



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 161/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: WA Sporting Car Club Inc

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12748 ON PLAN 136619
Local Government Area: City Of Wanneroo
Colloquial name: Wattle Avenue, Neerabup, 15km from Wanneroo

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3		Mechanical Removal	Recreation

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 6: medium woodland of tuart (Eucalyptus gomphocephala) and jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata) (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001). Heddl vegetation complex: Cottesloe complex central and south (mosaic of woodland tuart) (Heddl et al. 1980, Government of Western Australia 2000).	Vegetation under application consists of a long, narrow strip of remnant vegetation on the southern boundary of the property (DoE site visit 17/02/05). Towards the eastern end of the area under application some small native shrubs are interspersed with large assemblages of weeds. The vegetation towards the western end consists of large specimens of Eucalyptus marginata, E. gomphocephala and associated woodland.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	DoE site visit (17/02/05) noted: Vegetation at the eastern end of the area under application is degraded with small native shrubs (possible regeneration) interspersed with large assemblages of weeds and fallen dead timber. The vegetation towards the western end is in far better condition with large specimens of Eucalyptus marginata and healthy assemblages of E. gomphocephala and associated woodland. Generally, the native vegetation under application is in a healthy condition with no obvious signs of disease or water stress. There are a number of small areas that have been burnt and small areas of sparse vegetation as a result of disturbance. The proponent advised the DoE officer that he intends to leave the trees and only clear the understorey.

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 area under application is degraded with large sandy patches, some burnt patches and evidence of weed invasion. Two Bush Forever sites are also located on this property and these are in better condition than the area under application.

Methodology Site visit 17/02/05
GIS Databases:
- Bush Forever - MFP 07/01

(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**

CALM (2005) reports: Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Graceful Sun Moth are two Specially Protected species that are known to occur in a 10km radius. A number of Priority Fauna are also found within a 10km radius included 2 species of native bee, Western Brush Wallaby and Quenda. It is considered that the area would be of limited habitat value due to the degraded nature of some of the understorey vegetation and being on the margin of existing remnant vegetation (CALM 2005). As the intention of the proponent is to parkland clear the area under

application, the retention of large trees should provide some habitat value to local fauna.

Methodology CALM (2005) (Trim Reference EI729)
Site visit 17/02/05 (Trim reference ED 445)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
CALM (2005) reports: Five populations of the Declared Rare Flora (DRF) *Eucalyptus argutifolia* have been found within a 10km radius. A number of priority species are also found within a 10km radius including *Acacia benthamii*, *Rhodanthe pyrethrum*, *Stylidium longitubum*, *Stachysternon axillaris*, *Jacksonia sericea* and *Anthotium junciforme*. Due to the degradation of the understorey through changing land use and the illegal use of the area by vehicles it is unlikely that any DRF or priority species would be present. There is a low likelihood of the clearing as proposed is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2005)
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 significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
CALM (2005) reports: The significant ecological community Limestone Ridges (SCP 26a) is known to occur within a 10km radius of the area under application. Aerial imagery suggests that the area under application is in a degraded state (confirmed on site visit) and of a different landform. It would therefore be unlikely that this ecological community is present. There is no evidence to suggest the surface geology necessary for this ecological community is present within the area under application. Thus there is a low probability of clearing as proposed is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2005) (Trim reference EI 729)
GIS Databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
- Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95

(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 at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation under application is a component of Beard vegetation 6 of which there is only approximately 23.3% remaining and Heddle Cottesloe Complex Central and South (36% remaining) (Hopkins et al 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001). The State Government is committed to the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002, EPA 2000). The Beard vegetation complex in this application is below the recommended minimum of 30% representation.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion:					
Swan Coastal Plain	1,529,235	657,450	43	Depleted	
Shire - Wanneroo (city)	78,809	45,361	57.6	Least concern	
Beard vegetation association:					
6	79,001	18,398	23.3	Vulnerable	14.5
Heddle Cottesloe Complex Central and South					
	34,439	12,362	36	Depleted	

* Shepherd et al. (2001)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

All other vegetation complexes are above this minimum 30%.

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001)
Hopkins et al. (2001)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (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 at variance to this Principle

There are no watercourses or wetlands located within the area under application or within the remaining areas of the property. DAWA (2004) has indicated that there is minor potential of eutrophication of Lake Pinjar located approximately 5km away (DAWA 2004). However due to the distance from Lake Pinjar and the size of the area applied to be cleared, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have an affect on this wetland.

Methodology DAWA (2004) (Trim reference: EI299)
GIS Databases:
- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 08/01

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing has the potential for wind erosion and minor potential for water erosion and eutrophication to occur (DAWA 2004). DAWA (2004) advised that these concerns could be addressed through management strategies such as the provision of windbreaks and adequate ground cover. There is also no known risk of shallow or deeper Acid Sulphate Soils or Potential Acid Sulphate Soils. Given that the proponent only intends to parkland clear the area under application, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would cause appreciable land degradation on or off site.

Methodology DAWA (2004) (Trim reference: EI299)
GIS databases:
- Acid Sulphate Soil risk map, SCP - DOE 01/02/04

(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 2 Bush Forever sites adjacent to and on the same property as the area under application. However, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would have a significant impact on these areas as it is intended only to parkland clear. Bordering the northern boundary of the property is the Gngangara-Moore River State Forest. Due to the size and degraded nature of the area under application, there is a low probability that the clearing as proposed is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2005) (Trim reference EI729)
GIS databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/08/04
- Bush Forever - MFP 07/01
- Bushforever - MFP 07/01

(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

There is minor potential for eutrophication of Lake Pinjar located to east of the area of proposed clearing (DAWA 2004). The area under application is located within a groundwater resource area, however it is unlikely that the proposed parkland clearing would cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Methodology DAWA 2004 (EI299)
GIS databases:
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 4/11/04
- Groundwater Resources

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence 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 its size and location. The proposed area to be cleared is approximately 5km from Lake Pinjar and has an elevation of 70-80m. It is considered that the parkland clearing proposed for this site will have a negligible effect on the 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

No comment.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Recreation	Mechanical Removal	3	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and the clearing as proposed is at variance with Principle e and may be at variance with Principle g. For Principle e, the proponent intends to parkland clear leaving trees and large shrubs intact. The understorey is degraded from previous disturbances and not in good condition. Similarly for Principle g, the small size of the area under application, its current degraded nature and the fact that large trees will remain indicate that the clearing will not have a significantly deleterious effect. Thus the assessing officer recommends that the permit should be granted.

5. References

- CALM (2005). Advice to A/Director General, Department of Environment (DoE). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref EI729.
- DAWA (2004) Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref EI299.
- 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.
- 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.
- Government of Western Australia (2000) Bush Forever Volumes 1 and 2. Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth WA.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- 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, BJ (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. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.