



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1469/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Kimberley Skoss

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5 ON DIAGRAM 96804 (Lot No. 5 GRAPHITE GLENORAN 6258)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3.5		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 (Corymbia calophylla) Mattiske vegetation complex Wheatley (WH1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Corymbia calophylla on slopes and tall open forest of Eucalyptus patens on valley floor in perhumid and humid zones.	The area under application is best described as medium woodland which has had human and stock disturbance and weed invasion. The proposed area was selectively cleared approximately 20 years ago and much of the vegetation left in the proposed clearing area is in degraded condition consisting of young Marri (Corymbia calophylla) with some understorey, predominantly Bracken (Pteridium esculentum). There is some regrowth however the area suffers from weed infestation. The area is not fenced and is regularly grazed by livestock. The vegetation is in poor to average condition with a limited understorey of species.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Kelghery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined through a 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 proposal is for 3.5 hectare of native vegetation for the purpose of grazing and pasture.

The application area is unfenced and regularly grazed resulting in the vegetation being in a degraded condition with limited understorey (DEC site visit 2007, DAWFA 2007, Keighery, 1994).

The proposed clearing of 3.5 hectare is situated approximately 800 metres east of the Donnelly River Nature Reserve, BCS (2007) has advised that the proposed clearing may contribute incrementally towards reducing the biodiversity values of the local area. Based on the condition of the vegetation under application (Degraded), the unlikely significance of the area to contribute to the maintenance of rare flora and TECs and the low significance of the areas habitat values, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing comprises a high level of

biological diversity

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
DEC site visit (2007)  
DAFWA advice (2007)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS databases:  
-Donnelly 50cm orthomosaic - DL104  
-CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/07/05

**(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**  
BCS 2007 has advised that there are extensive areas of native vegetation within the 5km radius that are likely to be in similar or better condition than the application area.

Given, that proposal is to clear 3.5ha of native vegetation which is surrounded by areas of State Forest and a Nature Reserve it is unlikely to yield significant impacts to fauna habitat.

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
GIS Databases:  
-CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05  
-Donnelly 50cm orthomosaic - DL04  
-Threatened Fauna SAC Bio Dataset - 21/05/07

**(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 2 known records of the Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species *Caladenia harringtoniae* and 14 records of 5 Priority flora taxa occurring in the local area (10km radius). The closest of the occurrence of the *C. harringtoniae* is approximately 8.5km north, north-east of the application area. DEC (2007) has advised that this DRF species is unlikely to be found within the notified area.

The Priority flora recorded from the local area (10km radius) are, *Deyeuxia inaequalis* (Priority 1), *Meeboldina thysanantha* (Priority 3), *Pultenaea pinifolia* (Priority 3), *Astroloma* sp. Nannup (R.D. Royce 3978) (Priority 4), *Stylidium irenae* (Priority 4). The closest of these known occurrence is approximately 4.5km west of the application area. Habitat descriptions on the DEC's Florabase indicate that these species prefer sandy, gravely and/or loamy soils and accordingly may be found within the application area.

*Deyeuxia inaequalis* (Priority 1) have been found to occur on the Wheatley (WH1) RFA vegetation complexes with-in the local area (10km radius). Records indicate that the Wheatley (WH1) RFA complexes occur with-in the application area.

The area under application is surrounded by remnant vegetation which is in better condition and is in close proximity, within 1km, to nature reserves and state forests. The proposed clearing is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
GIS Database:  
- DEFL SAC Bio Datasets- 10/05/07  
- Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic DL104

**(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 within a 20 km radius of the proposed clearing. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing is likely to impact on any known TECs.

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
GIS databases:  
-TEC SAC Bio Datasets 21/05/07

**(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	<b>Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle</b>					
Pre-European	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (ha)*	Conservation (%)*	% In reserves/CALM **status	managed land	
IBRA Bioregions - Warren	834053.950	657114.138	78.8	Least Concern	46.7	
Shire of Manjimup	705,670	591,748	83.9	Least Concern		
Vegetation type: Beard: Unit 1144	160322.42	127060.61	79.3	Least Concern	34.4	
Mattiske: Wheatley Complex	183,280	142,945	78	Least Concern		

\* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

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

\*\*\* Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The area under application is located in the Warren Bioregion. The extent of pre-European vegetation within this area is 78.8% (Shepard et al., 2001). The proposal site falls within the Shire of Manjimup, of which there is 83.9% remaining of pre-European vegetation (Shepherd et al 2001).

