



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 142/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Gandy Timbers Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11227 ON PLAN 204912 (MANJIMUP (S))
LOT 12155 ON PLAN 163008 (MANJIMUP (S))
Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
Colloquial name: Channybearup Road

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.8		Mechanical Removal	Timber Harvesting

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
The vegetation under application consists of: Mattiske vegetation types: PM1 - Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor with mixtures of Corymbia calophylla on valley slopes and low forest of Taxandria juniperina -Banksia seminuda-Callistachys lanceolata on valley floors in the perhumid zone.	The Department's site report described the vegetation to consist of Eucalyptus diversicolor (karri), Eucalyptus marginata (jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (marri). There was little understorey remaining with Pteridium esculentum (bracken) dominant.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	

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**

All vegetation complexes identified within the area proposed for clearing, including the Shire, Bioregion, Beard and Mattiske types, have been identified as being of 'least concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002). This means all the identified complexes have more than 50% of the vegetation remaining.

The vegetation was rated as being in very good condition (Keighery BJ 1994). The vegetation appeared to have been thinned in the past with many young Eucalyptus diversicolor (karris) currently competing for space. Cattle have had access to the vegetation for several years accounting for lack of understorey present. Pasture species are present within the vegetation.

A watercourse flows through the vegetation proposed for clearing however the applicant is willing to retain a 30m buffer on either side. This buffer is required under the Country Areas Water Supply Act (CAWS) and is believed to be an acceptable distance to maintain the water quality of the stream.

The Department believes the past thinning and grazing practices would have significantly reduced the property's biodiversity value.

Given the above information the Department believes it is not likely the proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology Hopkins et al. (2001); Shepherd et al. (2001).
GIS databases:

- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04.
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Matiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01.

(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

The Department of Environment completed a site visit of the property which identified the structure of the vegetation under application has been altered by multiple disturbances, including thinning and grazing.

The existing mature trees may provide some habitat however the property borders State Forest on two of its boundaries and the Department believes these areas would be preferred habitat for most native fauna in the local area.

It is unlikely the clearing proposal would be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DoE Site Report 2005
GIS Database:
Cadastre - DLI /05/05

(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

No Declared Rare Flora or Priority Listed Flora have been identified within the local area (10km radius).

The Department therefore concludes the clearing proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database: 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no known occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing.

The Department therefore concludes the clearing proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database: Threatened Ecological Community - 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). There is approximately 50% of native vegetation remaining in the local area.

The Beard vegetation type has been identified as having 69.7% remaining and the Pemberton Matiske vegetation complex has 65.6% vegetation remaining.

All vegetation types are classified as being of 'least concern' by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

The Department concludes the clearing proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002
Hopkins et al. (2001); Shepherd et al. (2001).
GIS databases:
- Matiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- 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

A minor perennial watercourse runs through the vegetation proposed for clearing. A dam exists directly north of the area under application and the applicant is proposing to increase its capacity in the near future.

The applicant has agreed to leave a 30m buffer on either side of the watercourse, as per CAWS guidelines. The Department believes this is a sufficient distance to maintain the stream's water quality and riparian ecosystem.

Given the applicant has agreed to retain a 30m buffer from the identified watercourse the Department believes the clearing proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology CAWS Act 1978
GIS database:
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04.

(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

Advice was received from the Department of Agriculture (DAWA) on the clearing application. DAWA identified the site as being covered by the Pemberton Subsystem (Pimelaia) (PM) soil landscape unit. Land degradation risks associated with the soil landscape unit include eutrophication and water erosion.

DAWA explained the risk of water erosion is mostly related to areas with steep slopes. The vegetation proposed for clearing is found on relatively flat ground with a gradient of 5m over approximately 100m. DAWA have also identified the close relationship between water erosion and eutrophication. Given the fact the Department does not believe water erosion is an issue (due to the flat surface) and in acknowledging the 30m buffer the applicant is willing to retain on either side of the watercourse, the Department does not believe water erosion or eutrophication will pose a degradation risk for the clearing proposal.

DAWA concluded the proposed end landuse and proposed clearing would not pose a significant risk of degradation.

The Department believes the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DAWA report (2004).
GIS Database:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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

State Forest borders the property to the south and west. Tone State Forest is 7.4km east of the proposed clearing. Jarnadup State Forest is 5.9km north of the proposed clearing. Big Brook State Forest is 5.5km south west of the proposed clearing.

Faunadale Nature Reserve (Conservation of Flora and Fauna) is 8.2km north of the proposed clearing, Smith Brook Nature Reserve (Conservation of Flora and Fauna and Register of National Estate) is 6.7km south east of the proposed clearing and Whistler Nature Reserve (Conservation of Flora and Fauna) is 7.4km south of the proposed clearing.

The Karri Management Priority Area (Register of National Estate) is 5.3km north west of the proposed clearing.

Given the size of the area proposed for clearing and the fact the vegetation structure has been disturbed repeatedly by logging and grazing, the Department does not believe the proposal is likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04; Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03.

(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

A minor perennial watercourse flows through the area proposed for clearing. As per CAWS guidelines, the applicant was asked to retain a 30m buffer on either side of this watercourse to protect its water quality. The applicant has agreed to this buffer requirement and will not clear within 30m of the stream.

Given the small area under application the Department does not believe the clearing will result in changes to the water table or any groundwater department ecosystems that may be within the local area.

The Department believes the clearing proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology CAWS Act 1978
 GIS Database:
 - Hydrography Linear - DoE 18/06/04

(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 size of the area proposed for clearing, it is unlikely flooding will occur.

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

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

Comments
 A submission was received from the Shire of Manjimup who had no objections to the proposed clearing. The Shire did however request a condition requiring a vegetated buffer of at least 20m either side of any recognised watercourse on the property be retained. The applicant has confirmed he is willing to retain a 30m buffer on either side of the watercourse.

The applicant has applied to increase the size of the existing dam on Lot 12155. The surface water licence is currently in draft status as assessment has not been completed, SWL158518. The proposed clearing is not related to the surface water licence. On completion of the timber harvesting operation the applicant intends on using the land for grazing. The area would not require irrigation as it remains quite wet even in the summer months.

The property is zoned 'rural' within the Town Planning Scheme Zones.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - WRL Properties, Surface Water Licences - WRC (Current)
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Timber Harvesting	Mechanical Removal	1.8	Grant	<p>Assessment of the clearing application found none of the principles were at variance to the proposal.</p> <p>The vegetation proposed for clearing has been previously disturbed by thinning and continuous grazing practices. No DRF or Threatened Ecological Communities exist within the local area. The vegetation complexes identified within the area proposed for clearing are all rated as being of 'least concern'. The existing watercourse flowing through the area under application will be protected by a 30m buffer on either side of the stream, as agreed to by the applicant.</p> <p>Given the above information, the Department recommends the application be granted for 1.8ha.</p>

5. References

DAWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref SWO22724.

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, BJ (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)