



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1171/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Colin Korn

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12605 ON PLAN 167854
LOT 6680 ON PLAN 81753
LOT 3831 ON PLAN 138319
LOT 2881 ON PLAN 128120

Local Government Area:
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	315	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: Unit 992 - Medium forest; jarrah & wandoo (E. wandoo).	Proposal to clear a maximum of 315 native trees. There is no under storey.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition established through discussion with applicant 14/07/06 and aerial photography.
Mattiske Catterick (CC2) - Open forest of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> with some <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> , <i>Eucalyptus patens</i> and <i>Eucalyptus cornuta</i> on slopes and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> - <i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> on lower slopes in subhumid and semiarid zones.		Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (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 at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed to be cleared is within the EPA Position Statement No.2 area. The EPA's current position on native vegetation clearing is that remnant vegetation should not be cleared for agriculture purposes to prevent further loss of biodiversity and land salinisation. The EPA Position Statement aims to prevent the clearing of native vegetation within a vegetation type below 30% remaining. The area proposed to be cleared is within the Catterick (CC2) Mattiske vegetation type and has over 70% remaining. The area proposed to be cleared is Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) consisting of 315 native trees with no native under storey. Paddock trees are not considered to be remnants as there is no contiguous layer of native vegetation (i.e. exotic grasses are found between paddock trees). Additionally, since the paddock trees consist of only two or three species, this is not considered to be an ecological community (as per Mattiske data). Due to the lack of species diversity and under storey layer, it is unlikely the vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises a high level of biological diversity and the proposed clearing does not contradict the recommendations in the EPA Position Statement No. 2.

Methodology Discussion with applicant (14/07/06)
Keighery (1994)
Havel (2002)
GIS database:
- Pemberton 1.4 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

The area proposed to be cleared consists of 315 paddock trees with no native under storey. Although these paddock trees may provide habitat for some native species, it is unlikely the area contains significant habitat for native fauna. Due to the Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation and lack of vegetation links to other native remnants, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on the maintenance of significant habitat for indigenous fauna. The Greater Kingston National Park is located 3km south of the area proposed to be cleared, and is likely to be preferred habitat for indigenous fauna. The vegetation under application is not acting as a stepping stone or part of a corridor linking significant remnants in the local area (10km radius). The vegetation proposed to be cleared, is unlikely to provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna or compromise the habitat values of the local area.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Pemberton 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

Records indicate there is one Declared Rare Flora population and one Priority Flora population within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. Further investigation found that the local populations have no vegetation links and are not within the same vegetation complexes as the area proposed to be cleared. Given the lack of vegetation linkages, it is unlikely the area proposed to be cleared is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities or Threatened Plant Communities found within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. Therefore it is unlikely the proposed clearing is considered necessary for the maintenance of a Threatened Ecological Community.

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 area proposed to be cleared is Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) consisting of paddock trees with no native under storey species. Paddock trees are not considered remnants, as they do not have a distinct assemblage of flora. The local area (10km radius) is approximately 45% vegetated and there is over 70% of the vegetation type Mattiske Catterick (CC2) (Havel 2002) remaining. Therefore with the local area being well vegetated, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Havel (2002)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS databases:
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04

(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 several watercourses within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. The proposed clearing is not within any recommended buffer distances from these watercourses (WRC 1996) and there are no vegetation links between the area under application and local watercourses. Therefore, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be growing in an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Methodology WRC (1996)

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
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99
- Bridgetown Dinninup 50cm Orthomosaic - DLI 03

(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 property under application is predominantly cleared and developed to pasture, with only small, scattered stands of trees remaining. Due to the small scale and fragmented state of the vegetation under application, further land degradation issues are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Pemberton 1.4 Orthomosaic - DOLA 99
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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 three conservation areas located within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing with the closest being 3km south. The area under application is Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) and does not provide any vegetation links to local conservation areas. Therefore, the area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.

Methodology GIS database:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
- Pemberton 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 Hardy Estuary-Blackwood River Hydrographic Catchment Area, with a low salinity risk mapped for the area under application. It is not within a RIWI surface water or RIWI groundwater area. Due to the small size of the proposed clearing, degradation of local water quality is unlikely to occur.

Methodology GIS databases:

- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - WRC 13/06/00
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas - WRC 18/10/02
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
- CAWSA Part2A clearing control catchment - DoE 17/11/05

(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 unlikely to exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding due to its size and the consideration that the end land use is a proposed blue gum plantation. Therefore it is considered that the removal of vegetation from the site would have no impact on peak flood height or duration.

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

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

Comments

The area is zoned rural in the Town Planning Scheme.

No submissions or advice have been received.

Methodology GIS database:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Plantation	Mechanical Removal	315	Grant	Recommendation to grant 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.

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.

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. 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.

WRC Position Statement: Wetlands (06/06/01)

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)

