



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1788/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: B & J Catalano Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (PAYNEDALE 6239)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Donnybrook-Balingup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	5	Mechanical Removal	Road Maintenance (old)

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 1185: Medium woodland; jarrah, marri and blackbutt	The proposed clearing of five trees lies within a road reserve in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, and is located adjacent to the Boyanup State Forest.	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was deemed to be in 'Excellent' condition from site photos supplied by MBS Environmental on behalf of the proponent, and by aerial photographs (Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic - DLI 01).
Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Bidella (BD) - Low woodland of Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis-Hakea lasianthoides on valley floors and open forest to woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus patens on slopes in perhumid and humid zones.	Aerial photographs and site photographs supplied by MBS Environmental on behalf of the proponent suggest that the vegetation within the road reserve has been subject to edge effects, but generally is in excellent condition (Keighery, 1994).		
HeddeVegetation Complex: Jarrahwood complex.			

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 located in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and within the Jarrah Forest Bioregion. The proposed clearing of five trees lies within a road reserve and is located adjacent to Boyanup State Forest. Site photographs supplied by MBS Environmental (2007) on behalf of the proponent suggest that the vegetation within the road reserve has been subject to edge effects, but generally is in excellent condition (Keighery, 1994).

The proposed clearing of five trees for the purpose of road widening does not constitute a high level of biodiversity, and is therefore unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

It has been acknowledged that the application area lies within an annual rainfall region of 1000mm where there is an increased risk of the spread of dieback into surrounding areas as a result of clearing activities. To mitigate

this risk, conditions have been placed on the permit to ensure that hygiene practices associated with dieback are adhered to during the clearing process.

Methodology Keighery (1994)
 MBS Environmental (2007)
 GIS Database:
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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**
 There are seven known records of Declared Threatened Fauna and four known records of Priority Fauna within a ten kilometre radius of the application area, the closest being an insect, *Pachysaga strobila*, located approximately 5.5kms to the north-east. Of these, one known record of the chuditch, a mammal species classified as Declared Rare Fauna (Vulnerable) was recorded as occurring on the same Mattiske vegetation type as the vegetation type of the trees proposed to be cleared.

The proposed clearing of five trees is unlikely to be necessary for the maintenance of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - FAUNA - SAC Bio datasets 100507
 - Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98

(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 is one known record of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) and eight known records of Priority Flora within a ten kilometre radius of the application area. The closest known record is a P3 species, *Acacia semitrullata*, located approximately 200m north of the proposed clearing area. Site photos supplied by MBS Environmental (2007) indicate that the five trees proposed to be removed are most likely *Eucalyptus* species.

Given the above, the clearing of five eucalyptus trees is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

Methodology MBS Environmental (2007)
 GIS Database:
 - DEFL - SAC Bio datasets 100507

(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 is no evidence to suggest that any EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or State listed TECs are present on the site of the proposed clearing. The closest TEC on Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Threatened Ecological Community Database is approximately 18km north-west of the application area.

Given the above and that the application is for clearing five trees the proposed clearing is unlikely to be necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - TECPOINTS - SAC Bio datasets 100507

(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**

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current Extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation Status**
IBRA Bioregion: Jarrah Forest	4,503,156	2,624,301	58.3	Least concern
Shire: Donnybrook-Balingup	155,143	111,737	72.0	Least concern
Beard Unit 1185	18,248	17,114	93.8	Least concern
Mattiske Veg: Bidella (BD)	477,894	460,703	96.4	Least concern

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The area under application is located in the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup and within the Jarrah Forest Bioregion. The extent of pre-European vegetation within these areas is 72.0% and 58.3% respectively (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 1185 (Hopkins et al., 2001) and Mattiske vegetation complex Bidella (BD), of which 93.8% and 96.4% respectively of pre-European vegetation remains (Shepherd et al., 2001; Mattiske Consulting, 1998). These vegetation types are considered to have a conservation status of 'Least Concern' (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared comprises five trees within an area of vegetation that is well represented both locally and regionally. The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Shepherd et al (2001)
Hopkins et al., 2001
Mattiske Consulting 1998
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
GIS Database:

(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

There are no watercourses or wetlands associated with the proposed clearing of five trees.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Hydrography, Linear - DOE 1/2/04

(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

Given the small size of the area under application, the proposed clearing of five trees within the roadside verge is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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

Boyanup State Forest lies adjacent to the area containing five trees proposed for clearing. Given that the region lies within an annual rainfall area of 1000mm, there is a possibility of the spread of dieback into surrounding areas as a result of clearing activities. The proposal may therefore be at variance to this principle.

To mitigate the risk of the spread of dieback, conditions have been placed on the permit to ensure that hygiene practices associated with dieback are adhered to during the clearing process.

Methodology GIS Database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05
- Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01

(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

The area under application falls within the Leschenault Estuary_Preston River Catchment. The region is of low relief with shallow gradients, and has an annual rainfall of 1000mm.

The proposal is for the clearing of five trees within the roadside verge. It is highly unlikely that the clearing of native vegetation (five trees) will cause deterioration in the quality of surface water or groundwater within the local area.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 23/03/05
 - Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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 clearing of five trees within the road verge for the purpose of road widening is unlikely to exacerbate the likelihood of flooding.

Methodology GIS Database:
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

No submissions from the public have been received.

Written authorisation has been received from Catalano Pty Ltd, the proponents, allowing MBS Environmental to act on their behalf.

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup have advised that they have no objection to the application by Catalano Pty Ltd for the clearing of five trees within road reserve on Silipo Rd.

The proposed clearing lies within a high rainfall area (1000mm annually) and as such, falls within a high dieback risk area. To manage this risk, conditions have been placed on the permit to ensure that hygiene practices associated with dieback are adhered to during the clearing process.

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application. 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 GIS Database:
 - Native Title Claims - DLI 07/11/05

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road Maintenance (old)	Mechanical Removal	5		<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed , and the proposal is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (i) and (j); and may be at variance to Principle (h).</p> <p>It is recommended that a permit be granted to clear five trees for the widening of Silipo Road, with dieback conditions.</p>

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.

Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.

MBS Environmental (2007). Site Photos.

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
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
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 DoE)

