



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1364/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **JOHN JUSTIN ROCHE AND HEROC PTY LTD**
Postal address: Rmb 250 Frankland WA 6396
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1.3. Property details

Property: LOT C2 ON DIAGRAM 19 (FRANKLAND 6396)
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	220	Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

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
Mattiske vegetation complex; Value 156 Lefroy (LF) - Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor and Corymbia calophylla (Havel & Mattiske 2002).	220 trees within an area of 85ha. The trees proposed to be cleared are within pasture/grazing and cropping land.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition established from aerial photographs (GIS Database: Mt Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01) and from site photographs submitted by proponent (CRN 219901).
Mattiske vegetation complex; Value 185 Frankland Hills (FH1) - Woodland to low open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata with some Corymbia calophylla (Havel & Mattiske 2002).			
Mattiske vegetation complex; Value 171 Frankland Hills (FH2) - Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo and Corymbia calophylla with some Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata (Havel & Mattiske 2002).			
Beard Vegetation Association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri.	220 trees within an area of 85ha. The trees proposed to be cleared are within pasture/grazing and cropping land.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition established from aerial photographs (GIS Database: Mt Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01) and from site photographs submitted by proponent (CRN219901).
Beard Vegetation Association 4: Medium woodland; marri & wandoo.			

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 biodiversity value of the area under application is limited, as the vegetation is Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994).

Launch Int: The area proposed to be cleared consists of 220 trees, predominantly Eucalyptus species, over an area of 85ha. No native ground cover, under story or mid story species are present, land is currently used for pasture/grazing and cropping.

It is unlikely that the area proposed to be cleared holds a high level of biological diversity due to the minimal

variety of native species and lack of any native under story.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
Site Photographs - Provided by Applicant (Trim ref. CRN 219901).
GIS Database: Mt Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01.

(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

Aerial and site photography (Trim ref. CRN 219901) shows the area is sparsely vegetated and Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994).

Due to the absence of mid, lower and understorey vegetation the habitat value of the area is limited. In addition the continued impact of livestock on the proposed area is likely to significantly compromise the long term survival of the remaining vegetation.

The proponent has proposed to revegetate and fence an area of approximately 10ha on the property with native plants of various species to mitigate the potential impacts that the proposed clearing may have and ensure the long term retention of habitat values on the property.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
GIS Database:
Threatened Fauna - CALM - 30/09/2005.
Mt Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01.
Site Photographs - Provided by Applicant (Trim ref. CRN 219901).

(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

Four Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species are found within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. The closest is *Calandenia christineae*, 7.92km South East of the area proposed to be cleared.

Due to the Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation and the lack of direct vegetation corridors between any local DRF and Priority Flora populations and the area under application, it is unlikely the proposed clearing would be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
GIS Database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM - 01/07/2005.

(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 (TEC) in the vicinity of the proposed clearing. The closest TEC is found 44km south west. There is no vegetation link between the area proposed to be cleared and the TEC.

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

Methodology GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM - 12/04/2005.

(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 National Objective and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS 2001) recognises that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is the target. There is 45.9% of the principal vegetation type remaining (Mattiske FH2).

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest	4,544,335	2,665,480	58.7	Least Concern
Shire of Cranbrook	326,719	123,063	37.7	Depleted
Beard Veg Type - 3	3,046,385	2,197,837	72.1	Least Concern
Beard Veg Type - 4	1,247,834	292,993	23.5	Vulnerable
Mattiske Veg - FH1	151,124	82,758	54.8	Least Concern

Mattiske Veg - FH2	469,231	215,378	45.9	Depleted
Mattiske Veg - LF	201,286	164,947	81.9	Least Concern

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

The applicant has advised that an area of 10ha will be revegetated with native trees of various species relevant to the area's vegetation type to mitigate potential impacts of the clearing on this principle.

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

Methodology Mattiske Consulting (1998)
 Shepherd et al. (2001).
 Hopkins et al. (2001).
 GIS Databases:
 Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.
 Matiske Vegetation - CALM 98.
 Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/2000.

