



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1448/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Dulcie and Allen Wright

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2909 ON PLAN 138878 (NAPIER 6330)
 LOT 2796 ON PLAN 138877 (House No. 69 CLINTON NAPIER 6330)
 Local Government Area: City Of Albany
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6.3		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 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri, consisting of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> and <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	The proposal includes clearing of approximately 6.3ha for the purpose of pasture/grazing and fenceline construction to minimise effects of grazing on the remnant vegetation. The vegetation under application to be cleared is regrowth from previous logging, and has been grazed for the past 20 years (DEC Site Visit Report 2006). The adjacent remnant vegetation is considered to be in Very Good Condition (Keighery 1994). Therefore, the area under application is likely to have less environmental value than the adjacent remnant.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	A DEC Site Visit (22/09/2006) shows the vegetation to consist of mature Eucalypt tree species, with minimal understorey and no ground cover, and is considered to be in Degraded Condition (Keighery 1994), as a result of 20 years of grazing pressure.

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 proposed to be cleared has been subject to grazing pressures for approximately 20 years, and was previously cleared for logging purposes (DEC Site Visit Report 2006). The regrowth is considered to be in Degraded Condition (Keighery 1994), consisting of mature Eucalypt trees with minimal understorey and no ground cover (DEC Site Visit Report 2006).

Due to the size and shape of the proposed area, the vegetation is likely to become further degraded due to edge effects from surrounding activities. The high level of disturbance at this site, extensive grazing and weed invasion and low native species density suggests that the original biodiversity value has been significantly compromised (DEC Site Visit 22/09/2006). Therefore, the area under application is not likely to become further degraded in the long term while there is grazing pressure and does not contain a higher level of biodiversity than the surrounding vegetation.

Given the above, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

It is noted that the applicant has proposed to re-vegetate approximately 1.4ha of the property, and also fence the remaining remnant vegetation on the property to prevent cattle access to minimise the impacts of the proposed clearing on the remaining biodiversity values.

Methodology DEC Site Visit Report (22/09/06) TRIM ref: DOC19403
Keighery 1994
GIS Database:
- Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI - March 2003

(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 native vegetation under application is considered to be in Degraded Condition (Keighery 1994) and exhibits a high level of disturbance from previous logging and current grazing. There is low native species density, few understorey species and no groundcover. The proposed vegetation contains habitat for indigenous fauna, in the form of hollows, although none were sighted during the (DEC Site Visit Report 2006). The continued impact of livestock on the proposed area is likely to significantly compromise the long term survival of the remaining vegetation.

Whilst there are 11 recorded occurrences of 4 species within a ten kilometre radius of the area under application, the closest being 1.2km NE. The proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant habitat for these species.

Methodology DEC Site Visit Report (22/09/06) TRIM ref: DOC19403
Keighery 1994
SAC Bio datasets 150507
GIS datasets:
- Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 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**
Area under applications forms part of Beard Veg Association 3.

Within 10km radius of the area under application, there are 6 known species of Declare Rare Flora (DRF) and 12 Priority flora species:

DRF:

1 *Conostylis misera*

3 *Banksia goodii*

5 *Microtis globula*

1 *Drakaea micrantha*

1 *Chordifex abortivus*

2 *Banksia brownii*

1 *Laxmannia jamesii*

Priority:

4 *Eucalyptus goniantha* subsp. *goniantha* (4)

1 *Microcorys lenticularis* (2)

3 *Andersonia setifolia* (3)

1 *Verticordia huegelii* (3)

1 *Chorizema carinatum* (3)

2 *Hakea tuberculata* (3)

1 *Bossiaea divaricata* (3)

1 *Caladenia plicata* (4)

1 *Pleurophascum occidentale* (4)

3 *Chorizema reticulatum* (3)

1 *Lysinema lasianthum* (4)

1 *Pithocarpa corymbulosa* (2)

The closest species to the area under application is a Priority 3 Flora Species (*Andersonia setifolia*) is located approx. 1.6km north-west of the area proposed to be cleared and is in same Beard Veg Association 3. There is limited vegetation linkage between the proposed area and the location of the Priority 3 Flora. Due to the fragmentation of the landscape, the low native species density, minimal understorey and no groundcover (DEC Site Visit 22/09/06), it is unlikely that the proposed area holds any value for significant or rare flora.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC Site Visit Report (22/09/06) TRIM ref: DOC19403

GIS Databases:

- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM - 01/07/2005.
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 03.
- SAC Bio datasets 150507

(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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the local area (10 km). The closest TEC is found 40km north of the proposed area. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact this TEC, due to the distance between the TEC and the area proposed to be cleared.

