



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1416/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Augusta / Margaret River

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 295 ON PLAN 35240 (House No. 27 TUNBRIDGE MARGARET RIVER 6285)
MARGARET RIVER TOWNSITE LOT 212 (House No. 17 FARRELLY MARGARET RIVER 6285)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Augusta-Margaret River

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.1		Mechanical Removal	Miscellaneous
0.1		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

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 Wilyabrup (W1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina decussata-Agonis flexuosa on deeply incised valleys in the hyperhumid zone. (Mattiske Consulting 1998)	The vegetation to be cleared lies within the grounds of Margaret River Hospital and is for the purpose of a carpark. It is an area of high disturbance and low native species density.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	This application has been identified as a possible exemption under Item 1, Section 51C of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004. The proponent was advised about the possible exemption, however chose to continue with the application. Assessment has been primarily based on aerial photography and other associated literature.
Beard vegetation association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Hopkins et al 2001, Shephard 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 vegetation under application is located in an area that has been extensively cleared and is used for urban and industrial purposes. The high level of disturbance at this site and low native species density suggests that the original biodiversity has been significantly compromised. The area under application is therefore not likely to be self-sustaining into the future and does not contain higher level of biodiversity than that found locally in the nearby reserves which are managed for conservation purposes.
Methodology	GIS Databases: - Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 23/03/98 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01 - CALM Managed lands and waters - CALM 01/06/04

(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 clearing proposed is an area totalling 0.1 hectares and has no connectivity to larger tracts of native vegetation. The high level of disturbance at this site, close proximity to urban and industrial development, and limited diversity of native species suggests that the original biodiversity and habitat value has been significantly compromised. The vegetation is therefore unlikely to provide a significant habitat for indigenous flora.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - DLI 03

(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

Nine occurrences of the Declared Flora Species (DRF), *Caladenia excelsa*, and 4 occurrences of Priority 3 Flora, *Bossiaea disticha*, have been recorded within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing. The closest occurrence of DRF is 5km to the west of the proposed clearing site and is within the same broad vegetation type as the proposed clearing area. However, the DRF occurrences are not on the same Mattiske vegetation type proposed clearing.

The proposed clearing of 0.1ha is within the Townsite of Margaret River where the native vegetation has been highly disturbed. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on any local DRF occurrences and DRF species.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- 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 threatened Ecological Communities within a 10km radius.

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 proposed clearing area falls within the Warren IBRA region which has 86.8% of Pre-European vegetation remaining. Vegetation types within the proposed clearing include Beard Veg Association 3 with 72.1% of Pre-European vegetation and Mattiske Complex Wilyabrup with 61.9% remaining. The representations of current vegetation give the area a status of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

Given the extent of vegetation types throughout the state and local area, small scale clearing and high disturbance within the proposed clearing it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance with this principle.

Methodology 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

The Margaret River lies approx 700m to the north of the proposed clearing area. The Waters and River Commission position statement recommends buffer widths of approximately 200m for watercourse or wetland areas. This proposal is not within 200 m buffer of the Margaret River.

As the scale of clearing is small (0.1 hectare), water table levels will not be affected. In addition there is significant urban development with drainage infrastructure between the Margaret River and the proposed clearing site, so any run off produced from the clearing should be filtered into the relevant areas and away from wetlands and watercourse.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear (hierachy - DOW
- Lakes 250K - GA
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95

- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 08/01

(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

Due to the relatively narrow dimensions of the clearing, it is not expected that erosion would increase by any appreciable amount. The local area has low salinity risk and there is no known Acid Sulphate Soil disturbance in the area.

Based on the amount of vegetation proposed for removal, and the already degraded nature of the area under application, approval of this proposal is considered unlikely to cause appreciable impact on land degradation.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map, SCP DOE 01/02/04
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 001

(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 following conservation areas are within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing area

- Bramley National Park
- Keenan State forest
- Leeuwin - Naturaliste National Park

As the proposed area to be cleared is of a small scale within an urban zone that is highly disturbed, it is not likely that the clearing will impact on the environmental values of the identified conservation reserves.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Water - CALM 01/08/04

(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 proposed clearing area falls within the Busselton - Capel Groundwater area under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI), has an average annual rainfall of 1200mm and is not within a public drinking water source area (PDWSA). When considering the area under application is in a high rainfall area, does not form part of the PDWSA and the scale of the proposed clearing is small, it is unlikely that there will be a significant affect on ground or surface waters.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSAs) - DOE 04/11/04
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - WRC 13/06/00

(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

Due to the scale and nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely to exacerbate flooding in the local area.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

This application has been identified as a possible exemption under Item 1, Section 51C of the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004. The proponent was advised about the possible exemption, however chose to continue with the application.

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application. The Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian newspaper constitutes legal notification of the native title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993. No response was received from the representative body.

The Department advises that the proponent contact the relevant authorities to seek advice on whether or not

the road works will impact upon the Aboriginal Sites of Significance listed within the area under application.

The area proposed to be cleared lies within the Busselton-Capel RIWI area. As the works will not involve the use of groundwater a RIWI licence is not required.

No Works approval is required for the proposed works.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA 28/02/03
- Native Title Claims - DLI 07/11/05
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - WRC 13/06/00
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas - WRC 18/10/02

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	0.1	Grant	Assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. the assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	0.1		Public Car park

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) 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)