



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1467/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Cherylene Ehlers

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT-12 ON PLAN 17851 (Lot No. 12 BROWNS RD PEMBERTON 6260)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.4		Cutting	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
Mattiske: 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.	The proposal includes clearing 1.4ha for grazing and pasture within a recently subdivided estate. The vegetation under application consists of Allocasuarina decussata thicket with a dense shrub and ground cover layer in the southern half and scattered trees in the northern half with no understorey. Vegetation condition varies from completely degraded in the north to very good in the south (DEC Site Visit 2006).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit: visual disturbance can be seen to the north of the proposed clearing, however a more intact vegetation structure is observed to the southern end of the application.

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 of 1.4ha varies between completely degraded (Keighery 1994) to the northern end of the property to Very Good in the southern area of the property.

The southern area is comprised of dense vegetation with high species diversity and no weed invasion. The retention of an understorey indicates the area has been well preserved, whereas a lack of understorey and only scattered trees toward the northern area indicates a high level of disturbance.

The vegetation under application is located in an area recently subdivided into special rural for its particular natural qualities and is comprised of Beard Vegetation association 1144 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 69.7% (Shepherd et al. 2001) of the pre-1750 extent remaining. The local area (10km radius) is approximately 80% vegetated with approximately 95% of that vegetation in DEC state forest.

There is a high likelihood the vegetation that provides habitat for local fauna, however several areas of state forest that contain intact remnants about the area under application and provide habitat for local fauna that is of comparable or better quality.

Based on the scale of the proposed clearing and the above information, it is unlikely the proposal is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC site visit (2006);
Keighery (1994);
GIS databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 area proposed to be cleared consists of dense vegetation in Very Good (Keighery 1994) condition in the south which may provide habitat for native fauna with scattered trees with no native under storey in the north.

The local area (10km radius) is approximately 80% vegetated, most of which is DEC-managed state forest, including the Warren State Forest, Donnelly State Forest, Big Brook State Forest and Gloucester National Park, which are considered to be significant for native fauna habitat.

Due to the size of the proposed clearing and the large amounts of indigenous remnant bush in the local area, the area that is proposed to be cleared is not considered to provide significant fauna habitat .

Methodology DEC site visit (2006);
Keighery (1994);
GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic

(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 records of Declared Rare or Priority Flora species within the vicinity of the proposed clearing (the nearest is located approximately 22km away and not located within the same vegetation or soil type as the notified area).

Therefore, the area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology GIS databases:
- 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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the vicinity of the proposed clearing (the nearest is approximately 37km away and not located in the same vegetation or soil type as the notified area).

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

Methodology GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - 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 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 located within the Warren Bioregion in the Manjimup Shire, of which there is 86.6% and 83.9% remaining, respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

The vegetation at the site is a component of Mattiske Vegetation Complex Crowea (CRb) (Havel 2002) of which there is 81.2% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'Least Concern' status for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

The local area (10km radius) is approximately 80% vegetated with approximately 95% of that vegetation in DEC-managed state forest. The removal of the vegetation proposed to be cleared will not significantly reduce ecological linkages or isolate remnants of vegetation.

Due to the high percentage of representative vegetation types remaining and the scale of the proposal, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area; thus not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology 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

There are no EPP areas, EPP lakes, ANCA wetlands, RAMSAR wetlands or Geomorphic wetlands within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing.

The Lefroy Brook and the Warren River are located 2.7km west and 6.8km south, respectively, from the area proposed to be cleared. There are many minor perennial watercourses within the local area. The closest is located 400m north of the area proposed to be cleared. There are vegetation links between the area proposed to be cleared and local watercourses.

Due to the distances between the area under application and local watercourses and the highly vegetated local area, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be growing in and is unlikely to impact on the quality of local watercourses.

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
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 has a low risk of Acid Sulphate Soils, a low salinity risk and a groundwater salinity level of 500-1000 mg/L. The local area (10km radius) is approximately 80% vegetated.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation due to its size and the highly vegetated local area.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00
- Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 four DEC Managed Lands within the local area (10km radius) of the proposed clearing. The Warren State Forest, 500m south and east, the Gloucester National Park, 840m south, the Big Brook State Forest, 3.2km north west and the Donnelly State Forest, 4.7km west and north.

There are three Registered National Estates within the local area of the proposed clearing. The Karri Management Priority Area, 840m south, the East Brook Area, 840m south and a Pemberton National Park, 1.9km west.

There are vegetated links between the area under application and most local conservation areas. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on environmental values of nearby conservation areas due to the scale of the proposed clearing and the large amounts of remnant vegetation in the local area.

Methodology GIS database:
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
 - Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
 - Pemberton 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 99

(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 within the Warren River Hydrographic Catchment and Zone D of the Warren River Water Reserve, a Country Areas Water Supply (CAWS) area. The CAWS Act 1947 aims to prevent and reduce salinisation of future drinking water source areas.

CAWS Policy and Guidelines state that 'licences will normally be granted in Zone D, subject to the statutory limitation that 10% of the land in question remains uncleared.'

The proposed clearing is therefore unlikely to degrade local water quality.

Methodology WRC (1996) Policy and Guidelines: Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation in Catchments Subject to Clearing Control Legislation.
 GIS databases:
 - CAWSA Part2A clearing control catchment - DoE 17/11/05
 - Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03

(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**
 The proposed clearing is unlikely to exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding due to the scale of the proposed clearing in a local context. Therefore the clearing of the proposed vegetation is unlikely to impact of peak flood height or duration.

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

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

Comments The area proposed to be cleared is zoned special rural under the Town Planning Scheme.
 The Shire of Manjimup has advised that the proposal is at variance to Council's Town Planning Scheme No 2. as the proposed clearing falls outside the building envelope for this lot
 Under Section 51O (4) of the Act, the CEO shall have regard to any planning instrument, or other matter, that the CEO considers relevant.

This application is inconsistent with local planning legislation.

Methodology EP Act 1986
 Shire of Manjimup advice (2006) TRIM ref DOC6385
 GIS database:
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Grazing & Pasture	Cutting	1.4	Assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposal is contrary to the provisions of the Shire of Manjimup's Town Planning Scheme No.2.

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.
- Havel, J.J. and Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2002) Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation complexes, Conservation Commission.
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2005).
- Shire of Manjimup (2006). TRIM ref DOC6385.
- WRC (1996) Policy and Guidelines: Granting of Licences to Clear Indigenous Vegetation in Catchments Subject to Clearing Control Legislation. Water and Rivers Commission, 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)

