



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1816/1  
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Seaport Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: SUSSEX LOCATION 4997 (Lot No. 4997 BUSSELL VASSE 6280)  
 ROAD RESERVE ( VASSE 6280)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Busselton

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	7	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 1000: Mosaic - Medium forest; jarrah-marri/ Low woodland; banksia/ Low forest; tea tree (Melaleuca spp.) (Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2001).	The proposal involves clearing seven individual marri trees to construct a roundabout intersection.	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 18 May 2007.
Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Ludlow - Open woodland of Melaleuca raphiophylla and sedgelands of Cyperaceae-Restionaceae spp. on broad depressions in the subhumid zone (Mattiske Consulting 1998).	The trees are large remnants occurring on a Completely Degraded roadside with no other associated vegetation (i.e. understorey) (Information supplied by applicant).  Alternative traffic design solutions were examined, however clearing of these 7 trees was deemed unavoidable.		

## 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 proposal is for the clearing of seven individual *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) within a Completely Degraded road reserve (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2007), for the construction of a roundabout to service a new subdivision.

The vegetation under application is located in an area that is currently subject to urban development, and is comprised of the Ludlow vegetation complex (Mattiske Consulting, 1998), of which there is 0% pre-1750 extent remaining. The local area (10 km radius) is approximately 20% vegetated, with a large percentage of that vegetation vested in formal reserves.

Five of the seven trees are substantial in size with the potential to contain many hollows that may be utilised by local fauna (SW Region, 2007); however given the trees under application are within completely degraded vegetation the biological diversity of the proposed clearing is low and therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Keighery (1994);  
DEC Site Visit (2007);  
SW Region (2007);  
Mattiske Consulting (1998);  
GIS Databases:  
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;  
- Busselton 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

**(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**

The remaining vegetation surrounding the Vasse Newtown subdivision is known to support, in amongst others, a population of Western Ringtail Possums (WRPs)(Pers. comm., SW Region, 2007); five of the seven trees under application are substantial in size with the potential to contain many hollows utilised by these animals (DEC, SW Region, 2007). In addition, a recent site inspection undertaken by the SW Region (2007) identified WRP scats under the vegetation proposed for clearing.

Given the size of the trees, the vegetation is also likely to be providing a food source for birds and potentially possums (DEC Site Visit, 2007).

Given the above, the proposal may be at variance to this Principle.

**Methodology** Pers. comm., SW Region (2007);  
DEC Site Visit (2007);  
DEC, SW Region (2007);  
GIS Databases:  
- Busselton 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

**(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 several records of threatened and priority flora within the local area (10 km radius), including several Caladenia and Acacia species that are known to occur in both the same soil and vegetation type as the area under application (DEFL, 2007).

The vegetation under application comprises a complete absence of an understorey and a compacted nature, given its location within a road side shoulder; this is considered to limit the potential for conservation values (DEC, SW Region, 2007).

The proposal is therefore unlikely to impact on significant flora.

**Methodology** Keighery (1994);  
DEC, SW Region (2007);  
GIS databases:  
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List (DEFL) - CALM 13/08/03

**(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 several records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within 10km radius of the proposed clearing; most are located in small and isolated, fully vegetated reserves.

All known records occur within the same soil type (but not the same vegetation type) as the area under application; however given the Completely Degraded condition and compacted nature of the roadside shoulder, it is highly unlikely the vegetation constitutes or will impact on the values of any known TEC.

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

**Methodology** GIS databases:  
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03  
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

**(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 consists of 7 mature trees within an area considered to be completely degraded. Given this the trees under application do not represent a vegetation complex.

The area of proposed clearing is located within the Busselton shire on the Swan Coastal Plain, with the extent remaining being 44.5% and 41.8% (Shepherd et al. 2001), respectively.

Given the above, the proposal is not likely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

**Methodology** Mattiske et al. (1998);  
Mattisk Consulting (2002);  
EPA (2000);  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002);  
GIS databases:  
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04  
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98  
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00  
- 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 at variance to this Principle**  
There are several minor watercourses and lands subject to inundation more than 1km from the notified area; however the removal of seven isolated road side trees is not likely to impact on any watercourse or wetland.

**Methodology** GIS databases:  
- 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**  
The removal of seven isolated road side trees is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

**Methodology** GIS databases:  
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.  
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

**(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 Locke, Broadwater and several unnamed Nature Reserves are located within a 5km radius of the proposed clearing; however the removal of seven isolated road side trees is unlikely to impact on these known nature reserves or any conservation reserve.

**Methodology** GIS database:  
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04  
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03  
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95  
- Busselton 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

**(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 a permanent wetland located approximately 50 metres down slope from the area under application.

Groundwater salinities and salinity risk are low and the area is mapped as having a moderate to low risk of ASS.

Given the small scale of clearing proposed, it is considered unlikely that the deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water will result; 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**  
 Given the scale of clearing; the proposal is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

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

**Comments**  
 Two of the seven trees are located within unallocated Crown Land; the proponent has obtained permission from the landholder (DPI) to remove this vegetation.

The area under application is within a road reserve and UCL. No planning or other issues have been raised by the Shire of Busselton.

No public submissions have been received by the Department for this proposal.

**Methodology** DEC, SW Region (2006);  
 DEWR (2007);  
 GIS Databases:  
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 08/98

**4. Assessor's comments**

Purpose	Method Applied	area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	7	Assessable criteria have been addressed and the assessment of the vegetation under application revealed the proposal may be at variance to Principle (b); is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i) and (j); and not at variance to Principles (d) and (f).

**5. References**

DEC Site Visit (2007). Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC26604  
 DEC, SW Region (2007). Additional site inspection on 17 July 2007. TRIM Ref: DOC29153.  
 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.  
 DEWR (Department of Environment and Water Resources) (2007). Referral documents of the Monaghan's Roundabout to the EPA under the EPBC Act 1999. TRIM Ref: DOC20866.  
 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.  
 Mattiske Consulting (2002). Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation complexes, Report prepared for the Conservation Commission.  
 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)

