Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1410/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MS Cherylene Ehlers

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12 ON PLAN 17851
Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.08		Burning	Dam 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
Mattiske: Crowea (CRb) - Tall open forest of Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus diversicolor on upper slopes with Allocasuarina decussata-Banksia grandis on upper slopes in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.	Area is a Allocasuarina decussata thicket with a dense shrub and ground cover layer.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description established through site visit.

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 proposed to be cleared is dense vegetation considered to be in Very Good (Keighery 1994) condition, with high species diversity and no weed invasion.

Due to the size of the proposal, the clearing is not likely to compromise the biological diversity of the remaining vegetation on the property or within the local area (10km radius).

Methodology

Site visit (DEC)
Keighery (1994)
GIS databases:
- Pemberton 1.4m 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 dense vegetation in Very Good (Keighery 1994) condition and may hold habitat value for native fauna.

The local area (10km radius) is approximately 80% vegetated, most of which is CALM Managed Land. These CALM Managed Lands, Warren State Forest, Donnelly State Forest, Big Brook State Forest and Gloucester National Park, are considered to be significant for native fauna habitat.

Due to the size of the proposed clearing (0.08ha) and the large amounts of indigenous remnant bush in the local area, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered significant habitat and therefore not likely to comprise whole or part of, or considered necessary for the maintenance of indigenous fauna.

Methodology Site visit (DEC)
Keighery (1994)
GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
There are no records of Declared Rare or Priority Flora species within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing.

Therefore, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

(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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no Threatened Ecological Communities or Threatened Plant Communities within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing.

Therefore, the area under application is not considered to comprise whole or part of a threatened ecological community, and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

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 application is located in the Warren Bioregion in the Shire of Manjimup. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 86.6% and 83.9% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

The vegetation of the area applied to clear is mapped as Mattiske Crowea (CRb) (Havel 2002) of which there is 81.2% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'least concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

Due to the high percentage of representative vegetation types remaining and the size of the proposal, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Havel (2002)
Hopkins et al. (2001)
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
- 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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no EPP areas or EPP lakes within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing.

There are no ANCA, RAMSAR or Geomorphic wetlands within the local area of the proposed clearing.

The Lefroy Brook and the Warren River are located 2.7km west and 6.8km south, respectively, from the area proposed to be cleared. There are many minor perennial watercourses within the local area. The closest is located 400m north of the area proposed to be cleared. There are vegetation links between the area proposed

to be cleared and local watercourses.

Due to the distances between the area under application and local watercourses, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland.

The proposal is not within a watercourse, therefore a Surface Water Licence is not required.

Methodology 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
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole - DoE 18/6/03
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 a low risk of Acid Sulphate Soils, a low salinity risk and a groundwater salinity level of 500-1000 mg/L.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation due to its limited size.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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 four CALM Managed Lands within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. The Warren State Forest, 500m south and east, the Gloucester National Park, 840m south, the Big Brook State Forest, 3.2km north west and the Donnelly State Forest, 4.7km west and north.

There are three Registered National Estates within the local area of the proposed clearing. The Karri Management Priority Area, 840m south, the East Brook Area, 840m south and a Pemberton National Park, 1.9km west.

There are vegetation links between the area under application and all local conservation areas.

However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on environmental values of nearby conservation areas due to the size and the large amounts of remnant bush in the local area.

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 Warren River Hydrographic Catchment and Zone D of the Warren River Water Reserve, a Country Areas Water Supply (CAWS) area. The CAWS Act 1947 aims to prevent and reduce salinisation of future drinking water source areas.

CAWS Policy and Guidelines state that 'licences will normally be granted in Zone D, subject to the statutory limitation that 10% of the land in question remains uncleared.'
The property under application will have approximately 80% of vegetation remaining after the proposed clearing, which will not bring the remaining vegetation cover under 10%. Therefore under CAWS Policy and Guidelines, a clearing licence may be granted.

The proposed clearing is therefore unlikely to degrade local water quality.

Methodology GIS databases:
- CAWSA Part2A clearing control catchment - DoE 17/11/05
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03

(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 unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its size and location to the nearest watercourse (400m).

Methodology GIS databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

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

Comments

The area proposed to be cleared is zoned special rural under the Town Planning Scheme.

No advice or submissions have been received.

The proposal is for a soak dam, which is not within a watercourse and therefore does not require a Surface Water Licence under the RIWI Act 1914. The Shire of Manjimup do not issue development approvals for the construction of dams.

The Shire of Manjimup indicated they do not object to the proposed clearing as long as the applicant follows all Shire procedures.

Methodology Shire of Manjimup submission ref DOC1922
Discussion with Shire of Manjimup Planning Officer 26/07/06
GIS database:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Dam construction o maintenance	Burning	0.08	**Grant**	Recommendation to grant with no conditions.

5. References

DEC Site visit report TRIM ref DOC2247 (04/07/2006).

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.

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.

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)