



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1106/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Truffle Properties Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11 ON DIAGRAM 92046 (DEANMILL 6258)
 LOT 102 ON PLAN 47397 (GLENORAN 6258)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

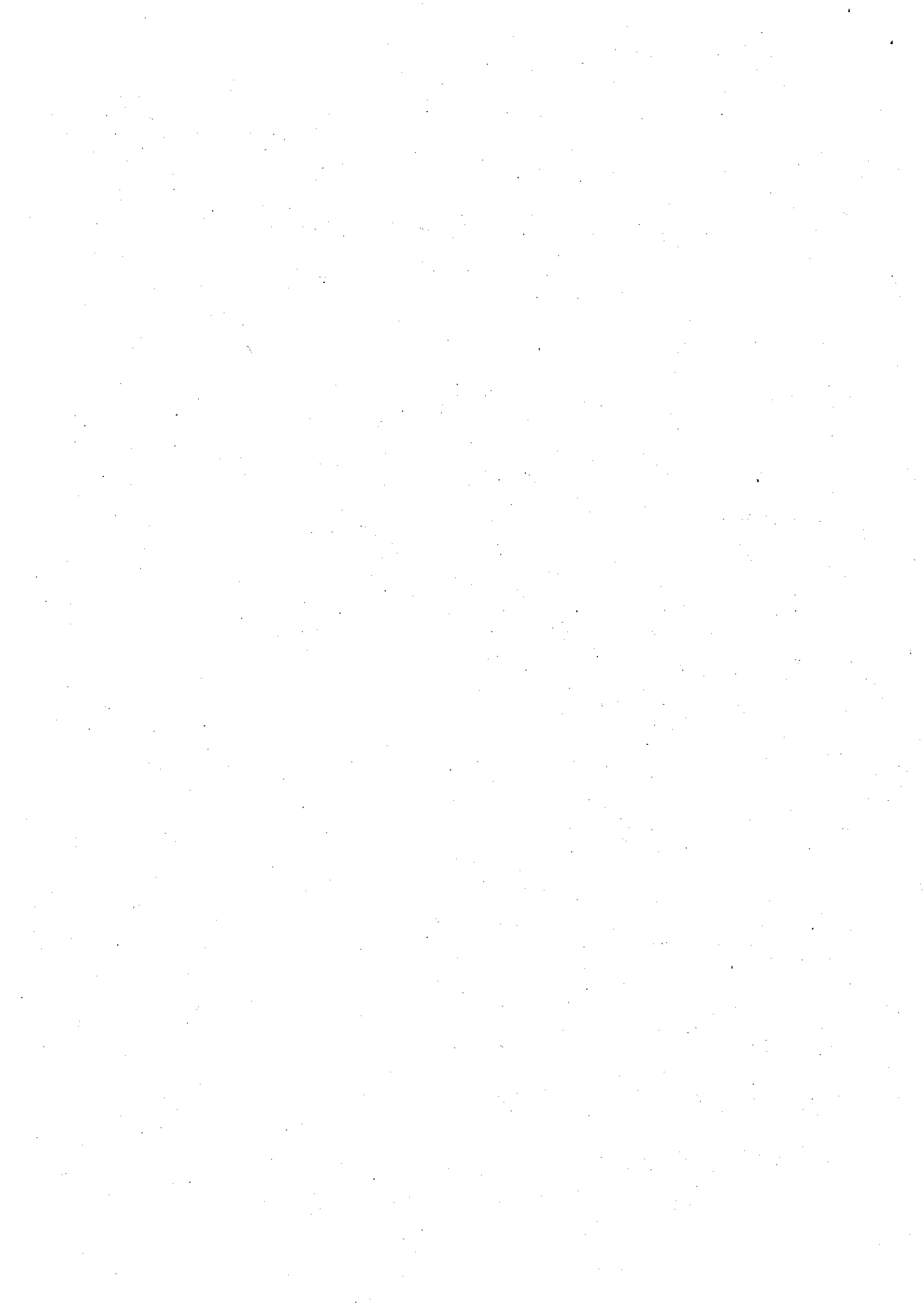
Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15.4	12	Mechanical Removal	Plantation

