Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 206/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Kundana Gold Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: M24/239
M24/183
Local Government Area: City Of Kalgoorlie/Boulder
Colloquial name: Coolgardie Mineral Field, 35km from Kalgoolie

1.4. Application

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

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 2903- Medium Woodland- Salmon gum, Goldfield blackbutt, gimlet and Allocasuarina cristata (Hopkins et al 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	Vegetation on the proposed alignments is eucalypt shrubland and halophytic shrubland. The pipeline clearing will be immediately adjacent to an existing haul road. Minor post-clearing earthworks will be required for pipe stabilisation and pipeline maintenance track. The expected operational life of the pipeline is 3 years. Some clearing and earthworks is required on the northern edge of Baseline Pit to prevent ingress of any surface water flows.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation type and condition for this application was confirmed on site by botanists on 9/12/2004.

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**
Information provided by the Department of Agriculture (DAWA 2004a), indicates that the vegetation in the area has been disturbed and does not have a high level of diversity.

Methodology DAWA (2004a)

(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**
A biological survey has been carried out by Kinhill Engineers (1997). The survey results indicate that while the area may contain significant fauna, these species are not likely to be significantly impacted by this proposal. CALM advises that there appears to be a low probability of the proposed clearing to be at variance with this principle (CALM 2004).

Methodology Kinhill Engineers (1997), CALM (2004)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A biological survey has been carried out by Kinhill Engineers (1997). The survey results indicate that while the area contains the Priority 4 species, Eremophila parvifolia. However this species are not likely to be significantly impacted by this proposal. CALM advises that there appears to be a low probability of the proposed clearing to be at variance with this principle (CALM 2004).

Methodology Kinhill Engineers (1997), CALM (2004)

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

CALM advises that there appears to be a low probability of the proposed clearing to be at variance with this principle (CALM 2004).

Methodology GIS databases: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(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 at variance to this Principle

Pre-European	Current area (ha)	Remaining extent (ha)	Conservation %*	status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion- Murchison	28,206,195	28,206,195	100	Least concern	
Beard veg type-2903	32,933	32,933	100	Least concern	0

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

(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 areas subject to inundation adjacent to the proposed area to be cleared. However, the applicant has committed to preventing any impacts on these areas.

Methodology GIS dataset- Hydrography, linear, DoE 1/2/2004

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

Advice from the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation indicates that the proposal will not contribute significantly to land degradation (DAWA 2004a and 2004b).

Methodology DAWA (2004a and 2004b)

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as there are no nearby conservation reserves.

(h3) None of Beard vegetation type 2903 is protected in secure tenure. The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (JANIS Forests Criteria 1997) has not been met for this vegetation association. However, because of the largely uncleared state of this vegetation type, the proposal is not considered to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Janis Forests Criteria 1997, Shepherd et al (2001) GIS database - CALM Managed Lands and Water - CALM 01/08/04.

(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 proposal is not likely to be at variance with this Principle as conditions set by the Department of Industry and Resources through the NOI process are in place to control surface water flow that may otherwise impact on ground water and downstream vegetation.

Methodology ND401

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The proposal is not at variance with this Principle as there are management conditions as part of Department of Industry and Resource approvals that cover surface water drainage that relate to flooding.

Methodology ND401

Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The proposal is not at variance with any known planning instruments.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	5	**Grant**	Recommend that proposal is granted as there are no issues that are at variance with the Clearing Principles. Environmental management is being implemented via the Notice of Intent process (Department of Industry and Resources).

5. References

CALM (2004) Land clearing proposal advice. Advice to A/Director General, Department of Environment (DoE). Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref AD76.

DAWA (2004) Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref ND456.

DOIR (2004) Submission. Department of Industry and Resources, Western Australia. DoE Trim Ref ND401.

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.

JANIS Forests Criteria (1997) Nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve System for Forests in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Regional Forests Agreement process. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Kinhill Engineers (1997). Environmental Report

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.