Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1628/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Kimberley John Skipworth

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1114 ON PLAN 103984 (Lot No. 1114 TYLER YARLOOP 6218)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Harvey

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2001).	The proposal involves clearing approximately 0.85ha comprising ~25 stumps and associated branches from a previous logging operation.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The description of the clearing application area is based on a site visit conducted by DEC officers on 12 April 2007.
Mattiske Dwellingup (D1) Complex: Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones (Mattiske Consulting 1998).	The vegetation under application comprises Corymbia calophylla (marri) stumps, sawn off at the base; in amongst annual pasture grasses (DEC Site Visit, 2007).		
Heddle Yarragil Complex: open forest of jarrah-marri with admixtures of yarri and bullich (Heddle et al. 1980).	The area is open to livestock grazing resulting in a complete replacement of native species with annual pasture species. The stumps appeared to have resprouted; but the area is unlikely to regenerate, even in the absence of livestock (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 at variance to this Principle

The condition of the vegetation within the clearing application area appeared Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2007).

Given the application is for 25 marri stumps with little to no biodiversity value, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);
DEC Site Visit (2007)

(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 is Completely Degraded comprising a small area of tree stumps that would hold habitat value for local fauna (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2007).

Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

Keighery (1994);
DEC Site Visit (2007)

(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

Within the local area there are 3 records of a Declared Rare Flora. These records are of Drakaea elastica which is a perennial herb that occurs in low-lying situations adjoining winter-wet swamps (Florabase). Given the area under application is situated higher up in the landscape, it is not likely to exhibit suitable characteristics for this species.

Given the Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the area under application is unlikely to present any habitat value for threatened flora.

Methodology

Keighery (1994);
Florabase (2007);
GIS Database:
- Threatened Flora Database (DEFL) - DEC 17/04/07

(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

Several Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) occur within a 2km radius of the proposed clearing; however given the Completely Degraded condition of the vegetation under application, clearing is not considered to impact on or be necessary for the maintenance of any nearby TEC.

Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/04/05;
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95;
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DoE 30/05/05

(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 at the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 3 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 72.1% (Shepherd et al. 2001) of the pre-1750 extent remaining. This vegetation type is therefore of "least concern" for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment & Conservation, 2002).

The vegetation at the site is also a component of the Mattiske Dwellingup (D1) Vegetation Complex (Mattiske Consulting, 1998) of which there is 93.0% of the pre-1750 extent remaining. This vegetation type is also of "least concern" for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment & Conservation, 2002).

Given the proposal is for the removal of tree stumps, the area proposed to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.

Methodology

Hopkins et al. (2001);
Shepherd et al (200);
Department of Natural Resources and Enviornment & Conservation (2002);
Mattiske Consulting (1998);
GIS Databases:
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98;
- 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

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95
- EPP Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories) Swan Coastal Plain - DoE 15/9/04
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02

(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 proposed clearing is for a small degraded area of stumps. Advice provided by DAFWA (2005) indicated that soil erosion on slopes higher than 10% may occur. Given the small scale of clearing the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

DAFWA (2005)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The Dwellingup State Forest is located approximately 650m east of the area under application; however given the proposal is for the removal of 25 individual stumps, the proposed clearing will not impact on the values of any conservation reserve.

Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03;
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95

(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 no permanent surface water or watercourse within 500 m of the proposed clearing. Groundwater salinities and salinity risk are low and the area is mapped as having no known acid sulphate risk. Clearing of the vegetation is not considered likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water; therefore the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03
- Acid Sulphate Soil risk map, SCP DOE 01/02/04;
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 001

(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 proposal to clear 25 individual stumps is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02;

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

Comments

The property is zoned General Farming under the local Town Planning Scheme.

No other approvals are required from the Department of Environment and Conservation.

No public submissions have been received by the Department.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	0.85	Assessable criteria have been addressed and the assessment of the vegetation under application revealed the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to Principles (c), (d), (f), (g), (i) and (j), and not at variance to Principles (a), (b), (e) and (h).

5. References

DAFWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref XXXXX.

DEC Site Visit (2007). Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC23530.

Department of Environment and Conservation (2007). Florabase Website. Site accessed 30 May 2007.

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.

Heddle, 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, 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.

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)