Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2136/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: City of Albany

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 6655 ON PLAN 208588 (House No. 279 LILYDALE YOUNGS SIDING 6330)
Local Government Area: City Of Albany
Colloquial name: Gravel extraction

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.64	360	Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

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
The vegetation on the application area is compised of Beard vegetation association 969; Mosaic: medium forest; jarrah, marri and wandoo.	The vegetation is considered to be in a degraded to good (Keighery 1994) condition. The southern half of the application area is completely degraded. The northern half of the area is in good condition.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The condition and discription of the vegetation was obtained via the use of orthomosaic mapping. (Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03)

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 vegetation present on the application area is comprised of Beard vegetation association 969, Mosaic: Medium forest: jarrah, marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al. 2006).Within the local area (10km radius) there is approximately 30% remaining vegetation, most of this occurs to the north west of the application area. The proposed clearing consists of 360 native trees, considered to be in a completely degraded - good condition (Keighery 1994), therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

Shepherd et al. (2006)
GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
- Pre-European Vegetation
Sac BioDataSets (310408)

(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 application area is comprised of 360 native trees, made up of a combination of medium forest, consisting of jarrah, marri and wandoo. The surrounding vegetation has been extensively cleared, to the north there are established plantations for the purpose of timber reserves. The Vegetation under application is in a degraded to good condition (Keighery 1994). Due to the surrounding vegetation present within the area, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
Sac Biodatasets (020408)

(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 2 Declared Rare Flora (DRF) species within the local area (10km radius), Banksia goodii and Microtis globula. The vegetation present on the application area is not likely to be suitable as habitat for Bansksia goodii but it may be suitable for Microtis globula. Due to the application consisting of 360 trees, with little understorey, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03

Sac BioDataSets (310408)

(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 no Threatened Ecological Communities on or within 10km of the area under application, therefore the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
- Sac BioDatasets (310408)

(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 vegetation present on the application area is comprised of Beard vegetation association 969. This vegetation association has 34.7% of Pre-European extent remaining. Within the Jarrah Forest Bioregion and Albany shire, it has 16.5% & 18.3% remaining respectfully (Shepherd et al. 2006). This is below the recommended 30% threshold outlined in the National Objectives And Targets For Biodiversity Conservation 2000-2001 Report (Canberra 2001).

The application area is within the intensive agricultural area. The EPA is of the opinion that it is unreasonable to expect to be able to continue to clear native vegetation from land within the agricultural area other than relatively small areas and where alternative mechanisms for protecting biodiversity are addressed (EPA 2000).

Given the proposed clearing consists of 360 native trees and the condition of the vegetation under application, it is not likely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

Canberra (2001)

Shepherd et al.(2006)

EPA (2000)

GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
- Pre-European Vegetation
- EPA Position Paper Number 2, Agricultural regions

(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

The 360 native trees under application are not growing in or near a watercourse or wetland, therefore the application is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI march 03
- Rivers
- South Coast Significant Wetlands
- Hydrography,linear

(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 soil type is X14: : chief soils are sandy neutral yellow mottled soils and leached sands. Associated are low ridges of soils containing ironstone gravel (Northcote 1960- 1968). Directly to the north there is a well vegetated area of land, which is in better condition than the area containing the 360 trees under application. It is unlikely

that the proposed clearing of the 360 native trees within an area of 0.64ha will cause appreciable land degredation.

Methodology Northcote (1960-1968)
GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic
- Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map Albany - Torbay

(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**
There are 3 conservation areas within the local area (10km radius), the closest is situated 5.1km north. There is no linkage between the application area and these reserves. Given that the application consists of 360 trees, with no linkage to conservation areas, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Methodology GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
- Calm Managed Lands and Waters

(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**
Groundwater salinity on the area under application is 500-1000 TDS mg/L. There is a line stream 500m to the north. The soil type is X14: : chief soils are sandy neutral yellow mottled soils and leached sands. Associated are low ridges of soils containing ironstone gravel (Northcote 1960- 1968). It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing of 360 trees within an area of 0.64ha will cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Methodology GIS Datasets:
- Albany 1.4M Orthomosaic DLI March 03
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide
- Hydrogeographic Catchments, Catchments

(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 360 trees under application are situated in an area of between 25-40 meters in elevation, rainfall is 1000mm annually, soils are mainly sandy neutral yellow mottled soils and leached sands. The proposed clearing of 360 native tree's is unlikely to exacerbate flooding in the area.

Methodology GIS Datasets:
- Elevation
- Rainfall, Mean annual
- Soils, statewide

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

Comments
A extractive industry licence has been granted by the City of Albany (Trim Ref: DOC50312). The area of land under application is Freehold, therefore native title has been extinguished.

Methodology Trim Ref: DOC 50312

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees		Comment
Extractive Industry	Mechanical Removal	0.64	360	The assessment against clearing found that: - Principles (a), (b), (c), (e),(g), (h), (i) & (j) are not likely to be at variance - Principles (d) & (f) are not at variance

5. References

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.
Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.
National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation2001-2005, (2001), Canberra.
Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
Shepherd, D.P. (2006). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.
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. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2006).

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)