

## **SITE INSPECTION REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, CHENNAI CIRCLE, CHENNAI**

The User Agency, i.e., Divisional Engineer, Metro Highways Department has uploaded the Proposal (No:FP/TN/ROAD/148656/2021, Dt:22.10.2021) for diversion of Forest area under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 formation of Tambaram Eastern bypass passes through Northern side of Vandalur RF.

The proposed area has been inspected by me on 15.06.2023 along with Forest Range Officer and staff of Tambaram Range and staff from User Agency. The proposal is a linear project and it passes through Vandalur Reserved Forest of Tambaram Range, Chennai Forest Division. An extent of 4.46 Ha is proposed to be diverted in total, which includes 1.25 ha Vandalur RF under Modern Nursery Perungalathur Research wing.

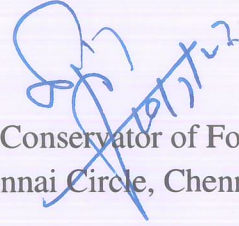
Vandalur Reserved Forest has been declared under section 16 of the Tamil Nadu Forest Act 1882. The vegetation of the area is described as 'Vandalur Scrub' and is dominated by thorny shrubs and hardy species. The Tambaram Eastern bypass road in the proposed forest area shall not affect the movement of birds and other species mentioned above. The RF or any portion of the proposed area is neither forming a part of National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere reserve and Wildlife Migration Corridor nor forming a part of Eco-Sensitive Zone of any Protected Area notified under Wildlife Protection Act 1972. The forest area proposed for diversion under F(C) Act lies adjacent to the sub-urban residential areas.


As stated by the user Agency the proposed project is of National importance with the intention to provide better transport facilities to the inhabitants of the city and it has been informed that there is no alternative route available for this project and there is no sufficient Right of Way available with Highways, the diversion of proposed Forest area 4.46 ha (the barest minimum forest area) in Vandalur RF has been taken into consideration. Further, the project proponent has agreed to pay the Net Present Value of the above Forest land and has also given an undertaking to bear the cost to be incurred towards felling of standing trees 285 Nos in which 117 are spontaneous and 168 are planted trees and its transportation during formation of

Tambaram Eastern bypass road under the said project as well as cost involved towards Compensatory Afforestation.

With regard to raising of Compensatory Afforestation in lieu of diversion of 4.46 ha. of forest land in Vandalur RF of Tambaram Range for formation of Tambaram Eastern Bypass Road, the District Forest Officer Chennai Division has reported that it was decided to allocate 8.92 ha. non-forest land in SF.No.96/1 Vedhanarayanapuram village in Chengalpattu District. The District Forest Officer Chengalpattu Division has reported in reference No.6525/2003/D, Dated: 28.02.2023 that the land is already having vegetation with forest like characteristics and hence compensatory afforestation could not be taken up in the said land. Hence, an extent of 8.92 ha. of degraded forest land in Gudalur RF of Tambaram Range has been identified for compensatory afforestation.

Taking into consideration of the facts stated above, I recommend the proposal submitted by the user agency, Divisional Engineer (Highways) for diversion of the Forest land (4.46 ha) in Vandalur RF.

  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Chennai Circle, Chennai.

  
10/7/23