capture program.
3. No collecting is to be undertaken in areas where it would impinge on pre-existing scientific research programs.
4. Any inadvertently captured specimens of fauna which is declared as likely to become extinct, rare or otherwise in need of special protection is to be released immediately at the point of capture. Where such a specimen is injured or deceased, the licensee shall contact Department of Environment and Conservation licensing staff at Kensington (08 9423 2434) for advice on disposal. Records are to be kept of any fauna so captured and details included in the report required under further condition 5 below.
5. Within one month of the expiration of this licence (or at such other time or times as the Director General may determine) the holder shall furnish to the Director General a return setting out in full detail the number of each species of fauna taken/captured during the currency of the licence, the localities where the species was/were taken/captured and the method of handling of such fauna and disposal of specimens. A copy of any paper or report resulting from this research should be lodged in due course with the Director General. In the case of consultants, a list of the fauna handled, the localities involved and a copy of the interpretive data prepared should be lodged.

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