



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1066/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Wyndham/East Kimberley

1.3. Property details

Property: KING LOCATION 633 (KUNUNURRA 6743)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.5		Mechanical Removal	Recreation

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Association 59 - Grasslands, high grass savanna sparse tree; Bauhinia and Coolabah over Mitchell, blue and tall upland grasses (Hopkins et al, 2001).	The motor cross track was initially created in the 1970's causing disturbance to the native vegetation of the area. Majority of the upper storey has been retained, however the middle storey has been significantly altered or removed. The lower storey consists mainly of grasses, however all vegetation has been removed from the motor cross track. The proposed clearing will alter the course of the track and reduce the footprint.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The description of the vegetation under application was obtained during a site visit in November 2005 (DoE Ref: TRIM KND978).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
During the site visit it was observed that the area under application was moderately degraded compared to the surrounding vegetation due to the presence of an active motor cross track. The surrounds contain a highly vegetated lower, middle and upper storey whereas the application area, although retaining majority of the upper storey, had lost most of the middle storey and the lower storey consists mainly of grasses. Therefore the application area is unlikely to represent an area of high biodiversity.

Methodology Site visit (2005)

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The grasslands and tree storeys (Shepherd et al, 2001; Site visit) would provide some habitat for fauna species. However, the surrounding areas provide a higher quality of habitat environments that would be utilised by any displaced fauna. A site visit and desktop survey of the area did not locate any species of conservation status. Given the current level of disturbance from the motor cross track, there is a low likelihood of the area under application being a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Methodology Shepherd et al (2001);
Site visit (2005);
GIS Database - Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/04

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known Declared Rare and Priority Species within a 50km radius of the area proposed for clearing. While a botanical survey has not been undertaken at this site, the highly disturbed condition from human activity makes the area unlikely for the continued existence of significant flora.

Methodology GIS Database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/04;
Site Visit (2005)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within a 30km radius of the area proposed for clearing.

Methodology GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/03

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with a current extent below 30% of the pre-European settlement extent (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

	Pre-European area (ha) *	Current extent (ha) *	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Victoria Bonaparte	1,888,102	1,870,115	~99	Least concern	0
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley		No information available			
Beard vegetation association - 59	128,603	128,603	~100	Least concern	9.8

* Shepherd et al. (2001)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

The vegetation of the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 59 (Hopkins et al, 2001), of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent still remaining (Shepherd et al, 2001). Vegetation complexes within this application are above 30% representation, therefore the vegetation type is of 'least concern' for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

Methodology Hopkins et al (2001);
Shepherd et al (2001);
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
GIS Database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application does not contain any wetlands. The Ord River is located within 100m of the application area. A drainage line is located within the area to the north-east, feeding to the Ord River. The current location of the motor cross track passes through this drainage line. The proposed works will relocate the motor cross track further from the river and the proposed rehabilitation works to the drainage line will minimise impacts to the river.

Methodology Site Visit (2005);
GIS Databases:
- Hydrology, linear - DOE 1/2/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 08/01

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The method of clearing is by blade down mechanical removal which, due to the disturbance of the soil, may result in increased land degradation risks. However, the proposed new track will use less area, thereby reducing the overall impact of the track on the area and avoiding the sensitive drainage areas. The design of the track also aims to cut across areas of slope rather than down with the slope, which would reduce the potential for erosion.

Methodology Permit application;
Site visit (2005)

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no CALM managed lands adjacent to the area proposed to be cleared. The nearest conservation area is Mirima National Park, located approximately 8.5km southeast of the area under application. Given the small size of the proposed area to be cleared and the distance to Mirima National Park, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/06/04

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application is not in a Public Drinking Water Source Area, therefore the quality of the groundwater and surface water do not require protection for human consumption. The small area to be cleared, 2.5 hectares, is unlikely to have a significant impact on the catchment area or quality of surface or groundwater.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PWDSA's) - DOE 29/11/04
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 3/4/03
- Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Flooding occurs seasonally over the December to March period, where flood height and duration are lengthy and extreme. The clearing of 2.5 hectares of vegetation is unlikely to increase these naturally occurring flood events.

Methodology GIS Database: Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

Reserve 39391 is vested in the Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley for the purpose of Recreation. The Shire is currently in the process of renewing the lease on the reserve for the Kununurra Motor Cross Club. The Shire has given authorisation to the Kununurra Motor Cross Club to perform the clearing on their behalf.

Reserve 39391 was gazetted and vested on the 7 March 1986, therefore Native Title has been extinguished. It was also removed from the Miriuwung Gajerrong 2 claim and determination (IN25643).

The proposed clearing occurs in an area that is covered by the following Registered Indigenous Heritage Sites - Prangkulma (ID 18775), Tjaliwong (ID 17947), Riverfarm Road and Buttons Crossing (ID 18863), Gunanurreng - Ord River (ID 19356) and Ngerrelingarrum / Ivanhoe Crossing (ID 13568). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

The proposed clearing will not require a water license under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, nor a works approval or EP license under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

This application is not at variance to advice provided by the Environmental Protection Authority.

Methodology Environmental Protection Authority (1999) CRN 136082
 Environmental Protection Authority (2005) CRN 214594
 Environmental Protection Authority (2000) Bulletin 970
 GIS Database: Aboriginal Sites of Significance – DIA 28/02/03

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Recreation	Mechanical Removal	2.5	Grant	Assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The Assessing Officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.

5. References

- Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMScience after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)