



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1129/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Plantagenet

### 1.3. Property details

Property: WOOGENELLUP ROAD RESERVE BETWEEN ALBANY HIGHWAY AND RAIL CROSSING

Local Government Area: Shire Of Plantagenet

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)  
0.43

No. Trees

Method of Clearing  
Mechanical Removal

For the purpose of:  
Road construction or maintenance

## 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's Vegetation Association 3 - Medium forest: jarrah-marri (Hopkins et al., 2001).	Clearing of 0.43ha of road reserve for the purpose of widening Woogenellup Road. Vegetation consists mostly of jarrah and marri trees with little or no native understorey (DEC Site Visit 21/06/2006).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery, 1994).	Vegetation structure consists of native overstorey with few understorey species present. Understorey dominated by weed species (DEC Site Visit 21/06/2006).

## 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**

A site visit by DEC officers Louise Everett and Mieke Bourne showed that the area to be cleared contains native overstorey species in good condition, however the native understorey species are sparse and many weeds are present. It is unlikely that the area to be cleared supports high levels of biodiversity.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit (21/06/2006).

### (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 lack of native understorey within the area under application restricts the possible habitat of smaller native fauna, however, a number of the larger trees may contain hollows (DEC Site Visit 21/06/2006) which could provide habitat to a number of fauna species.

It is unlikely that the vegetation is a significant habitat for indigenous fauna due to the lack of connectivity to larger tracts of native vegetation and the degraded nature of the vegetation under application.

Additionally, the proponent has agreed to revegetate an equal area of degraded roadside vegetation bordering the area under application.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit (21/06/2006).  
GIS Database: Threatened Fauna - CALM - 30/09/2005.

**(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**

Two populations of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) have been recorded within 5km of the proposed clearing area. *Caladenia christineae* is Declared Rare and is located 2.3km South West of the proposed area, and *Synophea preissii* is a Priority 3 species and is located 5.1km North East of the proposed area.

Due to the absence of native understorey, the degraded nature of the area under application (DEC Site Visit 21/06/2006), and the absence of any vegetation corridors between the proposed clearing site and the site of DRF, it is considered unlikely that the DRF or Priority Flora identified within the local area are present within the area under application, or that the area under application would provide a significant habitat for DRF.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit (21/06/2006).  
GIS Databases:  
Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM - 01/07/2005.  
Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 2003.

**(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**

The closest Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) mapped within the area proposed to be cleared, is located approximately 18km East. There is no Threatened Plant Communities mapped within the local area.

There is no vegetation link between the TEC and the area under application, it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM - 12/04/2005.  
Threatened Plant Communities - DEP - 06/1995.  
Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 2003.

**(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**

The State Government is committed to the National Objective and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS, 2001) which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002; EPA, 2000).

The vegetation at the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 3 (Hopkins et al., 2001), comprising of medium forest; jarrah-marri and woodland; jarrah-marri-wandoo. There is 72.1% of the Pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al., 2001) which classes it as of least concern in reference to conservation status (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

Additionally, the area under application has above 30% representation for the IBRA Bioregion (Jarrah Forest) and for the Shire (Plantagenet) (Shepherd et al., 2001).

Given the above, it is considered that this application is not at variance with this Principle.

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. (2001)  
Hopkins et al. (2001)  
AGPS (2001)  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)  
EPA (2000)

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

There are no watercourses or wetlands present within a 5km radius of the proposed area, and there is no vegetative connectivity between the area proposed to be cleared and the watercourses and wetlands (Hay River 9km south-west, Kiamerndyip Lake 13km north-east), therefore the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
Water and Rivers Commission Act - WRC - 23/04/2002.  
Waterways Conservation Act - WRC - 23/04/2002.

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

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

The area proposed to be cleared has a low salinity risk and the Ground Water Salinity is mapped at 3000-7000mg/l.

Due to the size of the proposed clearing, and the current degraded state of the vegetation within the area, and the lack of vegetation surrounding the proposed area, it is unlikely the proposal would cause any further appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit (21/06/2006).  
GIS Databases:  
Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA - 2000.  
Groundwater Salinity Statewide - 22/02/2000.

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (JANIS, 1997) has not been met for Beard Association 3 with 10.1% in reserve (Hopkins et al., 2001; Shepherd et al., 2001). This is unlikely to be of significant concern in this case as the area under application is small and degraded (DEC Site Visit 21/06/2006).

A Registered National Estate (Caladenia Christineae Site B), which contains an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) is located 2.5km South West of the proposed clearing area. An Unnamed Conservation Reserve is located 5.8km South East of the proposed clearing area.

There is no direct vegetation linkage between the area proposed to be cleared and the Registered National Estate. It is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** DEC Site Visit (21/06/2006)  
JANIS (1997)  
GIS Database:  
Register of National Estate - EA - 28/01/2003.  
Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DOE - 30/05/2005.  
System 1 to 5 and 7 to 12 Areas - DEP - 06/1995.  
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM - 01/07/2005.  
Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 2003.

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Oyster Harbour - Kalgan - King River Hydrographic Catchment Area. There are no proclaimed ground water or surface water sites within a 14km radius of the proposed clearing area. The proposed site is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA).

Due to the size of the proposed clearing (0.43ha), and the distance from any relevant surface and ground water areas, the area under application is not at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE - 23/03/2005.  
RIWI Act Ground Water Areas - WRC - 13/06/2000.  
RIWI Act Surface Water Areas - WRC - 18/10/2002.  
Public Drinking Water Source Areas - DOE - 07/02/2006.

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed to be cleared is located 9km from Hay River and 13km East of Kiamerndyip Lake. The removal of vegetation from the proposed site would have no impact on the incidence or intensity of flooding, as the area to be cleared is small (0.43ha), in an area already extensively cleared.

As the purpose of clearing is for road maintenance, on a road already established, the existing drainage lines

will prevent flooding occurring from any high rainfall events.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Lakes 1M - GA - 01/06/2000.  
Rivers 250K - GA.

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

##### **Comments**

The proposal is not at variance with any planning instruments and no further licences or approvals are required.

It is the CEO of the Department's view that the grant of a clearing permit in this case constitutes a secondary approval that removes the Environmental Protection Act's prohibition on the applicant exercising its statutory powers. Accordingly, the CEO is not required to comply with future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993.

##### **Methodology**

#### **4. Assessor's recommendations**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Applied area (ha)/ trees</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Comment / recommendation</b>
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.43	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer recommends that the permit be granted with a condition requiring rehabilitation of 0.5ha of degraded roadside vegetation along the Woogenellup Road to offset any adverse environmental impacts resulting from the clearing.

#### **5. References**

- AGPS (2001) The national objective and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Site Visit - 21/06/2006 - Conducted by Mieke Bourne and Louise Everett.
- 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.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALM Science after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- 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.
- Keighery, B.J. (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**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
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)