



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1114/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Western Australian Land Authority

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (Ennis Avenue, ROCKINGHAM 6168)

Local Government Area: City Of Rockingham

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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 3048 - Shrublands; scrub-heath on Swan Coastal Plain	The proposal includes the clearing of up to 0.35 hectares of native and non-native vegetation located within a road reserve for the purpose of creating a visual corridor to a new land development.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was obtained during a site visit on Thursday 27 April 2006 and from a vegetation assessment conducted by Dr Paul Van Der Moezel from ATA Environmental (2005).
Hedde vegetation complex - Quindalup complex - Coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances - the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance. Local variations include the low closed forest of <i>M.lanceolata</i> - <i>Callitris preissii</i> and the closed scrub of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> .	The vegetation under application is a mixture of planted landscaping and remnant native vegetation. Native species within the applied area include <i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> , <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> , <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> , <i>Callistemon</i> sp., and <i>Melaleuca huegelii</i> . Species that are not native to the local area include <i>E.platypus</i> , <i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i> and weed species. The clearing will include dead trees and shrubs, weeds, <i>A.rostellifera</i> and selected <i>E.platypus</i> . Existing <i>E.gomphocephala</i> and <i>X.preissii</i> will be retained and supplemented with additional planting of <i>E.gomphocephala</i> and transplanted <i>X.preissii</i> . Significant understorey of <i>Callistemon</i> sp. and <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. will also be retained.		

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 vegetation under application is located adjacent to a road and comprises a mixture of planted landscaping, native species and weeds. Given this, and the degraded condition of the vegetation, it is not considered likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06

(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 under application includes shrubs and mature *E.gomphocephala* that have the potential to provide habitat for fauna, however the applied vegetation is in a degraded to completely degraded condition, is limited in size and is located adjacent to a road, therefore the habitat potential is limited. In addition, the proponent has advised that all *E.gomphocephala*, and some shrub within the applied area will be retained.

Given the limited size and condition of the applied vegetation, and the location adjacent to a road, it is not considered to comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06

(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 populations of Declared Rare or Priority Flora (DRF) within the local area (5km radius of the application) and given the degraded condition of the vegetation under application it is not considered likely to include DRF species.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
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**

There are 22 known occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the local area, the closest of which is located approximately 500m to the northeast. The applied area is located within the buffer for this and other TECs.

Although the applied area is located within a TEC buffer, the vegetation under application is a limited amount in a degraded condition and is located on the opposite side of a road to the said TECs. It is therefore not considered likely to include a TEC or be necessary for the maintenance of the nearby TECs.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05

(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 vegetation under application is defined as 'Quindalup Complex', which is classified as coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances - the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance (Hedde et al. 1980). The applied vegetation is also defined as Beard vegetation association 3048 - shrublands; scrub-heath on Swan Coastal Plain (Shepherd et al.2001). These complexes have representations of 47.1% and 28.7% respectively of the present pre-European settlement, which are considered depleted and vulnerable (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

While the representation figures classify Beard Vegetation association as vulnerable, the vegetation on site is limited, is in a degraded condition and is therefore not considered likely to be representative of this community.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002
EPA 2000
Hedde et al. 1980
Shepherd et al. 2001

(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 a number of wetlands within the local area, the closest of which is a Conservation Category Wetland located approximately 760m to the east of the applied area.

Given the distance to the nearest wetland, and that no wetland dependent vegetation was observed during the site visit, the proposal is not considered likely to impact vegetation associated with a wetland or waterbody.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
GIS Database: Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain - DOE

(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

Soils within the area under application are part of the Quindalup Qf3 phase, which is defined as deep calcareous sands with variable organic matter (Department of Agriculture 2005). These soils have a low risk of land degradation including salinity, acid sulphate soils, erosion and waterlogging.

In addition, the vegetation under application is limited in amount and condition, and therefore the proposal is not considered likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
Department of Agriculture (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 a number of conservation reserves located within the local area, including Leda Nature Reserve. The closest conservation reserve is a Bush Forever site located approximately 450m to the southeast of the applied area. Given the limited amount and condition of the vegetation under application its removal is not considered likely to impact the values of any nearby conservation area.

The Hedde vegetation complex 'Quindalup Complex' and Beard vegetation association 3048 currently have 5.2% (Hedde et al 1980) and 19.2% (Shepherd et al. 2001) respectively in secure tenure, with JANIS (1997) recommending that 15% of the pre-1750 distribution of each vegetation ecosystem should be protected in a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. Although the Quindalup complex has less than the recommended 15% in secure tenure, due to the degraded condition of the vegetation under application it is not considered to be representative of this complex and therefore has limited conservation value.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
Hedde et al 1980
Janis Forests Criteria (1997)
Shepherd et al. 2001
GIS Databases:
Bushforever - MFP 07/01
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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 area under application is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) and there is a low risk of salinity and acid sulphate soils. The nearest waterbody is a Conservation Category Wetland located approximately 760m to the east.

Given the distance to the nearest waterbody and the limited amount and condition of the vegetation under application, its removal is not likely to impact the level or quality of groundwater, or the quality of surface water.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
Agmaps 2003
GIS Databases:
Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) - DOE 13/4/05
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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**
Given the limited amount of vegetation to be cleared, the slight relief of the area, and the high infiltration rates associated with the soil type, the proposal is not considered likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

Methodology Site visit 27/4/06
GIS Databases:
Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments
A portion of the applied vegetation is located outside the road reserve and within an adjacent lot, which is owned by WA Land Authority and has current subdivision approval. A permit is therefore not required to clear the applied vegetation within this lot.

The road reserve under application was located within a SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) review area. WA Land Authority requested that the lot be excised from the proposal area. Landcorp advised that they were not seeking to retain the Ennis Ave road reserve in the SEA proposal area and it has now been excised, and the DoE is no longer constrained by Section 51F(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

The lot under application is part of a Native Title Claim however, since it is privately owned Native Title is extinguished under the Native Title Act. Therefore the clearing as proposed should not fall under the future acts process of the Native Title Act 1993.

The Department of Environment and Department of Water require no other statutory approvals for this proposal.

Methodology GIS Database: Native Title Claims - DLI 7/11/05

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	0.35	Grant	<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.</p> <p>WA Land Authority has proposed to retain all <i>E.gomphocephala</i> and <i>X.preissii</i> within the applied area, which includes those not located within the road reserve. The vegetation assessment has been conducted to reflect this and has not assessed the removal of these species. Given this, a condition has been placed preventing the removal of these species within the applied area.</p> <p>Condition: 1. The permit holder shall not clear <i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> and <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 1114/1.</p>

5. References

Department of Agriculture (2005) Agmaps Land Manager CD Rom, State of Western Australia.

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.

EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.

Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

JANIS Forests Criteria (1997) Nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve System for Forests in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Regional Forests Agreement process. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

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.

Van der Moezel (2005) Vegetation assessment for East Rockingham Stage 2 - Ennis Avenue road reserve, ATA Environmental, Perth. DoE TRIM ref. IN25568-02

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)