



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1357/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: City of Melville

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12884 ON PLAN 219802 (House No. 679 CANNING ARDROSS 6153)
Local Government Area: City Of Melville
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.001		Mechanical Removal	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 Vegetation Complex: 6, Medium woodland: tuart and jarrah (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001)	The proposed application will involve clearing 0.001ha of vegetation to build a bus drop off/ access bay. The site visit identified that the clearing will involve the removal of one Banksia tree, five Common Donkey Orchids (<i>Diuris corymbosa</i>) and a Mesomelaena Sp (Site visit 21.09.06). The understorey mainly consists of the weed species Wild oat (<i>Avena fatua</i>)(Site visit 21.09.06).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The condition of vegetation was assessed during (Site visit 21.09.06)
Hedde Vegetation Complex: Karrakatta Central and South, predominantly open forest of <i>E. gomphocephala</i> - <i>E. marginata</i> - <i>E. calophylla</i> and woodland of <i>E. marginata</i> - Banksia species (Hedde et al. 1980).			

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 area applied to be cleared is located within the Natural Heritage Area 3518, situated in Wireless Hill Park and is located on the edge of remnant vegetation in close proximity to existing building structures. The area has been subject to disturbance and extensive weed invasion. Therefore the proposed clearing is not considered to comprise of a high level of biological diversity and is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology Heritage Council (2006) Advice TRIM Ref. No. DOC4228
Site visit 22/9/2006 TRIM Ref. No. DOC6246
GIS databases:
-Swan Coastal Plain North 40cm Orthomosaic - DLI 05

(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 applied to be cleared is located on the edge of remnant vegetation and is subject to disturbance. No hollows or understorey that would provide suitable habitat were evident during the site inspection. Given this and small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha), the clearing is considered not likely to be a significant

habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Methodology Site visit 22/9/2006 TRIM Ref. No. DOC6246
 GIS databases:
 - Swan Coastal Plain North 40cm Orthomosaic - DLI 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 is one Priority 4 Flora Species (*Jacksonia sericea*) recorded 200m from the area proposed to be cleared. No *Jacksonia sericea* were identified during the site inspection and given the small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha) the clearing is considered not likely to impact on the existence of this species.

Methodology GIS Database,
 - Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/04/05
 Site visit 22/9/2006 TRIM Ref. No. DOC6246

(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 recorded in the areas under application or within 5 km of the proposed clearing. Therefore the area under application is not considered to be part of a significant ecological community. The propose clearing is considered not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - Threatened Ecological Communities, CALM 12/04/05

(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 a component of Beard Vegetation Association: 6 (Hopkins et al. 2001) and Heddle: Karrakatta Complex Central and South (Heddle et al. 1980) of which 23.3% and 29.5% of Pre European extent remain respectively.

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents a clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002, EPA 2000). Both vegetation complexes are below the 30% threshold.

While the representation figures are below the recommended 30% target, the vegetation on site is in a completely degraded condition, and is considered unlikely to be representative of these communities. Given this and the small amount of clearing (0.001ha) these vegetation associations are not likely to be compromised.

To ensure no net loss of vegetation a condition will be imposed on the clearing permit requesting the planting of ten *Banksia menziesii* tube stock within the adjacent remanent vegetation.

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation**% status	In reserves/CALM managed land
IBRA Bioregions Swan Coastal Plain	1,529,235	657,450	43%	Depleted	
Vegetation type: Beard: Unit 6	79,001	18,398	23.30%	Vulnerable	14.5
Heddle: Karrakatta Central and South	49,912	14,729	29.5	Vulnerable	2.5

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

Methodology GIS Databases:
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.
 - Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95.
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00.

- Shepherd et al. 2001)
- Hopkins et al (2001)
- (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

(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 three Conservation Category Wetlands recorded within 5 km of the proposed clearing, these include Bluegum Lake, Booragoon Lake and Piney Lakes. The Swan River Estuary is located approximately 900m north of the area under application. However, due to the small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha) and distance from these water bodies the clearing is considered not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database: Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories) Swan Coastal Plain DEC (Displayed By)

(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 applied to be cleared is located on the edge of remnant vegetation. Given the small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha) the clearing is considered not likely to cause appreciable land degradation in the local area.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Swan Coastal Plain North 40cm Orthomosaic - DLI 05

(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 applied to be cleared is 900m of The Swan Estuary Marine Park and within Bush Forever site 336. Given the size of the area applied to be cleared and degraded condition of the vegetation the clearing as proposed is unlikely to impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

To ensure no net loss of vegetation a condition will be imposed on the clearing permit requesting the planting of ten *Banksia menziesii* tube stock within the adjacent remnant vegetation..

Methodology GIS Databases:
- EPP, Areas - DEP 06/95
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters, CALM 1/07/05
Bush Forever Advice TRIM Ref. DOC457

(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 groundwater table is located 40m below the surface. Due to the small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha) the clearing is not considered likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Minimum, DOE 1/05/03
- Groundwater Contours, Metropolitan Area, DLI

(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 small size of the area applied to be cleared (0.001ha) the clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Therefore the proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

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

Comments

The area applied to be cleared is located within the Natural Heritage Area 3518. The Heritage Council of Western Australia has approved of the clearing of this area (TRIM Ref. DOC4228).

The area under application is not within any recorded sites of Aboriginal Significance or RIWI.

Submission from Bush Forever, DPI recommends that native trees should be planted as an off set to the removal of the mature Banksia tree (TRIM Ref. DOC457). This submission has been addressed in conditions on the permit.

Methodology GHS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA

TRIM Ref. No. DOC4228

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.001	Grant	The application has been assessed and the clearing as proposed may be at variance to Clearing Principle k. The assessing officer therefore recommends that a clearing permit be granted on the condition that ten Banksia menziesii be planted within the nearby remanent vegetation.

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.
- 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.
- Field Inspection (2006), Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Western Australia. TRIM ref DOC6246

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)