Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1544/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Brian DeCampo**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11943 ON PLAN 161295 (EASTBROOK 6260)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.5		Mechanical Removal	Dam construction or 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
Beard Vegetation Association: No.3: Medium forest of Eucalyptus marginata (Jarrah) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri). No.1144: Tall forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor (Karri) and Corymbia calophylla (Marri) (Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al., 2001) Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Pemberton (PM1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor (Karri) with mixtures of Corymbia calophylla (Marri) on valley slopes and low forest of Agonis juniperina, Banksia seminuda and Callistachys lanceolata on valley floors in the perhumid zone (Mattiske Consulting, 1998).	The vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a high rainfall area of the southwest. The site visit reported that the property has been historically cleared and is currently grazed by cattle. The vegetation proposed to be cleared has been modified through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The description of the application area is based on a site visit conducted on the 8 June 2007 (DEC, 2007), GIS databases and orthomosiac photographs.

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 application area's structure has been significantly altered by multiple disturbances but still retains basic structure and the ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)

The application area has been modified through historical clearing as well as grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007).

Given the relatively small size of the application area (0.5ha) and the modified condition of the application through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007) it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology
Keighery (1994)
DEC (2007)
GIS Datasets:
Manjimup 1.4m Ortho (April 2000)
Manjimup 50cm Ortho (Dec 2004)
Remnant Vegetation, Water Resources Recovery Catchments (DOW 2006)
Clearing Regulations - ESAs (DoE 2005)
IBRA; Mattiske Vegetation (CALM 1998)

(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

There are 10 records of 5 'Vulnerable' and 11 records of 4 'Priority' fauna species within the 10km local area. The closest record, Pouched Lamprey, is approximately 3.3km south west of the application area (SAC Bio Datasets 040707).

The application area has also been modified through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007). It also appears from the DEC (2007) site visit photographs that the application area may have been historically cleared due to a lack of large mature Karri trees.

Aerial photography shows that there are extensive areas of native vegetation remaining in the 10km local area that appear to be in similar or better condition than the application area. Therefore, fauna species are likely to find habitat in equal or better condition (with fewer disturbances) within the nearby remnants.

Given the relatively small size of the application area (0.5ha) the modified condition of the application through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007), the lack of mature Karri trees that could provide nesting and the remaining remnants with the 10km local area it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology
DEC (2007)
SAC Biodatasets (310507)
GIS Databases:
Threatened Fauna (CALM 2005)
Manjimup 1.4m Ortho (April 2000)
Manjimup 50cm Ortho (Dec 2004)
Water Resources Recovery Catchments (DOW 2006)
Clearing Regulations - ESAs (DoE 2005)

(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 1 record of 1 Declared Rare taxa and 9 records of 4 Priority flora species occurring within a 10km local area (SAC Bio Datasets 040707). The closest record, Thomasia brachystachys (Priority 1), is approximately 4.3km north west of the application area (SAC Bio Datasets 040707).

The application area has been modified through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007).

Given the relatively small size of the application area (0.5ha), the modified condition of the application through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007) it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology
DEC (2007)
SAC Bio datasets (310507, 040707)
DRF & Priority Flora 2002 Threatened Flora Database management system
Threatened Plant communities,(DOE1995)
Water Resources Recovery Catchments (DOW 2006)

(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 Threatened Ecological Communities recorded within a 10km radius of the area proposed to

be cleared. The closest record, community type Scott Ironstone (Scott Ironstone Association) is approximately 55.0km west of the application area (SAC Bio Datasets 040707)

Given the above, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology SAC Bio datasets (310507, 040707)

(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 National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS, 2001) recognises that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is the target.

Pre-European	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (ha)*	Conservation (%)*	% In reserves/DEC **status	managed land
IBRA Bioregions - Warren***	159 218	123 601	79.5	Least Concern	
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River	222 718	159 679	71.7	Least Concern	
Vegetation type:					
Beard: Unit 3	2 666 058	1 884 029	70.8	Least Concern	6.4
Beard: Unit 1144	159 886	126 868	79.3	Least Concern	16.4
Mattiske:					
Pemberton Complex	258 061	169 317	65.6	Least Concern	

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)
*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

There are extensive areas of remnant vegetation within the 10km local area.

It is unlikely that the 0.5ha of vegetation within the application area would be considered 'significant' as a remnant in a local context due to the remaining remnants within the 10km local area.

The application area has also been modified through grazing and weed invasion (DEC, 2007).

The application area is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology
AGPS (2001)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
DEC (2007)
GIS Datasets:
NLWRA Current Extent of Native Vegetation (DA 2001)
Mattiske Vegetation Complexes (DEP 1995)
IBRA (EA 2000)
Pre-European Vegetation (DA 2001)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposed area to be cleared is within the buffer area of a minor perennial watercourse that drains into the major Lefroy Brook and Warren River Catchment.

