



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1408/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Mr Arthur R Morrell

1.3. Property details

Property: Lot 2 on plan 13999 (Morell Road FAIRBRIDGE 6208)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Murray

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	30	Cutting	Extractive Industry

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
Hedde Vegetation Complexes: Forrestdfield Complex - Vegetation ranges from open forest of <i>E.calophylla</i> - <i>E.wandoo</i> - <i>E.marginata</i> to open ofrest of <i>E.marginata</i> - <i>E.calophylla</i> - <i>C.fraseriana</i> - <i>Banksia</i> species. Fringing woodland of <i>E.rudis</i> in the gullies that dissect this landform.	The proposal includes clearing of 30 paddock trees for gravel extraction purposes.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation clearing description based on a site visit conducted by the DEC on Thursday 17/8/06.
Guildford Complex - A mixture of open forest to tall open forest of <i>E.calophylla</i> - <i>E.wandoo</i> - <i>E.marginata</i> and woodland of <i>E.wandoo</i> . Minor components include <i>E.rudis</i> - <i>M.rhaphiophylla</i> . (Hedde et al. 1980)	The vegetation under application is situated in a paddock cleared previously for grazing. Vegetation was observed to comprise approximately 30 <i>Eucalyptus calophylla</i> , with no understorey present. Vegetation is considered to be in a completely degraded condition.		
Beard Vegetation Association: 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al. 2001)			

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 under application comprises 30 *Eucalyptus calophylla* within 0.4 hectares with no understorey and the vegetation is considered to be in a completely degraded condition. Given the low species diversity it is not considered likely that the applied area is representative of an area of high biodiversity in the local area.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06

(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 under application comprises 30 trees within 0.4 hectares with no connectivity to larger tracts of native vegetation. The absence of understorey and completely degraded condition of the vegetation is likely to limit the habitat value of the site. In addition, no potential nesting hollows were observed during the site visit and therefore the vegetation under application is not likely to comprise significant faunal habitat.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
GIS Database: Swan Coastal Plain South 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 01/04

(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 a number of known occurrences of Declared Rare or Priority Flora (DRF) within the local area (5km radius of the application), the closest of which is located 2.8km to the west. The area under application is 0.4 hectares that has been grazed historically, containing only 30 trees with no understorey, and is therefore considered to be completely degraded. The area under application is therefore not likely to include DRF species.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
GIS Database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/07/05

(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 occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) in the local area of the proposed clearing, and there are no TEC associated with this landform (Government of Western Australia 2000). Given the completely degraded condition of the vegetation under application, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
Government of Western Australia (2000)
GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05

(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 part of Beard vegetation association 3 of which there is 72.1% remaining (Shepherd et al. 2002), and which is considered to be of least concern for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

The vegetation under application is also identified by Heddle et al. (1980) as Guildford complex of which there is 5.0% of pre-European vegetation remaining, and which is considered to be endangered (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

Although the Guildford Complex is considered to be endangered, the vegetation under application is completely degraded, comprising only 30 trees with no understorey present. The vegetation under application is therefore not considered to be representative of this vegetation complex, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC Site visit 4/7/06
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS Databases:
Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95
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

The area under application is located approximately 600m to the northeast of a Conservation Category Wetland (CCW), and a large multiple use wetland is located approximately 250m to the west. The closest watercourse

is Conjurunup Creek, which is located approximately 400m to the south.

Given the distance to the nearest waterbody, and that no wetland dependent vegetation was observed on site, it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing includes vegetation growing in, or in association with, a watercourse or wetland.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
GIS Database:
Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain - DEC
Hydrography, linear (hierarchy)

(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

Soils within the area under application are identified as Forrestfield F2a Phase, which comprise low slopes and foot slopes with well drained shallow to moderately deep, very gravelly acidic yellow duplex soils and common laterite. These soils are associated with a low risk of land degradation including erosion, salinity, acid sulphate soils and eutrophication (State of Western Australia 2005).

The vegetation under application comprises approximately 30 trees within 0.4ha and is in a completely degraded condition. Any potential dust or erosion would be adequately managed through the Dust Management Plan as part of the Extractive Industry Licence and therefore the proposal is not considered likely to cause appreciable land degradation (Shire of Murray 2006).

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
Shire of Murray (2006)
State of Western Australia (2005)

(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

Dwellingup State Forest is located approximately 2.4km to the west of the area under application. There are no other conservation areas within a 5km radius of the applied area.

Given the distance to Dwellingup State Forest, the limited area under application and the completely degraded condition of the vegetation, the proposal is not considered likely to impact on the environmental values of the State Forest or any conservation reserves.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
GIS Databases:
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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 under application is located within a Priority 2 Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). These areas are managed to ensure there is no increased risk of water source contamination or pollution (Department of Water 2006). The clearing as proposed is compatible with the requirements of a Priority 2 PDWSA (Department of Water 2004).

Groundwater salinity in the local area is 500-1000 mg/L and there is a low to nil risk of Acid Sulphate Soils. Watercourses in the area include Conjurunup Creek, which is located approximately 400m to the south, and the South Dandalup River, which is located approximately 1.7km to the southwest of the area under application.

The proposed clearing includes approximately 30 trees in a completely degraded condition, and their removal is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. In addition, stormwater runoff will be managed through a Stormwater and Drainage Management Plan as part of the Extractive Industry Licence.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
Department of Water (2004)
GIS Databases:
Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DOE 04/11/04
Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00
Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) - DOW
Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 07/02/06

(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

Flooding impacts are not likely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its size and location. The proposed clearing includes 30 trees within 0.4 hectares of land cleared historically for pasture. The area under application is located approximately 400m from Conjurunup Creek, at an elevation of between 40 - 45 metres. It is not considered likely that the removal of vegetation from site would have an impact on peak flood height or duration.

Methodology DEC site visit 17/8/06
GIS Databases:
Hydrography, linear (hierarchy) - DOW
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

Deane Contracting has a current Planning Approval and Excavation Licence from the Shire of Murray for Lot 2 Morell Road (Shire of Murray 2006).

Lot 2 Morell Road is part of a Native Title Claim however, since it is privately owned the Native Title has been extinguished under the Native Title Act. Therefore the clearing as proposed should not fall under the future acts process of the Native Title Act 1993.

Methodology Shire of Murray (2006)
GIS Database: Native Title Claims - DLI 7/11/05

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Extractive Industry	Cutting	30	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.

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.
- Department of Water (2004) Water quality protection note: Land use compatibility in Public Drinking Water Source Areas.
- 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.
- EPA (2003) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors -level of assessment of proposals affecting natural areas within the System 6 region and Swan Coastal Plain portion of the System 1 Region. Report by the EPA under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. No 10 WA.
- Government of Western Australia (2000) Bush Forever Volumes 1 and 2. Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth WA.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- JANIS Forests Criteria (1997) Nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve System for Forests in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Regional Forests Agreement process. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
- 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.
- Shire of Murray (2006) Planning approval and Extractive Industry Licence – Lot 2 Morell Road, Fairbridge.

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
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)

