



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1612/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Regional Power Corporation t/as Horizon Power

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 53 ON PLAN 192523 (House No. 77 SANCTUARY CORAL BAY 6701)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Carnarvon

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.78		Mechanical Removal	Road 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 662: Hummock grassland; shrub steppe; mixed acacia scrub & dwarf scrub with soft Spinifex & T. basedowii. (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	The proposal includes clearing of approximately 0.78ha of vegetation within a road reserve. The vegetation under application consists of grasses with few scattered shrubs. (DEC site visit 5 December 2006)	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation under application is in a long linear tract within a road reserve and is degraded. (DEC site visit 5 December 2006)

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 at variance to this Principle**
 The area under application predominantly consists of grasses and a few scattered shrubs (Site visit 5 December 2006). The application is an existing road and the vegetation which is in a long linear tract has been highly disturbed. The condition of the vegetation is degraded and does not represent a high level of biodiversity. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (5 December 2006)
 GIS Databases:
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00.

(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 at variance to this Principle**
 The area under application predominantly consists of grasses and a few scattered shrubs (Site visit 5 December 2006). The application is an existing road and the vegetation which is in a long linear tract has been highly disturbed. The condition of the vegetation is degraded and does not represent a significant habitat for fauna. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (5 December 2006)

(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 records of Declared Rare or Priority Flora within 50km of the area under application. The

vegetation under application consists of grasses and a few scattered shrubs (Site visit 5 December 2006). The area under application consists of a long linear tract of vegetation that has been disturbed and is degraded. It is therefore unlikely that the vegetation under application is necessary for significant flora. This proposal is therefore unlikely to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (5 December 2006)
 GIS Databases:
 - Declared Rare and Priority Flora list - CALM 01/07/05
 - Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DoE 30/05/05

(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 at variance to this Principle**
 There are no records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC'S) within 50km from the area under application. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
 - Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/04/05

(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 under application is representative of Beard Vegetation Association 662 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 99.3% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001). In addition the application falls within the Carnarvon IBRA Bioregion which has 99.8% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001). Beard Vegetation Association 662 and the Carnarvon IBRA Bioregion are therefore both of 'least concern' for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002). This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

	Pre-European Reserves/CALM- area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	managed land,
%					
IBRA Bioregion - Carnarvon	8,382,974	8,369,554	99.8	Least concern	11.3
Shire - Carnarvon	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
Beard veg type - 662	284,816	282,768	99.3	Least concern	1.8

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
 ** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology GIS Databases:
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01
 - Local Government Authorities - DLI 08/07/04
 - EPA Position Paper No 2 Agriculture Region - DEP 12/00
 Shepherd et al, 2001.
 Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002

(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**
 The area under application does not consist of a watercourse or wetland (Site visit 5 December 2006). The closest watercourse is the coastal waterline which occurs 1km to the east. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (5 December 2006)
 GIS Databases:
 - Hydrography, linear - DoE 01/02/04
 - Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DoE 23/03/05

(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 under application consists of coastal calcareous sands. The vegetation consists of grasses and a few scattered shrubs (Site visit 5 December 2006). The area under application is within an existing road reserve and

consists of a long linear tract of vegetation. Given the small area under application (0.78ha) and that it is within an existing road reserve, it is therefore unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

- Methodology** Site visit (5 December 2006)
GIS Databases:
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
 - Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
 - Acid Sulphate Soil risk map, SCP DOE 04/11/04
 - Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99

(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**
The Ningaloo Marine Park, which is an Environmentally Sensitive Area and registered as National Estate, is located 1km east of the area under application. The vegetation under application consists of grasses and few scattered shrubs and is degraded (Site visit 5 December 2006). In addition the area under application is within an existing road reserve and consists of a long linear tract of vegetation. Given the distance to the Ningaloo Marine Park and the small area under application (0.78ha) it is unlikely that this proposal will impact on the environmental values of the Marine Park. This proposal is therefore unlikely to be at variance with this Principle.

- Methodology** GIS Databases:
- CALM Regional Parks - CALM 12/04/02
 - CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/07/05
 - Proposed National Parks FMP-CALM 19/03/03
 - 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 under application consists of 0.78ha of degraded vegetation within a road reserve. The vegetation under application consists of grasses and few scattered shrubs in a linear tract of vegetation. In addition the area under application only receives approximately 300mm of annual rainfall. Due to the small area under application and the low rainfall rate, it is unlikely that this proposal will cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

- Methodology** GIS Databases:
- Current WIN data sets
 - PDWSA Protection Zones - DOE 07/01/04
 - Public Drinking Water Sources (PDWSAs) - DOE 09/08/05
 - Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 23/03/05
 - Hydrography, linear - DoE 01/02/04
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

(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 area under application consists of 0.78ha of severely degraded vegetation within a road reserve. The vegetation under application consists of grasses and few scattered shrubs in a linear tract of vegetation. The soil consists of coastal calcareous sands. In addition the area under application only receives approximately 300mm of annual rainfall. Due to the sandy nature of the soils and the low rainfall rate, it is therefore unlikely that this proposal will cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

- Methodology** GIS Databases:
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
 - Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99

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

- Comments**
The Shire of Carnarvon advised that they have no objection to a clearing permit being granted to clear for the purpose of road construction or maintenance. The Shire of Carnarvon has recently approved an application made pursuant to Town Planning Scheme no.11 (which applies to the land) to develop the land for a power station and associated access. The Council has provided written authorisation and authorises Horizon Power to act on its behalf in making application to clear portion of Sanctuary Road Reserve for construction of a sealed road.

There is no further requirement for a RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act Licence for the area under application.

There are two Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA's) over the area under application. However, as the area under application is within an existing road reserve, the proposal is not impacted by these EIA's.

There is an Aboriginal Site of Significance located over the area under application. The proponent will be advised of their obligations in the covering letter.

There is a Native Title claim over the area under application. The area under application falls within a dedicated road reserve vested with the Shire of Carnarvon. The Shire of Carnarvon has provided written authorisation and authorise Horizon Power to act on its behalf in making application to clear portion of Sanctuary Road Reserve for construction of a sealed road. Therefore the granting of a clearing permit constitutes a secondary approval and is not a future act under the Native Title Act 1993.

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.78	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.

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.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALM Science 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.
- 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.
- Site Visit Report (2006) Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Western Australia. DEC TRIM ref DOC11586.

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)