



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1437/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Gandy Timbers Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11799 ON PLAN 229254 (MANJIMUP)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
4.6		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

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
Beard Vegetation Association 1144 - Tall forest; karri & marri (Corymbus calophylla) (Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2001).	The proposal includes clearing of 4.6ha of an isolated disturbed karri forest.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit: The vegetation under application displays a highly disturbed structure, evidenced by the complete lack of understorey. The applicant advises the area has been used for cattle grazing over many years and has been subject to historical logging activities.
Mattiske Vegetation Complexes: 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; Pemberton (PM1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor with mixtures of Corymbia calophylla on valley slopes and low forest of Agonis juniperina-Banksia seminuda-Callistachys lanceolata on valley floors in the perhumid zone (Mattiske Consulting 1998).	The vegetation under application is open karri forest dominated by large karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor). The understorey is almost exclusively absent, with the exception of sparsely scattered water bush (Bossiaea aquifolium) (DEC Site visit 2007).		

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 proposed clearing is comprised of highly modified native vegetation in 'Degraded' condition (DEC 2007; Keighery 1994).

The vegetation under application consists entirely of Karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor) regrowth with an understorey mainly of Water Bush (Bossiaea aquifolium), introduced pasture grasses and annual weeds (DEC 2007). The greater proportion of native flora species (more than 95%) have been lost from the notified area and given the long history of logging and grazing are considered unlikely to regenerate (Biodiversity Coordination

Section, DEC 2007); therefore the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
DEC (2007);
Keighery (1994);
GIS Database:
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

(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

Due to current and historical logging and grazing practices, the vegetation under application contains very little understorey with limited species diversity in 'degraded' condition (DEC 2007; Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007). It was noted the presence of kangaroos and other avian wildlife during the site inspection (DEC 2007); however given the above and a high representation of conservation areas within the local area (10km radius), which are likely to offer equal or better habitat than the vegetation under application, it is considered unlikely the area would provide significant habitat value for fauna within the local area (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007).

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
DEC (2007);
GIS Database:
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

(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 is one known population of DRF and three records of priority flora populations within the local area, with the priority flora taxa sharing the same broad soil and vegetation types as the notified area (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007).

However, due to the degraded nature of the vegetation under application (DEC 2007), the past history of logging and grazing and the surrounding area containing a higher proportion of land managed for conservation purposes, the area under application is considered unlikely to support or contain significant habitat value for any rare flora species known to occur in the area (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007).

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
DEC (2007);
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 at variance to this Principle

There are no known records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the local area (the nearest is a Priority Ecological Community 13.1km north east of the proposed clearing and not located within the same habitat type) (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007).

The native vegetation under application based on the native flora present, is not and never has been part of a recognised TEC (pers comm. Regional Plant Ecologist 2007); therefore the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
Pers. comm. (2007).
GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03;
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95;
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI 03

(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 proposed to be cleared is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 1144 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 69.7% (Shepherd et al. 2001) of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of 'Least Concern' status for Biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002). The vegetation under application is also within the Warren Bioregion in the Shire of Manjimup of which there is 86.6%

and 83.9% of pre-European extent remaining, respectively.

The vegetation at the site is also comprised of Mattiske Complexes Crowea (CRb) and Pemberton (PM1) of which there is 83.9% and 65.0% (Mattiske Consulting 1998) of the pre-European extent remaining, respectively, and therefore of a 'Least Concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

The region is well represented with conservation areas and approximately 50% of the land within a 10km radius falling within DEC-managed lands for conservation purposes (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007); therefore the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The proposed clearing is not directly associated with any local watercourse or wetland.

Two major perennial watercourses occur either side of the area under application: the Lefroy Brook 4.5 km west; and the Warren River 6.4 km south-west, including several minor non-perennial watercourses that feed into these systems. No wetlands of significance have been mapped in the local area (10km radius).

It is considered unlikely that the proposal will impact upon or adversely affect any hydrological function attributed to these watercourses due to the distance.

Methodology GIS databases:
- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01;
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95;
- EPP Lakes - DEP 28/07/03;
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole - DOE 18/6/03;
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04;
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02;
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

(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 small scale of the proposed clearing, no assessment for land degradation has been undertaken by DAWFA.

Corporate data indicates groundwater salinity of 500-1000 mg/L and no salinity risk. The area has not been mapped for the risk of acid sulphate soils.

Given the vegetation under application is in degraded condition, it is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04;
- Salinity Mapping LM 25m - DOLA 00;
- Salinity Monitoring LM 50m - DOLA 00;
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 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**
The local area (10km radius) is well represented with conservation areas, including the Donnelly State Forest

(20m north-east) as one of several State Forests and Nature Reserves in close proximity to the notified area. In addition, approximately 50% of the land within a 10km radius is DEC-managed for conservation purposes (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007).

Given the degraded condition of the vegetation, it is unlikely the notified area contains habitats not well represented within and is unlikely to be providing a major buffer or ecological linkage to the surrounding conservation areas (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)

Given the proposed clearing lies approx. 20m of the Donnelly State Forest, fencing conditions will be imposed on the permit to prohibit grazing animals from entering the State Forest lands, thereby reducing the risk of spread of weeds and disease (Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC 2007).

Methodology Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007);
GIS databases:
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03;
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95

(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 the proclaimed groundwater area for the Warren River area which is classified as a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947. This area has been identified for future assessment of the catchment; therefore the proposed clearing is compatible with the allowable activities within an unallocated PDWSA.

The clearing as proposed may impact on a dampland situated on an adjacent property down slope from the notified area; there is also a risk of sediment runoff into an adjacent pond system (pers. comm. 2007), however due to the high rainfall within the Warren River catchment (1200mm), the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Pers. comm. Senior Hydrologist (2007);
GIS databases:
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03;
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04;
- 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**

Flooding impacts are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to the location. Lot 11799 is located approximately 4.5km from the nearest major watercourse (Lefroy Brook); it is considered the removal of vegetation from this site would have no impact on peak flood height or duration.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

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 property is zoned Rural within the Shire of Manjimup TPS No.2.

An existing constructed road (Diamond Tree Road), which does not follow the gazetted road reserve, runs through the applicant's property and the south-western corner of the area under application. The Shire advises this is common and a situation that needs to be rectified with a land swap or resumption at a later date, however no formal land acquisition process is occurring at present (Shire of Manjimup 2006). In relation to Shire requests, no clearing within 10m (less 1.5m fence line clearing) each side of the constructed centreline of the existing road will be imposed as a condition of permit, as this will form part of a future road reserve.

The applicant wishes to sell the salvaged vegetation as timber and has applied for a 'Commercial Producers/Nurseryman's' licence from the DEC Flora Licensing Branch.

A public submission expressed concern that the general area has been extensively cleared. This issue has been addressed in Principle (e) and it was assessed that the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Shire of Manjimup (2006);
 GIS Databases:
 -Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	4.6	Assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends the granting of this permit, with conditions addressing stock exclusion and no clearing within 10m of the existing constructed road through the property.

5. References

- Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007). Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC21160.
- DEC (2007). Site Visit Report, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC15903.
- 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. Pers. comm. 24 April 2007, Senior Hydrologist, Catchment Science and Investigation, Department of Water, Bunbury.
- 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 Manjimup (2006). Submission to Application to Clear, Shire of Manjimup. TRIM Ref: DOC20885.

6. Glossary

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