This minor perennial watercourse has already been dammed and significantly modified (DEC, 2007).

The application area is linked to an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland and therefore this clearing proposal is at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2007)
GIS Databases:

Rivers 1M (GA 2000)
Hydrography, linear (DOE 2004)
ANCA Wetlands (2001)
EPP SW Agricultural Zone Wetlands (DEP 2001)
Hydrographic Catchments (DoE 2003)
Clearing Regulations ESAs (DoE 2005)

(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 in a high rainfall area (1200mm annually), with groundwater salinity mapped in the lower ranges of 500 to 1000mg/L. Soils have been described by Northcoate et al (1960 - 1968) as 'steep hilly to hilly dissected lateritic plateau with steep valley side slopes: chief soils are hard, and also sandy, neutral, and also acidic, yellow and yellow mottled soils with conspicuous but relatively smaller areas of red earths'.

Given the above, and the small area (0.5ha) to be cleared, the proposed clearing of native vegetation is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology

Northcoate et al., (1960 - 1968)
GIS Databases:
Salinity Mapping LM 25m (DOLA 2000)
Acid Sulphate Soil Risk (DEC 2006)
CAWSA Part II (DoE 2004)
Topographical Contours Statewide (DOLA 2002)
Rainfall, Mean Annual (BOM 1999)
Hydrogeology, Statewide (WRC 2002)

(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

Extensive State Forest exists 3km to the north east, north, west and south west of the area proposed to be cleared. Two nature reserves (Whistler and Eastbrook) are located approximately 2 km to the east and south east of the proposed area to be cleared. An Interim Register of Estate, Gloucester National Park, is located approximately 4.5km to the south east of the area proposed to be cleared.

Given the distance to the closest conservation reserves and the relatively small size of the application area (0.5ha), it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
DEC Managed Lands and Waters (DEC 2005)
Register of National Estate (EA 2003)
WRC Estate (DoE 2004)

(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 application area is located within Zone D of the CAWSA Warren River Water Catchment. CAWSA guidelines have been established to limit clearing in areas with less than 10% native vegetation cover or in areas within the 30m buffer zone of a stream line.

The application is also within 20m of a stream line, and on a holding that has less than 10% native vegetation cover.

Given the above and the small area under application, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
Salinity Mapping LM 25m (DOLA 2000)
Acid Sulphate Soil Risk (DEC 2006)
CAWSA Part II Clearing Control Catchments (DoE 2004)
Topographical Contours Statewide (DOLA 2002)
Rainfall, Mean Annual (BOM 1999)
Hydrogeology, Statewide (WRC 2002)

(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 property has a hydrogeography of granitoid rocks with low permeability and it is in an area of high annual rainfall (1200mm) with a relatively low evaporation. Having a topographic 10m decline over the length of the area proposed to be cleared, and a high position in the catchment, it is reasonable to conclude that runoff would be captured in the proposed dam.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
Topographical Contours Statewide (DOLA 2002)
Rainfall, Mean Annual (BOM 1999)
Hydrogeology, Statewide (WRC 2002)
Hydrographic Catchments (DOE 2003)

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

Comments

The area proposed to be cleared is in the CAWSA Warren River catchment Zone D and subject to the statutory limitation that 10% of the land parcel is to remain uncleared.

CAWSA guidelines further state that vegetation should not be cleared if it is within a minimum 30 metre buffer zone of a first, second or third order stream. The area proposed to be cleared is less than 20m from a first order stream.

The proponent has obtained a permit to modify the bed and bank of the watercourse from the Dept of Water in Manjimup.

The area is subject to a Native Title Claim - South West Boojarah - over the area under application. As the property is privately owned the granting of the clearing permit would be a secondary approval and does not constitute a future act under the Native Title Act 1993.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
CAWSA (DOW 2004)
Aboriginal Sites of Significance (DIA 2007)
Native Title Claims (DLI 2005)
NLWRA Land Use DAFWA (2001)
RIWI Act Groundwater & Surface Water Areas (WRC 2002)

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Dam construction o maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.5	Assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections received. The proposal was found to be at variance to principle (f) and not likely to be at variance to all remaining principles. The assessing officer recommends that the proposal be granted In-principle. On the condition that the proponent obtain a permit to modify the bed and bank of the watercourse from the Dept of Water in Manjimup and the proponent revegetate the riparian zone surrounding the dam as an offset of the clearing.

5. References

AGPS (2001) The national objective and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

DEC (2007) Proposal Advice, Department of Environment and Conservation, Pemberton, Western Australia.

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.

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.

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

SAC Bio Datasets (310507, 040707) Department of Environment and Conservation, Kensington, Western Australia.

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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).
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)