



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1150/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Michael J Melsom

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 8774 ON PLAN 201700 (CROWEA)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.8		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: Unit 1144 - Tall forest; karri & marri.	As per proponents information the area proposed to be cleared consists mainly of patchy Karri trees. The area consists of dense leaf litter and dead branches and stumps. There is a history of thinning from 30-40 years ago. There has been stock grazing within the area under application for at least the last 10 years.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition established through conversations with proponent and aerial photography.
Mattiske: Crowea (CRy) - Tall open forest of Corymbia calophylla with mixture of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata and Eucalyptus diversicolor on uplands in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.		Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	

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

Information from the proponent indicates the area proposed to be cleared is in Good (Keighery 1994) condition and consists mainly of patchy Karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor) trees. The area was historically logged 30-40 years ago and stock have been grazing in the area for at least the last 10 years. There are many old dead stumps and branches as well as heavy leaf litter within the area under application. All of these factors may significantly reduce the biological diversity within the area proposed to be cleared.

There is a high amount of vegetation remaining (approximately 80%) within the local area (10km radius). The area proposed to be cleared is less than one hectare and clearing is unlikely to affect biological diversity within the local area.

Methodology

Keighery (1994)
GIS database:
- Walpole 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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

Advice from the applicant indicated that the area proposed to be cleared is in Good (Keighery 1994) condition consisting mainly of patchy Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) trees. There has been stock grazing in the area under application for at least the last 10 years and there is a history of thinning (30-40 years ago). It is therefore unlikely the area under application contains any trees with developed hollows.

The local area is highly vegetated with approximately 80% of vegetation remaining. It is unlikely the proposed clearing of 0.8 hectares will compromise significant habitat for native fauna species.

Methodology Keighery (1994)

GIS database:

- Walpole 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 Declared Rare, Priority 1, Priority 2 or Priority 4 flora populations found within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing.

Actinotus sp. Walpole, a Priority 3 species, is located 6.1km south east of the area proposed to be cleared. The area proposed to be cleared and this Priority 3 species are linked by vegetation type *Mattiske Crowea* (CRy).

Although there is a vegetation link, the distance between the area under application and local Priority 3 species makes it unlikely the proposal would impact on this population.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

- Walpole 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

- *Mattiske* Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98

(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 Threatened Ecological Communities or Threatened Plant Communities found within the local area of the proposed clearing.

It is therefore unlikely the proposed clearing would be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

- 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

The application is located in the Warren Bioregion in the Shire of Manjimup. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 86.6% and 83.9% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

The vegetation of the area applied to clear is a component of Beard Unit 1144 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 69.7% (Shepherd et al. 2001) of the pre-European extent remaining, and therefore of 'least concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

The vegetation of the area applied to clear is a component of *Mattiske Crowea* (CRy) (Havel 2002) of which there is 70.0% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'least concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

Due to the high percentage of represented vegetation types remaining, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a remnant within an extensively cleared area. Therefore the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Havel (2002)

Hopkins et al. (2001)

Shepherd et al. (2001)

GIS databases:

- Matiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- 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

There are no EPP Lakes or EPP Areas found within the local area of the proposed clearing.

There are no RAMSAR wetlands, ANCA wetlands or Geomorphic wetlands found within the local area of the proposed clearing.

There is a minor perennial watercourse on the property under application, located 200m east of the proposed clearing area.

The Warren River is located 2.8km west of the area proposed to be cleared.

Direct vegetation links exist between the area under application and local watercourses. However, it is unlikely the proposed clearing would impact on local watercourses due to the distance between the area proposed to be cleared and local watercourses.

Methodology

GIS databases:

- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95
- EPP Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories) Swan Coastal Plain - DoE 15/9/04
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02
- Walpole 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 area proposed to be cleared has a low salinity risk, a ground water salinity level of 500-1000 mg/L, and in a low risk area for Acid Sulphate Soils.

Due to the scale of the proposed clearing, land degradation is unlikely to occur.

Methodology

GIS databases:

- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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 Warren State Forest surrounds the area proposed to be cleared in all directions. The Warren State Forest lies 450m north, 3.7km east, 670m south and 1km west of the area under application.

The Shannon Area, Jane Area and the Crowea Area are located 4.8km north east, 5.9km south and 5.8km south west, respectively, of the area proposed to be cleared.

Although the area under application is vegetatively linked to local conservation areas, the distance between the proposed clearing area and local conservation areas makes it unlikely the proposal would significantly impact on these reserves.

Methodology

GIS database:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
- Walpole 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 proposed to be cleared is within the Warren River Water Reserve, which is a Public Drinking Source Area and a Zone D CAWS catchment area.

The original 1978 holdings have over 40% of vegetation remaining, which exceeds the statutory requirement of 10% remaining for the CAWS Act. Due to the size of the proposed clearing it is unlikely the clearing would significantly degrade local water quality.

The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:

- CAWSA Part2A clearing control catchment - DoE 17/11/05
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04

(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

Due to the scale of the proposed clearing, flooding impacts are unlikely to occur.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

The area proposed to be cleared is zoned rural in the Town Planning Scheme.

A submission was received advising there is no objection to the proposed clearing and that all vegetated buffers of at least 20m be retained either side of all watercourses.

The original 1978 holdings have over 40% of vegetation remaining, which exceeds the statutory requirement of 10% remaining for the CAWS Act. Due to the size of the proposed clearing it is unlikely the clearing would significantly degrade local water quality.

Methodology Submission TRIM ref SWD46481

GIS database:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	0.8	Grant	Recommendation to grant permit with no conditions.

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.
- Havel, J.J. and Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2002) Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation complexes, Conservation Commission.
- 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.
- 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
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)