Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 1822/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Gerald James Richings

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1 ON DIAGRAM 24358 (WILGARRUP 6258)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	150	Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

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); Mattiske Vegetation Complexes: - Corbalup (CL1): Mosaic of open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Banskia spp. on well drained sites, with some Eucalyptus decipiens on lower slopes in southern areas, woodland of Eucalyptus rudis-Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis on depressions in perhumid and humid zones; - Yornup (YR): Mosaic of open woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla, open woodland of Melaleuca cuticularis, open woodland of Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis-Banksia seminuda, tall shrubland of Myrtaceae spp. and sedgelands on broad depressions in humid and subhumid zones; - Collis 1 (CO1): Open forest to tall open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata with some Corymbia calophylla on low undulating hills in perhumid and humid zones	The proposal involves clearing approximately 150 (dead and dying) native paddock trees. The vegetation under application comprises numerous scatterings of individual and groups of mature and young marri trees, with the odd jarrah, blackbutt and flood gum (DEC Site Visit, 2007). The area appears to be parkland cleared paddocks with limited understorey. The vegetation was subject to a wildfire during 2004/05 summer period that swept through the property damaging and killing several paddock trees (DEC Site Visit, 2007). The applicant wishes to remove the affected vegetation, as several have since fallen over during recent storms.	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 a DEC officer on 13 July 2007.

(Mattiske Consulting, 1998)

Heddle Vegetation Complex: Dwellingup and Hester (Heddle et al. 1980).

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 approximately 150 dead and dying paddock trees for the purpose of hazard reduction and fire control.

The area under application is considered to be in Degraded condition (Keighery 1994) with little or no understorey. The area is currently being grazed by livestock (DEC Site Visit, 2007).

Based on the unlikely significance of the area to contribute to the maintenance of rare flora and TECs and the low significance of the areas habitat values, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology

Keighery (1994);
DEC Site Visit (2007);
GIS databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/07/05;
- Manjimup 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is for the clearing of approximately 150 dead and dying paddock trees for the purpose of hazard reduction and fire control. The vegetation has little or no understorey and is considered to be in Degraded condition (Keighery, 1994).

There are numerous records of threatened and priority fauna within close proximity of the proposed area for clearing (10 km radius); however given the nature of the clearing and the surrounding vegetated area, the area under application is not considered to be significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05;
- Threatened Fauna - SAC Bio Dataset - 05/06/07;
- Manjimup 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

A desktop study revealed 4 populations of the Declared Rare Flora (DRF) Caladenia christineae, 2 populations of Caladenia harringtoniae (DRF) and 1 population of Drosera occidentalis subsp. occidentalis (P4), occurring in the local area (10km radius).

Given the nature of the clearing and that it appears that the area has been grazed it is unlikely that the area includes or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- DEFL, SAC Bio Datasets - 10/08/07;
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

(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 Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities within a 16 km radius of the proposed area.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- TEC SAC Bio Datasets 05/06/07

(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	Current extent reserves/CALM (ha)*	Remaining (ha)*	(%)*	Conservation	% In **status managed land
IBRA Bioregions -Jarrah Forest	4,506,674.56	2,426279.798	53.8	Least Concern	14
Shire of Manjimup	705,670	5911748	83.9	Least Concern	75
Vegetation type: Beard: Unit 3	2,390,534.711	1661219.499	69.5	Least Concern	16.3
Mattiske: Corbalup (CL1)	151,768	115,381	76.0	Least Concern	
Heddle: Catterick Complex\in low to medium rainfall	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)
*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The area under application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion. The extent of pre-European vegetation within this area is 53.8% (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The proposal site falls within the Shire of Manjimup, which retains 83.9% of pre-European vegetation (Shepherd et al., 2001).

The Beard Vegetation Association of the area under application is 69.5% of the remaining pre-European vegetation (Hopkins et al., 2001). The Mattiske Complex is Corbalup with 76% remaining of pre-European vegetation respectively.

Given the area under application, nature of the clearing and the remaining vegetation in the area, the proposed clearing is not considered significant remanent vegetation in an extensively cleared area.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98;
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01;
- Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95

(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 within the area under application. The closest watercourse is a minor non-perennial watercourse approximately 50m east of the area under application. There are 2 swamps in degraded condition on the property, but are not associated with the proposed clearing.

Given the distance to nearest watercourse and the Degraded condition of the area under application, it is unlikely to contribute to the values of the watercourse and is therefore not likely to be associated with the watercourse.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear - DOE 1/2/04;
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 06/95;
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95;
- EPP Lakes - DEP 1/12/92;
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 14/02/03

(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

Due to the nature of the clearing, 150 dead and dying paddock trees, there is likely to be no impact on the area leading to land degradation, as the local area will remain predominantly vegetated.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04;
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00;
- 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 is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The area proposed for clearing does not lie within or adjacent to areas set aside for conservation. Given the nature of the clearing and the remaining surrounding vegetation in the local area, the vegetation under application is highly unlikely to function as an ecological linkage to nearby conservation areas.

Methodology

Keighery (1994)
GIS databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05;
- Register of National Estate EA 28/01/03

(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

Due to the nature of the clearing, 150 dead and dying paddock trees, it is unlikely to impact on the quality of surface or underground water, as the local area will remain predominantly vegetated.

The area is within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (CAWS - Warren River Water Reserve); however the CAWS Act does not apply to the removal of dead vegetation.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments DOW;
- Rainfall, Mean Annual BOM 30/09/01;
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) 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

Due to the nature of the proposed clearing, 150 dead and dying paddock trees, it is unlikely to cause or exacerbate flooding within the local area.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Hydrography, linear -DOE 01/02/04;
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02;
- Rainfall, Mean annual - BOM 30/09/01

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

Comments

The land is zoned Rural under the Shire of Manjimup TPS. The Shire advise it has no comment to make in relation to the clearing proposal (Shire of Manjimup, 2007).

The land falls within Zone B of the Warren River Water Reserve (CAWS catchment). DoW (2007) advise this land has not been compensated for the refusal to clear; a CAWS application has not been submitted to DoW; if 10% of vegetation remains on the property then the proposal will not conflict with CAWS legislation.

There is one Native Title claim over the area under application, as the property is privately owned the granting of the clearing permit is a secondary approval and does not constitute a future act under the Native Title Act 1993.

No public submissions have been received by DEC to date.

Methodology

Shire of Manjimup (2007);
DoW advice (2007);

GIS Databases:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 08/98;
- Native Title Claims - DLI 07/11/05

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Hazard reduction or fire control	Mechanical Removal	150	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), (h), (i) and (j).

5. References

DEC Site Visit (2007). Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC30808.

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.

DoW advice (2007). Advice with regard to CAWS legislation for Lot 1. TRIM Ref: DOC31412.

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.

Shire of Manjimup (2007). Submission for clearing proposal. TRIM Ref: DOC30808.

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)