



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1426/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Western Australia Planning Commission

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 521 ON PLAN 300764

Local Government Area: Town Of Kwinana

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	15	Mechanical Removal	Fence Line 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
Heddlie Vegetation Complex:	This proposal includes the removal of 15 <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> , for the upgrade / installation of a fence.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation clearing description based on the site inspection undertaken 3 October 2006, and information obtained from the applicant.
Cottesloe Complex - Central and South: Mosaic of woodland of <i>E. gomphocephala</i> and open forest of <i>E. gomphocephala</i> - <i>E. marginata</i> - <i>E. calophylla</i> ; closed heath on the Limestone outcrops.	The vegetation within the applied area consists of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> , over an understorey completely dominated by introduced grasses and weeds. To facilitate the installation of the proposed fence, the pruning of selective branches from the planted row <i>Eucalyptus</i> trees and some <i>Acacia</i> will occur. The applied area is considered to be in a completely degraded condition.		
Beard Vegetation Association:			
998: Medium woodland; tuart			

## 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 considered to be in a completely degraded condition, being limited to 15 individual *Acacia rostellifera*, and experiencing relatively severe weed and grass invasion. Due to the limited extent of this proposed clearing, and the nearby areas of native vegetation in much higher condition, the proposed clearing is considered not likely to be representative of a higher area of biological diversity.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)  
GIS Database:  
- Swan Coastal Plain Central 20cm Orthomosaic - DLI 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 vegetation under application consists of removal of 15 *Acacia rostellifera* located along an existing fence line adjacent to Hope Valley Road. The high level of disturbance at this site, close proximity to industrial areas, extensive weed invasion and limited diversity of native species suggests that the original habitat values have been significantly compromised. This vegetation is therefore unlikely to provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

**(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 no known listings of Declared Rare and Priority Flora on site, or within the immediately surrounding area.

The local area, defined as a 5km radius surrounding the proposal, contains approximately 10 known populations of Declared Rare or Priority Flora, being *Dodonaea hackettiana*, *Aponogeton hexatepalus*, *Diuris micrantha*, and *Caladenia huegelii*. Of these, none are recognised as being within the same Heddle vegetation complex.

Based on the completely degraded to degraded condition of vegetation within the applied area, and the selective removal of vegetation, it is considered unlikely that any Declared Rare or Priority Flora would be impacted through the proposed clearing.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

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**

Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) associated with the Spearwood dune system consist of Floristic Community Type (FCT) 20a: *Banksia attenuata* woodlands over species rich dense shrublands and FCT 26a: *Melaleuca huegelii* - *Melaleuca acerosa* shrublands on limestone ridges.

A site inspection of the applied area on 3 October 2006 identified the vegetation under application as being limited to *Acacia rostellifera* in completely degraded condition, it is considered unlikely that the above two listed TEC are present on site. The proposed clearing is therefore considered unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

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 vegetation on site is identified as a component of Heddle Vegetation Complex 'Cottesloe Complex- Central and South' and Beard Vegetation Association '998'. These vegetation communities have representations of 41.1% and 35.9% respectively. Given the condition of the vegetation under application and that the Pre-European extent of the Vegetation Associations meet the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, being 30% of that present pre-1750, this proposal is not likely to be at variance.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %	Conservation status***	% in reserves/DEC-managed land
IBRA Bioregion	1,529,235	657,450	43%*		
Town of Kwinana	11980.55	4760.18	39.7%	Depleted	
Heddle vegetation complex			**		
- Cottesloe Complex - Central & South	44,995	18,474	41.1%	Depleted	8.8%
Beard vegetation associations			*		
- 998	51,094	18,320	35.9%	Depleted	32.9%

\* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

\*\* (EPA, 2003)

\*\*\* (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. (2001)

EPA (2003)

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 vegetation under application is located adjacent to Long Swamp, a wetland classified as both a Conservation Category Wetland and EPP Lake. The vegetation proposed for clearing consists of 15 *Acacia rostellifera* located adjacent to an existing boundary fence. This area was observed as being in a completely degraded condition, having undergone extensive weed and grass invasion.

Based on the condition and selective removal of vegetation, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)  
GIS Database:  
- Geomorphic Wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/04  
- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03

**(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 clearing of the 15 *Acacia rostellifera* as proposed in this application would be unlikely to cause appreciable on or off-site land degradation. There would be little to no risk of wind or water erosion as the shrubs are surrounded by grass, and other stands of native vegetation.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

**(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**

Long Swamp is recognised on the Interim Register of the National Estate as an ephemeral wetland which covers an area of approximately 10 hectares. The Register describes Long Swamp as being primarily covered with reeds and paperbarks (*Melaleuca teretifolia* and *M. raphiophylla*), and surrounded by a dense fringe of swamp paperbark (*M. raphiophylla*) on the southern and eastern sides and a mixed stand of swamp paperbark and *M. teretifolia* on the northern side.

The vegetation proposed for removal is located approximately 200 metres from the south-western edge of the Register listing, and based on the condition and limited extent of the proposed clearing, is considered unlikely to impact on its values.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)  
GIS Database:  
- Register of the National Estate - EA 38/01/03

**(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**

The vegetation under application is not within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). Based on the completely degraded condition and scale of the proposed vegetation clearing, it is unlikely that the clearing would have a significant effect on surface or ground water quality.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

**(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**

Due to the completely degraded condition and limited extent of vegetation under application it is considered that the removal of vegetation from the site would have no impact on peak flood height or duration.

**Methodology** Site inspection (3/10/2006)

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

**Comments**

Lot 521 Hope Valley Road, Hope Valley 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**

#### 4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method Applied	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Fence Line Maintenance	Mechanical Removal	15 Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit 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.

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.

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.

#### 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)