



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1633/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Carnarvon

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 568 ON PLAN 205439 (House No. 44 STUART CARNARVON 6701)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Carnarvon
Colloquial name: Tank Hill

1.4. Application

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

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 308: Mosaic: Shrublands; Acacia sclerosperma sparse scrub / Succulent steppe; saltbush & bluebush. (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	The area under application includes 1 ha of vegetation consisting of a few Eucalypts with few scattered shrubs. The majority of the area under application consists of dead vegetation, exotic species and weeds. The vegetation is degraded and surrounds two large decommissioned tanks on the site. (DEC Site visit, 6 December 2006)	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The description and condition of the vegetation under application was obtained after a site visit on Wednesday 6 December 2006 (DEC Trim Ref No. DOC11734).

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 consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs. The majority of the area under application consists of dead vegetation, exotic species and weeds (Site visit 6 December 2006). The vegetation is degraded and surrounds two large decommissioned tanks on the site. The vegetation under application does not represent a high level of biodiversity. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (6 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 consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs. The majority of the area under application consisted of dead vegetation, exotic species and weeds (Site visit 6 December 2006). The vegetation is degraded and surrounds two large decommissioned tanks on the site. 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 (6 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 the local area (10km from the area under application). The vegetation under application consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs. The majority of the area under application consists of dead vegetation, exotic species and weeds (Site visit 6 December 2006). The vegetation is degraded and surrounds two large decommissioned tanks on the site. 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 (6 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 (TECs) within 10km 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 308 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is 99.4% 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 308 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 - 308	447,098	444,535	99.4	Least concern	0.7

* (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

No watercourses or wetlands are located within the area under application. The Gascoyne River is located 1.8km north and the McNeill Claypan System is located 5.3 km east of the notified area. Due to the distance to any watercourse or wetland it is unlikely that the vegetation within the area under application is growing in association with the two identified watercourses. This proposal is therefore not at variance with this Principle.

Methodology 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 chief soils within the area under application consist of calcareous loams. The vegetation consists of a few Eucalypts with a few scattered shrubs (Site visit 6 December 2006). The vegetation under application is degraded and surrounds two large decommissioned tanks. The area surrounding the tanks slope downhill, however the area will be rehabilitated as part of the proposal. Given the small area under application (1ha) and the fact that the area will be rehabilitated as part of the proposal, it is therefore unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology Site visit (6 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 Chinaman's Pool Nature Reserve is located approximately 2.8 km North and One Tree Point Nature Reserve is located approximately 2.7km from the area under application. In addition the Wooramel Seagrass Bank, which is registered as National Estate is located 1km from the notified area. The McNeill Claypan System, registered as an ANCA (Australian Nature Conservation Agency) Wetland and an Environmentally Sensitive Area is located 5.3km east from the proposal.

The area under application is located within the town centre of Carnarvon. The vegetation under application consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs and is degraded (Site visit 6 December 2006). In addition the vegetation under application consists mainly of dead vegetation, exotic flora species and weeds. Given the distance to any identified conservation areas and the small area under application (1ha) it is unlikely that this proposal will impact on the environmental values of these areas. This proposal is therefore unlikely to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology Site visit (6 December 2006)

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
- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DOE 30/5/05

(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 approximately 1ha of degraded vegetation. The vegetation under application consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs. The majority of the area under application consists of dead vegetation, exotic flora species and weeds (Site visit 6 December 2006). 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:

- 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 approximately 1ha of degraded vegetation. The vegetation under application consists of a few Eucalypts with scattered shrubs (Site visit 6 December 2006). The chief soils consist of calcareous loams. In addition the area under application only receives approximately 300mm of annual rainfall and is situated high in the landscape with most of the vegetation under application located on a hill surrounding two large decommissioned tanks. Due to the topography of the site and the low rainfall rate, it is

therefore unlikely that this proposal will cause of exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

Methodology Site visit (6 December 2006)
GIS Databases:
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

The Shire of Carnarvon has not indicated that there are any planning requirements or approvals that would affect the clearing.

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

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was conducted over the area under application as part of the Shire of Carnarvon Town Planning Scheme which identified proposed areas for infrastructure and areas of conservation within the Shire of Carnarvon. The Scheme was formally assessed for environmental review and managed through scheme maps, provisions and local planning strategy. This EIA does not affect this application as the property is vested with the Shire of Carnarvon as an historical site and is zoned accordingly to conduct the restoration works (EPA reference CRN145179).

There is one Native Title Claim over the area under application. The area under application is within Crown Reserve 24139 vested with the Shire of Carnarvon. In this instance the Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian newspaper constitutes legal notification of the native title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993. No response was received from the representative body.

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Restoration	Mechanical Removal	1	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. 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.
- 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 DOC11734.

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)