



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1300/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Robert A Walker Woodslime Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 24 ON DIAGRAM 58109 (PALGARUP 6258)
LOT 23 ON DIAGRAM 58109 (PALGARUP 6258)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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; Mattiske Vegetation Class - Corbalup (C1): Mosaic of open forest of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> - <i>Banksia</i> spp. on well drained sites, with some <i>Eucalyptus decipiens</i> on lower slopes in southern areas, woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> - <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> - <i>Banksia littoralis</i> on depressions in perhumid and humid zones.	The area under application is very open, with Jarrah and Marri the predominant vegetation. Most of the vegetated area on the property has been extensively cleared (historically) as evidenced by the open nature of the structure. No understorey species were noted, most likely a result of continuous grazing by stock, and is heavily infested with weed species, mainly <i>Avena</i> spp. (Wild Oat). Overall, the condition of the existing vegetation to be impacted is considered to be degraded (Keighery 1994).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from DEC Site Visit Report (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

The proposal is to clear 9.3 hectares (ha) of native vegetation from within Lots 23 & 24 on Diagram 58109, Palgarup (Shire of Manjimup) for planting *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanian Blue Gum) crops and to a lesser extent, horticultural crops. The area proposed for clearing will remove all but 10% of native vegetation remaining on the property, with the areas to be cleared considered degraded (Keighery BJ, 1994).

The area under application is very open, with Jarrah and Marri the only noted dominant vegetation. Most of the vegetated area on the property has been extensively cleared (historically) as evidenced by the open nature of the structure. No understorey species were noted, most likely a result of continuous grazing by stock, with extensive weed cover, predominantly *Avena* spp. (Wild Oat).

Given the open nature of the vegetative structure and the lack of any form of understorey within the proposed clearing, the biodiversity value of this vegetation is considered to be low (DEC Site Visit, 2006).

(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			Conservation Status**
	Pre-European (ha)*	Current Extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	
IBRA Bioregion: Jarrah Forest	4,503,156	2,624,301	58.3	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
Mattiske Veg: Corbalup (CI 1)	151,768	115,381	76.0	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 Jarrah Forest Bioregion. The extent of pre-European vegetation within these areas is 83.9% and 58.3% respectively (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 3 (Hopkins et al., 2001) of which 72.1% of the pre-European vegetation extent remaining (Shepherd et al., 2001). This vegetation type is 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 type Corbalup (CI 1) where 76.0% of the pre-European extent still remains (Mattiske Consulting, 1998). This vegetation type also has 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 Jarrah Forest Bioregion, Beard Vegetation Association and Mattiske Vegetation type 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
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98

(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 areas proposed to be cleared.
The Wilgarup River flows approximately 530m east and south of the proposed clearing.

Two minor perennial watercourses are located approximately 300m south and 500m north of the area under application.

Given the distance between the proposed clearing and these watercourses, the removal of native vegetation is not likely to impact the values of the watercourses. The proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

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

(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 risk of wind and water erosion,

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

It has been noted that this permit covers an area in which there exists registered Indigenous Heritage Sites. It is the responsibility of the proponent to ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process. The permit holder will be notified of their obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 in the cover letter to this permit.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Horticulture	Mechanical Removal	9.3	The assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposal is not at variance to Principle (e) and (i); and is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h) 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 CRN219802.
- Department of Environment and Conservation (2006). Site Visit Report. TRIM Ref: DOC6959
- 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)

salinity, waterlogging and eutrophication as a result of the clearing of native vegetation on Lots 23 and 24 is low. The proposed clearing of 9.3 hectares of native vegetation is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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.

A Timber Reserve and Palgarup State Forest are located approximately 1.0km and 1.8km respectively east of the proposed clearing. Given that the application area is degraded with an open canopy structure, and bereft of understorey species other than weeds, it is not expected that the proposed clearing would provide ecological linkages or impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Methodology GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98

(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 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, declared as a Public Drinking Water Source Area 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 B' within the catchment, where clearing may be approved subject to the statutory limitation that 10% of the land in question remains uncleared. Relative to this, it has been confirmed that 10% of native vegetation from the original 1978 land holding will remain if the proposed clearing is granted, and that no more than 10 hectares of native vegetation has been cumulatively cleared from the original 1978 holding.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 23/03/05
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
- CAWSA Part 11A Clearing Control Catchments - DOW
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 07/02/06
- 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 area under application generally occupies the upper and mid slope positions in the landscape (DAFWA, 2006) with shallow topographical gradients ranging from 280m AHD at the highest point to 240m AHD at the lowest point of the proposed clearing. This relates to a landslope length of 40m over a distance of approximately 870m. DAFWA (2006) advised that the further clearing of vegetation in this landscape could increase surface runoff which would contribute to stream flows, but is unlikely to cause extensive flooding due to the size of the catchment, landslope lengths and soil types.

Methodology DAFWA Report (2006)
GIS Database:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

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. There are no watercourses associated with the area under application.

No other submissions from the public have been received.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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

DEC Site Visit Report (2006) found that most of the vegetated area on the property has historically been parkland cleared with no native understorey. DEC Site visit Report (2006) considered the vegetation under application to be degraded (Keighery, 1994)

A Timber Reserve and Palgarup State Forest are located approximately 1.0km and 1.8km respectively east of the proposed clearing. As the area under application is parkland cleared and considered to be degraded, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would provide an ecological linkage for indigenous fauna to the nearby conservation areas.

Site photos (DEC Site Visit Report, 2006) suggest that the trees proposed to be cleared (Jarrah and Marri) are not yet at a stage of maturity that would be readily used as fauna habitat.

Given the degraded and open nature of the vegetation to be cleared, it is unlikely to provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna. The proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
DEC Site Visit Report (2006)
GIS Database:
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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 mapped records of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) within the area under application.

Ten records of DRF and one Priority 4 Flora have been recorded within a radius of 15km from the proposed clearing. The closest is a Priority 4 flora, *Drosera occidentalis* subsp. *occidentalis*, located approximately 1.2km from the proposed clearing and occurs on the same vegetation type as the vegetation proposed to be cleared. The closest DRF to the application area is *Caladenia harringtoniae* at a distance of 2.8km. None of the DRF mapped within 15km of the area under application occur on the same vegetation type as that proposed to be cleared.

Given that the area under application is highly degraded and devoid of understorey species (DEC Site Visit Report, 2006) it is unlikely that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology DEC Site Visit Report 2006
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/07/05
- 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 known threatened ecological communities within a fifty kilometre radius of the area under application, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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