



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2052/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Dovercourt Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 6854 ON PLAN 80143 (LUMEAH 6395)
 LOT 5614 ON PLAN 133067 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 5614 ON PLAN 133067 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 3382 ON PLAN 120539 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 2275 ON PLAN 110737 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 2927 ON PLAN 117133 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 88855 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)
 LOT 33 ON PLAN 2851 (BROOMEHILL WEST 6318)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Broomehill & Shire Of Kojonup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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 4: Medium woodland; marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al. 2001; Hopkins et al. 2001).	The proposal is for the clearing of up to 200 trees for fence realignment and general farming. The vegetation comprises scattered paddock trees and is almost completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) with no native understorey.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Description of the clearing application area is based on a site inspection conducted by DEC officers on 9 November 2007.

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 proposal is for the clearing of up to 200 scattered paddock trees for fence realignment and general farming. The vegetation under application is considered to be completely degraded (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2007).

Given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area the proposed clearing does not hold a high level of biological diversity and is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);
 DEC Site Visit (2007);

 GIS Databases:
 - Kojonup 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 up to 200 scattered paddock trees for fence realignment and general farming. The vegetation is considered to be completely degraded (Keighery, 1994).

Within the local area (10 km radius from the proposed area for clearing) there are several records of Declared Rare Fauna, including Muir's Corella (EN) and Carnabys Cockatoo (EN). DEC advice (2007) indicates the Muir's Corella is unlikely to nest in the area; however Carnaby's Cockatoo are known to nest in the area, but prefer Wandoo and Morrell trees; given the vegetation under application consists of Marri and Jarrah (DEC Site Visit, 2007), it is not likely this species will utilise these trees.

The local area is approximately 15% vegetated; however given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the area under application is not likely to be considered significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia and not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC advice (2007);

GIS Databases:

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

(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 *Dryandra mucronulata* subsp. *mucronulata* (DRF) located approximately 11 km east of the proposed clearing; however given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the applied area is not likely to be necessary for the continued existence of rare flora and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS database:

- DEFL SAC Bio Datasets 05/06/07

(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 or Priority Ecological Communities within a 30 km radius of the proposed area; therefore the applied area is unlikely to include or be necessary for the continued existence of a TEC.

Methodology GIS database:

- 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 may be at variance to this Principle

The State government is committed to the National Objective Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, which includes targets that prevent the clearing of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of National Resources and Environment 2002; EPA 2000).

Vegetation within the area under application is identified as a component of Beard Vegetation Association 4, which is identified as having 23.3% remaining of the pre-European extent (Shepherd et al. 2007).

Pre-European	Current extent	Remaining		Conservation	% In status**
	reserves/CALM				
	(ha)	(ha)	(%)		managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest	4,506,674	2,426,279	53.8*	Least Concern	14
Shire of Kojonup	292,938	44,482	14.7*	Vulnerable	N/A
Shire of Broomehill	119,170	11,265	9.2*	Endangered	N/A
Vegetation type: Beard: Unit 4	1,054,316	245,361	23.3*	Vulnerable	6.3

* (Shepherd et al. 2007)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002)

The proposed clearing falls within the shires of Kojonup and Broomehill, which have both been extensively cleared with 15.2% and 9.5% remaining of pre-European vegetation (Shepherd et al., 2001). The Beard Vegetation Association of the area under application retains 23.3% pre-European vegetation (Shepherd et al., 2006).

In addition, the proposed clearing falls within the agricultural zone of EPA Position Paper No. 2 (EPA, 2000). The EPA does not support the further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture and supports active management by landholders to maintain environmental values of remaining vegetation.

Given the area under application consists of isolated paddock trees and vegetation remaining is less than 30% of its original extent the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002);
Shepherd et al. (2007);
EPA (2000);

GIS databases:
- 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 tributaries of the Carlecatup Creek surrounding the applied area; however given the application consists of scattered paddock trees within a grazed area, the applied area is not in association with a watercourse or wetland and is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear - DOE 1/2/04;
- ANCA Wetlands - CALM 06/95;
- EPP Area - 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

The soils of the area under application are described as generally rolling to hilly country with tors; lateritic mesas and buttes on some interfluvial areas: chief soils are hard neutral and acidic yellow mottled soils, sometimes containing ironstone gravels. Associated are variable areas of hard acidic and neutral red soils; soils containing moderate to large amounts of ironstone gravels on ridges, crests of hills, and upper slopes; and many small areas of other soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68).

The groundwater salinity is 14000 to 35000 mg/L and the hydrogeology consists of rocks of low permeability with local aquifers in fractured and weathered rocks.

Given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99
- Hydrogeology, Statewide - DoW;
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - DoW

(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 application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation reserves and is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology 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

The soils of the area under application are described as generally rolling to hilly country with tors; lateritic mesas and buttes on some interfluvial areas: chief soils are hard neutral and acidic yellow mottled soils, sometimes containing ironstone gravels. Associated are variable areas of hard acidic and neutral red soils; soils containing moderate to large amounts of ironstone gravels on ridges, crests of hills, and upper slopes; and many small areas of other soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68).

The groundwater salinity is 14000 to 35000 mg/L and the hydrogeology consists of rocks of low permeability with local aquifers in fractured and weathered rocks.

The slope of the land under application is 310 to 350 metres AHD (Australian Height Datum) over 1 km, with several small tributaries of the Carlecatup Creek in close proximity.

Given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Northcote et al. (1960-68);

GIS databases:

- Hydrography, Linear - DoW;
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02;
- Hydrogeology, Statewide - DoW;
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 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

Given the application consists of scattered paddock trees in a grazed area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding within the local area and is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS database:

- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02;

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

Comments

The applicant has advised he is implementing a Best Farms Environmental Management System (Blackwood Basin), and has contributed to the protection of several locally important corridors that link nearby (informal) nature reserves.

The lots under application are zoned Farming and Rural under the Shire of Broomehill and Shire of Kojonup town planning schemes, respectively.

There are two Native Title claims 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.

There is no required RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act Licence that affects the area under application.

No public submissions have been received for this proposal.

Methodology 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
Cropping	Mechanical Removal	200	The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (e).

5. References

- DEC advice (2007). Zoology advice, Department of Environment and Conservation, Kensington. TRIM Ref: DOC40538.
- DEC Site Visit (2007). Site Inspection Report, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Bunbury, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC39437.
- 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.
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.
- 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.
- Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2006). Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2005).

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)