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The Frankland River is located between 40m to 100m from the area proposed to be cleared. One 'Conservation Class' South Coast Significant Wetland is located 14km south east of the area proposed to be cleared.

There is no direct vegetation link between the area under application and the South Coast Significant Wetland. Therefore the proposed clearing will not impact the wetland.

The area proposed to be cleared is not within the riparian zone of the Frankland River, therefore, it is unlikely the proposed clearing would significantly impact on this watercourse.

Methodology GIS Databases:
 South Coast Significant Wetlands - DOE - 04/08/2003.
 Rivers 250K - GA.

(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 no known risk of Acid Sulphite Soils, low salinity risk and the ground water salinity is mapped at 3000-7000mg/L.

Due to the small amount of trees proposed to be cleared (220) over a large area (85ha), and the Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the area, it is unlikely the proposal would cause appreciable land degradation.

Additionally, the proponent will revegetate an area of approximately 10ha with native trees of various species, to offset any adverse environmental impacts.

Methodology Keighery (1994).
 Gis Database:
 Acid Sulphite Soil Risk Map, SCP - DOE - 04/11/2004.
 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are two System 2 Conservation Reserves are located within the area proposed to be cleared, one is located 12.3km west and the other is located 14.8km south west.

There are also four CALM Managed Lands located within 18km of the proposed area:
 Mt Roe National Park is located 13km south west;
 Quindinup Nature Reserve is located 5.7km west;
 Lake Muir State Forest is located 17km south west;
 Tootanellup Nature Reserve is located 12km south east.

There are no Register of National Estate areas located within a 10km radius of the area proposed to be cleared.

There is no direct vegetation link between the area proposed to be cleared and any of these conservation reserves. The proposed area is not considered to be an ecological linkage for any of the conservation reserves and is not deemed to contribute significantly to the environmental values of any of the conservation reserves, due to the distance between the proposed area and the conservation reserves, and the Completely Degraded condition of the proposed area.

Therefore it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM - 01/07/2005.
System 1 to 5 Areas - DEP - 06/1995.
Register of National Estates - EA - 28/01/2003.

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Nornalup Inlet - Frankland River Catchment Area. It is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA).

The area under application is not within a proclaimed ground water or surface water area. Average rainfall in the area is 700mm/y.

A small number of the proposed trees to be cleared are located near the Frankland River, however, the trees are not in the buffer zone or riparian vegetation of the waterway, so there is minimal possibility of sedimentation runoff occurring.

Due to the small scale clearing proposed (220 trees), in relation to the large area (85ha), it is unlikely to significantly degrade water quality within the area.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE - 23/03/2005.
RIWI Act Ground Water Areas - WRC - 13/06/2000.
RIWI Surface Water Areas - WRC - 18/10/2002.
Rainfall- Mean Annual - BOM - 30/09/2001.
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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposed works involves clearing some trees that are situated near the Frankland River. However, the trees are not located within the buffer zone, and the proposed vegetation is considered Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994), therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact upon peak flood height or duration.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
GIS Databases:
Rivers 250K - GA
Lakes 250K - GA

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, 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.

There are two Native Title Claims over the area under application. As the underlying land tenure is freehold it is likely native title has been extinguished.

The proposed area to be cleared is located on one Aboriginal Site of Significance. The Site will need to be managed in accordance with requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) and with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (this will be provided as advice in the cover letter to the proponent).

Methodology GIS Database: Aboriginal Site of Significance - DIA (Status).

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	220	Grant	<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections have been raised. The assessing officer recommends that the permit be granted with conditions relating to revegetation of 10ha on same property, in the designated area shown on map. The revegetated area is to be fenced for protection from cattle.</p> <p>Also, the applicant should contact the Dept of Indigenous Affairs with regard to Aboriginal Sites of Significance. This is provided as advice on the covering letter.</p>

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.

Mattiske Consulting (1998)

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.

Site Photographs - Provided By Applicant (Trim ref. CRN 219901).

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)