



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1707/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: B & J Catalano Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1726 ON PLAN 201671 (Lot No. 1726 BUSSELL COWARAMUP 6284)
 LOT 1062 ON PLAN 203070 (COWARAMUP 6284)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Augusta-Margaret River
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 7.9 | | Mechanical Removal | Extractive Industry |

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 vegetation under application is open forest dominated by jarrah with interspersed marri. A disturbed understorey of Melaleuca sp. exists, including numerous pasture grasses and weeds (DEC Site Visit 2007). | Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) | Observed during site visit (DEC Site Visit 2007) |
| Mattiske Vegetation Complex Cowaramup (C2): Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Banksia grandis on lateritic uplands in perhumid and humid zones (Mattiske Consulting 1998). | The vegetation under application is an isolated patch of remnants within a landscape largely cleared for agriculture. The area is utilised by the owner for storing industrial material (i.e. bricks) and other wastes. The area has been historically logged and the impacts of stock grazing over many years is evident. | | |

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 proposed for clearing comprises a small area of jarrah-marri woodland in degraded to good condition. There is heavy evidence of historical grazing, logging and industrial activities on the property over many years, with the southern portion severely degraded (DEC site visit 20/02/2007).
 The area also comprises a low level of biodiversity in comparison to other conservation areas in close proximity (DEC site visit 20/02/2007).
 It is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance with this principle.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

There are 4 Threatened mammals, 2 Priority mammals and 1 Threatened Bird, Insect, Arachnid and Reptile that are known to occur in the local area (10km Radius). Within the local area there is one National Park (Bramley) and two state forests (N/E Margaret River and Keenan).

Approximately 35% of the local area (10Km radius) is uncleared, approximately 10% of the property is uncleared and the proposed area consists of over 50% of the remaining vegetation on the property.

Given that the area proposed for clearing is 7.9ha, comprises a small area of jarrah-marri woodland in degraded to good condition (DEC site visit 20/02/2007) and provides a stepping stone for fauna in a highly cleared area the proposed clearing may be at variance with the principle.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)
GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Sacbiodata Sets

(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 1 known populations of Declared Rare Flora (DRF), one Priority 2, three priority 3 and one priority 4 flora recorded within the a 10km radius of the proposed clearing.

None of the above populations are associated with the same vegetation complex as the area under application, and due to the degraded nature of the vegetation under application it is considered unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)
GIS Database:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora - CALM 01/07/05
- Sacbiodata Sets

(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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing. It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on any known TEC's.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Sacbiodata Sets
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/04/05
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95 (Swan Coastal Plain)

(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 proposed clearing is located in the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River and within the Jarrah Forest Bioregion. The extent remaining within these areas is 71.7% and 70.3% respectively.

The vegetation is a component of the Beard Vegetation Association 3 of which 70.8% of Pre-European vegetation is remaining. In addition it is a component of Mattiske Vegetation Complex C2 (Cowaramup) of which 34.6% is remaining.

At a regional level the conservation status is of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002) and at the local level it has a conservation status of 'Depleted' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

As none of the vegetations are represented below the target level of 30% as per the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (Commonwealth of Australia 2001a) it is unlikely to be considered a significant remnant of vegetation in a highly cleared area.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)
Sheperd et al. (2001)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Commonwealth of Australia (2001a)
GIS Databases:
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/03/98
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00

(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 mapped wetlands present within a 10km radius of the area under application.

The proposed clearing is not on or associated with a watercourse, the nearest being a minor perennial 600m South East. The proposed clearing is not considered to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04
- EPP, Areas - DEP 06/95
- EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- EPP, Wetlands - DEP 21/07/04
- Anca Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- Geomorphic Wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DEC

(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 salinity risk is low for the local area and the ground water salinity is 1000-3000mg/L. The relief of the proposed area is low and there is a high rainfall, however the soil type is composed of 2/3 Sedimentary Rocks that have a high permeability and 1/3 low permeability rocks so it is considered unlikely to cause soil erosion, waterlogging or increase salinity levels.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Swan Coastal Plain - DEC
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - DOW
- Hydrogeology, Statewide - DOW
- 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 may be at variance to this Principle

Nearby the proposed area is the Leeuwin-Naturalist Ridge Area (7Km West), Bramley National Park (2.2Km South), Keenan State Forest (4.5Km South) and North East Margaret River State Forest (6.2Km East). The area is of a degraded condition but still provides linkage with the surrounding conservation areas and therefore may be at variance with this principle.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)

GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04

(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 proposed area is in the Naturaliste (Busselton/Capel) Public Drinking Water Source Area and the Margaret River Catchment area. Topography shows the area under application has low relief. The area also has low groundwater salinity (1000 - 3000 mg/L) and an evaporation rate of 1000 mm combined with a rainfall rate of 1050 mm. Soil geology mapping shows part of the area has low permeability with the remaining having sedimentary rock.

Given the size of the area to be cleared, the low relief, groundwater salinity and distance to watercourses the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on groundwater or surface water quality.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOW
- Hydrographic Catchments - Subcatchments - DOW
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas - DOW

- RIWI Act, Rivers - DOW
- RIWI Act, Irrigation Districts - DOW
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DOW
- RIWI Act, Areas - DOW

(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 is subject to high rainfall and a low relief, however there is also a high evaporation rate and given that 2/3 of the soil type in the proposed area is highly permeable it is considered unlikely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Topography Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
- Evaporation Isoleths - BOM 09/98
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohyets (1975-2003) - DOW

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

Comments

The proposed area lies within the South West Boorah Native Title Claim area. No submissions have been received and as the proposed clearing is on Private property the clearing is not considered to be a future act.

An Extractive Industries Licence (EIL) was lodged with the Augusta Margaret River Shire on 19 March 2007.

Methodology DEC site visit (20/02/2007)

GIS Databases:

- Native Title Claims - DLI 7/11/05
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA

4. Assessor's comments

| Purpose | Method | Applied area (ha)/ trees | Comment |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Extractive Industry | Mechanical Removal | 7.9 | Gravel Extraction |

5. References

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

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.

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) |

