



**DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**  
**Clearing permit required for Cocos (Keeling) Islands native vegetation**  
**including the coconut tree, *Cocos nucifera***

The Commonwealth Government, through the Service Delivery Arrangement with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA) have completed a recent assessment of native vegetation species that exist on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

This assessment has identified and confirmed the coconut tree, *Cocos nucifera* found on Cocos (Keeling) Islands and historically formed plantations on the islands is considered native vegetation where it is growing along the shoreline (indigenous environment) where seed nuts can naturally move and germinate. Where it is growing outside its indigenous environment i.e. inland areas and within the historical plantations of the islands, it is not considered native vegetation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)*.

As a result, the clearing of *Cocos nucifera* in its indigenous environment (shoreline areas) is subject to the clearing provisions for native vegetation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)*.

Please be aware that all clearing of native vegetation on Cocos (Keeling) Islands, including the coconut tree *Cocos nucifera* within its indigenous environment, can only be done:

- 1) in accordance with a clearing permit obtained from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA);
- 2) where an exemption is available pursuant to Schedule 6 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)*,
- 3) where an exemption is available under Regulation 5 of the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* and the area is not declared to be an environmentally sensitive area, or
- 4) in accordance with a notice issued under section 51DA(5) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)*,

The clearing of native vegetation otherwise then in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)* is an offence.

To be certain of compliance with the clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986(WA)(CKI)*, prior to undertaking any clearing, please contact the Department on [info@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@dwer.wa.gov.au)