The proposal is considered not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM - 12/04/2005.

(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 under application is considered to be in Degraded Condition (Keighery 1994), due to a history of logging and the effects of cattle grazing over the past 20 years (DEC Site Visit Report 2006),.

	Pre-European Extent	Current area (ha)	Remaining extent (%)	Conservation %*	Status**
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest in Veg Assoc 3	2390535	1661219	69.5	23.4	Least Concern
City of Albany	383,843	149,341	38.9		Depleted
Beard Veg Association 3	2661515	1863982.7	70.0	26.2	Least Concern

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Given the current extent remaining, which is of least concern for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002), and the condition, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC Site Visit Report (22/09/06) TRIM ref: DOC19403

Shepherd et al. (2001).

Hopkins et al. (2001).

Keighery (1994)

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002).

GIS Databases:

- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/2000

(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 Kalgan River is located 516m E, and Napier Creek is located 577m E of the area under application. The Napier Creek connects directly to the Kalgan River and Napier Creek and also forms the northern boundary of the property. Yallingup Brook connects to Napier Creek, 3km NW of the area under application. Oyster Harbour is 5.06km SE, Twow Swamp is 6.4m W, Johnston Creek is 7.4km SW and Mill Brook is 10km SW of subject area. There are also 5 unnamed lakes within 5km radius of subject area.

Due to the distance between the proposed area and the above mentioned watercourses (at least 500m), it is unlikely that the area under application is associated with watercourses or wetlands. The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery 1994

GIS Databases:

- Rivers 250k - GA
- Lakes 250k - GA
- Rivers, 1M - GA 01/06/00
- South Coast Significant Wetlands - DOE 4/8/03
- Lakes, 1M - GA 01/06/00
- Geodata, Lakes - GA 28/06/02

- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy)

(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 is not located in an Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Area. There is low salinity risk in the area, and ground water salinity is mapped at 1000-3000mg/l.

Advice received from DAFWA (2006) states that this proposal is unlikely to contribute to land degradation in the form of wind, water erosion, salinity or eutrophication,

The proposal is considered unlikely to be at variance to this Principle

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DOE - 04/11/2004.
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 01.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/2000.

(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 five nature reserves located within a 10km radius of the area proposed to be cleared. The closest conservation area is: Bakers Junction Nature Reserve, located 5.22km S.

The vegetation linkage between these conservation reserves and the area proposed to be cleared has been significantly compromised and is fragmented. Given this information and the condition of the vegetation under application, which is considered to be in Degraded Condition (Keighery 1994), the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

Keighery 1994

GIS Databases:

- Albany 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI March 03
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
- WRC Estate - DOW
- 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

The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Oyster Harbour-Kalgan King River Hydrographic Catchment Area. It is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA), proclaimed ground water area or surface water area. Surface water flows enter the Napier Creek. The proposed clearing is likely to have a minor impact on the recharge and potential salinity. Whilst the proposed area to be cleared is approx. 6.3ha, the protection of approx. 15.7ha, with revegetation of 1.8ha is likely to counteract the effects of clearing upstream. The risk of eutrophication is also low due to negligible surface water flow from the proposed area and the distance it will need to travel through a buffer of native vegetation in Very Good condition before reaching Napier Creek (DAFWA 2006). Given this information, the proposal it is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

DAFWA Advice (2006) TRIM ref: DOC6618

GIS Databases:

- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE - 23/03/2005.
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas - DOE - 07/02/2006.
- Hydrography, linear (hierarchy)

(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

Evaporation (1400mm/year) exceeds average rainfall (800mm/year) and clearing of 6.3ha will be offset by the revegetation of 1.8ha within the fenced remnant. Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:

- Isohyets - BOM 09/98
- Evaporation Isopleths - BOM 09/98
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

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

Comments

No EP Act licences are required for this proposal.

There is one Native Title claim over the area under application, as the property is privately owned the granting of the clearing permit is a secondary approval and does not constitute a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	6.3	<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections have been raised.</p> <p>The assessing officer recommends that the permit be granted</p> <p>The proponent has expressed willingness to re-vegetation of 1.4ha of the property. Fencing to be constructed to prevent cattle accessing the re-vegetated area and the remaining remnant native vegetation on the property prior to restocking property.</p>

5. References

- Department of Environment & Conservation Site Visit Report (22/09/06) TRIM ref: DOC19403
- 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.
- Department of Environment and Conservation – Biodiversity coordination section (2006) Comments relating to application for permit to clear native vegetation in accordance with sub-section 51E (4)(b) of the Environmental Protection act 1986 TRIM ref: DOC16662
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.
- 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
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)