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 Vegetation Association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri; Beard Vegetation Association 1144: tall forest; karri and marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>); Mattiske Vegetation Class - Pemberton (PM1): Tall open forest of <i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> with mixtures of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> on valley slopes and low forest of <i>Agonis juniperina</i> - <i>Banksia seminuda</i> - <i>Callistachys lanceolata</i> on valley floors in the perhumid zone; Mattiske Vegetation Class - Crowea (Cry): Tall open forest of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> with mixture of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> and <i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> on uplands in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.	Lot 102: The area proposed for clearing in Lot 102 will remove a large percentage of native vegetation remaining on the property, with the areas to be cleared considered to vary between good and very good (Keighery BJ, 1994). Vegetation within the area to be cleared is dominated particularly by <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri), scattered <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (Jarrah) with the occasional <i>Agonis</i> spp. (Peppermint). The understorey is dominated by <i>Pteridium esculentum</i> (Bracken), <i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i> (Native Wisteria) and <i>Hibbertia</i> spp. Several wildflowers were also noted, for example <i>Caladenia flava</i> (Cowsllp orchid). Some weed species were also noted. Evidence of heavy historic logging is apparent, as the diameter of most trees is no larger than 20cm. Regrowth from these events is evident, as all trees are of similar height. Lot 102 has been subject to a minor thinning programme several years ago. Even though the biodiversity of flora species is high, the area still remains fairly disturbed.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from DEC Site Visit Report (2006)



See above	See above	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	See above
See above	Lot 11: Vegetation within the area proposed to be cleared comprises similar vegetation to that of Lot 102, ie <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Marri) and scattered <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (Jarrah). However, virtually no understorey exists, due to continuous stock grazing. Weeds are more dominant in this area than in Lot 102. The condition of the existing vegetation in this area is considered to be degraded (Keighery 1994).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	See above

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**

The applicant proposes to selectively log, clear and burn 7.7818 hectares (ha) from within Lot 102 on Plan 47397, Glenoran, and 6.9869 ha from within Lot 11 on Diagram 92046, Deanmill (Shire of Manjimup) of native vegetation for planting Oak and Hazelnut trees for the production of black truffles. The proponent has also applied to clear 12 isolated paddock trees under this application.

At present, lots 102 and 11 are approximately 30% and 40% vegetated respectively.

The area proposed for clearing in Lot 102 will remove a large percentage of native vegetation remaining on the property, with the areas to be cleared considered to vary between good and very good (Keighery, 1994). The area proposed to be cleared is dominated by *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri), scattered *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) with the occasional *Agonis* spp. (Peppermint). The understorey is dominated by *Pteridium esculentum* (Bracken), *Hardenbergia comptoniana* (Native Wisteria) and *Hibbertia* spp (DEC site visit report, 2000). The site has been historically logged with the diameter of most trees being no larger than 20cm. Recent thinning has also occurred.

Vegetation on Lot 11 typically comprises similar vegetation to that of Lot 102, however virtually no understorey exists, due to continuous stock grazing. Weed species are more dominant in this area, The condition of the existing vegetation in this area is considered to be degraded (Keighery 1994).

Given the above it is unlikely that the areas to be cleared comprise of a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
DEC Site Visit Report (2006)

(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 vegetation on both lots appears to be regrowth of *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) and *Eucalyptus marginata* that is not yet at a stage of maturity that would be readily used as fauna habitat.

Lot 102 and Lot 11 are bounded by State Forest 36 to the west and north. The vegetation of this State Forest contains intact vegetation which is likely to have much better species diversity and vegetation condition than the area proposed to be cleared. It is unlikely that the areas to be cleared will be at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
DEC Site Visit Report (2006)

(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 mapped records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within a fifteen kilometre radius of the area under application. Nine records of DRF *Caladenia harringtoniae* and one record of a Priority 4 Flora *Drosera*

occidentalis are located within a radius of between 15km and 20km from the proposed clearing. All DRF occur on different vegetation types to that of the area under application.

Given that there are no mapped records of Declared Rare Flora within a 15km radius of the area under application, it is unlikely that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/07/05

(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**
Mapping indicates there are no threatened ecological communities within a fifty kilometre radius of the area under application. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological communities - CALM 12/04/05
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95

(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 at variance to this Principle**

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current Extent Remaining (ha)*	Conservation Status**	% in Reserves/CALM managed land
IBRA Bioregion:				
Warren	836,270	724,014	86.6	Least concern
Shire: Manjimup	705,670	591,748	83.9	Least concern
Beard Unit 3	3,046,385	2,197,837	72.1	Least concern
Beard Unit 1144	201,257	140,235	69.7	Least concern
Mattiske Veg:				
Pemberton(PM1)	258,061	169,317	65.6	Least concern
Crowea (Cry)	337,605	236,268	70.0	Least concern