The RFA vegetation complex Wheatley (WH1) that occurs within the application area is described as a tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor (Karri) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri) on slopes with open forest areas of Eucalyptus patens (Blackbutt) on valley floors. 79.2% of the Pre-European extent of Wheatley vegetation is remaining. Large areas of this vegetation complex remain uncleared and on this basis, this proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
(Shepherd et al. 2001)  
GIS datasets:  
-Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - DL04  
-Pre-European vegetation - DA 01/01  
-Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of AUstralia - EA 18/10/00  
-Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98

**(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 on the GIS database was found to run through the area under application and joins Mount Brook another minor perennial watercourse which is a tributary to the Donnelly River which is approximately 2km west of the property. However a DEC site visit (2007) found that the property did not appear to have any defined bed and banks and much of the area adjacent to the watercourse recorded on GIS is already cleared.

**Methodology** DEC (2007) Site Visit  
GIS Databases:  
-Hydrography, Linear - DOE 1/2/04  
-ANCA Wetlands - CALM 06/95  
-EPP Area - DEP 06/95  
-EPP Lakes - DEP 1/12/92  
-RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 14/02/03

**(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**  
DAFWA Land Degradation Assessment Report (2007) raises no potential land degradation issues for this proposal. The risk of salinity, eutrophication, wind erosion and water erosion causing land degradation are considered to be low. Therefore the area under application is considered to be not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** DAFWA (2007)

**(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**

Donnelly River Nature Reserve is approximately 900m west of the proposed clearing and the South East Nannup State Forest is approximately 800m south west of the clearing area. Within the local area (10km radius) there are three state forests in addition to the South East Nannup State Forest, these include the North Donnelly State Forest, the Barlee Brook State Forest and the Donnelly State Forest. The Karri Management Priority Area (a Registered National Estate) is 1.3km east, northeast of the applied area and within part of the above mentioned State Forests. In addition there is conservation park (Blackbutt), a national park (Greater Beedelup), a 5(1)(g) reserve and three Executive Director Freehold areas in the local area.

The local area is highly vegetated and the area proposed to be cleared is in degraded condition. This proposal involves clearing 3.4ha of remnant vegetation to allow for plantation. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the existing buffering and habitat connectivity that exists with local conservation areas.

**Methodology** Biodiversity Coordination Section, DEC (2007)  
DEC site visit (2007)  
Keighery (1994)  
GIS databases:  
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05  
- 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 proposed clearing is within the Donnelly River Catchment and is within the Donnelly River Water Reserve a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). The Donnelly River Water Reserve has not been assigned a priority. Average rainfall is 1100mm/year. Also due to the soil types present the risk of phosphorus loss is low. Due to the small scale clearing (3.5 ha) in relation to the remaining vegetation in the local area (within a 10km radius) it is unlikely to significantly degrade water quality within the area.

**Methodology** DAWFA advice (2007)  
GIS databases:  
-Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments DOW  
-Rainfall, Mean Annual BOM 30/09/01  
-Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) DOW

**(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 at variance to this Principle**

DAFWA (2007) advise that as the proposed clearing occupies the upper and mid slope positions in the landscape away from the main waterway the risk of waterlogging and flooding is low. In addition aerial photography indicates that the area and waterways are surrounded by native vegetation.

**Methodology** DAFWA advice (2007)

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

**Comments**

The area proposed to be cleared is zoned rural in the Town Planning Scheme.

The Shire of Manjimup submitted a letter raising concerns about the integrity of the larger vegetated area if the land under of application is cleared. This was addressed within principle (a) and (e).

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.

The proponent has advised that he is willing to revegetate an area of approximately .45ha and to fence off the remaining native vegetation in the southwest corner of his property from stock.

**Methodology** Shire of Manjimup Submission 2006  
GIS databases:  
-Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP8/98  
-Native Title Claim

**4. Assessor's comments**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	3.5	The assessable criteria have been addressed, and the proposal is not at variance to Principles(j); and is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) (h) and (i).

## 5. References

- DAFWA (2007) Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref 16295.
- DEC (2007) Biodiversity advice for land clearing application. Biodiversity Coordination Section, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM ref DOC18517
- Department of Environment and Conservation, DEC. (2007). Site visit report. TRIM ref DCO18524
- 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. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2005).

## 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)