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The area under application is located in the Shire of Manjimup and within the Warren Bioregion. The extent of pre-European vegetation within these areas is 83.9% and 86.6% respectively (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is a component of Beard Vegetation Associations 3 and 1144 (Hopkins et al., 2001) of which there is 72.1% and 69.7% respectively of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Shepherd et al., 2001). These vegetation types are therefore considered as having a conservation status of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The proposed clearing also forms a component of Mattiske vegetation types Pemberton (PM1) and Crowea (Cry) where 65.6% and 70.0% respectively of the pre-European extent still remains (Mattiske Consulting, 1998). These vegetation types are also considered as having a conservation status of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

Given that the proposed clearing does not fall within an extensively cleared area and that the pre-European extent of the Warren Bioregion, Beard Vegetation Associations and Mattiske Vegetation types of the area under application meet the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001 - 2005 (being greater than 30% of that present pre-1750) this proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology Shepherd et al (2001)
Hopkins et al., 2001
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
GIS Database:

- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 10/01
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00

(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

There are no wetlands or watercourses within the proposed clearing site.

Two perennial watercourses are located approximately 250m to the west and 800m to the east of the proposed clearing. A minor non-perennial watercourse passes 80m to the east of the proposed clearing and flows between two earth dams. A water reservoir, Scabby Gully Dam, lies 230m to the west of the area under application.

Given the distance between the proposed clearing and the identified watercourses and reservoir, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of these waterbodies.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear - DOE 1/2/04
 - Rivers 250K - GA
 - Lakes 250K - GA

(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

A report by Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA, 2006) found that the proposed clearing of 15 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

- Methodology** DAFWA Report (2006)

(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

The area proposed to be cleared does not lie within or adjacent to areas set aside for conservation.

Approximately 200m to the west of the proposed clearing is an Environmentally Sensitive Area listed on the Register of the National Estate as a Karri Management Priority Area. This area also forms the Donnelly State Forest, managed by CALM. Two of the Beard Vegetation associations and two of the Mattiske vegetation types mapped within this conservation area are the same as those of the proposed clearing. The pre-European extent remaining of these Beard and Mattiske vegetation types is above 65%, and therefore considered as having a conservation status of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

Given the distance between the proposed clearing and the identified conservation reserves, and that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is well represented both locally and regionally, it is unlikely that the clearing of native vegetation will impact the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

- Methodology** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
- GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 10/01
 - Register of national Estate - EA 28/01/03
 - Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DOE 30/5/05

(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 proposed clearing site lies within the Warren River Catchment. The region has an annual rainfall of 1200mm. Groundwater salinity has been mapped at 500 - 1000mg/L.

The area under application has been identified as falling within the Warren River Water Reserve, Lefroy Brook Catchment Area and Manjimup Dam Catchment Area, all declared as Public Drinking Water Source Areas under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS). These areas require protection to maintain the quality of raw water used to supply public drinking water schemes. The land on which clearing is proposed has been classified as 'Zone D' within these catchments, where clearing may be approved subject to the statutory

limitation that 10% of the land in question remains uncleared. DEC Site Visit Report (2006) states that approximately 20% of native vegetation will remain if clearing is approved.

Therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 23/03/05
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
 - CAWSA Part 11A Clearing Control Catchments - DOW
 - Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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**
 The proposed clearing is not likely to exacerbate the incidence of flooding as it is relatively high in a landscape that has not been subject to extensive clearing.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

- Comments**
- The Shire of Manjimup granted planning approval in late April 2006 for the planting of Oak and Hazelnut trees for the production of black truffles, subject to 8 attached conditions.
- The Shire of Manjimup advised they have no objections to the proposed clearing as long as all vegetated buffers of at least 20m on either side of any watercourses are retained. No other submissions from the public have been received.

There is no RIWI Act Licence or Works approval required for the proposed works.

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application. The Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian Newspaper constitutes legal notification of the Native Title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993. No response was received from the representative body.

- Methodology** GIS Database:
- Native Title Claims - DLI 07/11/05
 - RIWI Act, Areas - WRC 05/04/02

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Plantation	Mechanical Removal	15.4 12	The assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposal is not at variance to Principle (e); is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j).

5. References

DAFWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref DOC1947.

Department of Environment and Conservation. Site Visit Report (2006). TRIM ref DOC6990

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, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.

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
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
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 DEC)

