



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2305/1
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Water Corporation

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 300 ON PLAN 240045 (SANDSTONE 6639)
 KALUWIRI LOCATION 12 (SANDSTONE 6639)
 LOT 38 ON PLAN 188280 (SANDSTONE 6639)
 LOT 300 ON PLAN 240045 (SANDSTONE 6639)
 LOT 300 ON PLAN 240045 (SANDSTONE 6639)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Sandstone
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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
There are six bore sites proposed and within these five habitat units were identified within the area under application (O'Keefe and Eckermann 2006)). These habitats include Mixed Mulga - Eremophila simulans Shrubland; Hardpan plain mulga shrubland with scattered chenopods; Drainage tract Acacia shrubland; Mulga Calytrix shrubland and; Acacia - Eremophila pantonii shrubland.	The vegetation under application has been subject to multiple disturbances including small scale mining activities, off road vehicles, grazing by feral goats and rabbits and some weed invasion (O'Keefe and Eckermann 2006). The condition of the vegetation is, therefore, considered to be Degraded.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The description and condition of the vegetation was obtained via the use of aerial mapping systems.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

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

Comments

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

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

Comments

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

(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

To be assessed.

Methodology

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

Comments

Water Corporation propose to clear a combined total of up to 5ha for the purpose of exploratory drilling for water. Six bores are proposed to be sunk; this clearing is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

The vegetation under application has been subject to multiple disturbances including small scale mining activities, off road vehicles, grazing by feral goats and rabbits and some weed invasion (O'Keefe and Eckermann 2006). The condition of the vegetation is, therefore, considered to be Degraded (Keighery 1994). There is a major drain mapped within the area under application.

A flora survey conducted by Western Botanical (O'Keefe and Eckermann 2006) identified one Priority 3 species

within the area (*Baekkea* sp. London Bridge (M. E. Trudgen 5393). Water Corporation acknowledges the presence of this species and states that areas supporting this species will be delineated and avoided as part of the proposed clearing (DOC44440). There are no declared rare flora or threatened ecological communities in the vicinity of the project. The vegetation to be cleared is well represented in the local area, and would not have a detrimental impact on fauna.

It is considered that the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Methodology Hopkins et al. (2001)
Keighery (1994)
O'Keefe and Eckermann (2006)
Shepherd (2006)
Shepherd et al (2001)

GIS Databases:

- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 28 Mar 08

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

Comments

Water Corporation propose to clear a combined total of up to 5ha for the purpose of exploratory drilling for water. The proposed clearing will take place over five cadastres:

Lot 38 on Plan 188280 vested with the Water Corporation for the purpose of water supply ;

Lot 300 on Plan 240045 is vested with the Department of Consumer & Employment Protection and permissions have been granted to undertake the proposed works (Trim Ref:DOC44440); and

Kaluwiri Location 12 (Crown Reserve 32620), Kaluwiri Location 11 (Crown Reserve 13108) and Kaluwiri Location 105 (Crown Reserve 13108) are vested with the Department of Water (DoW) or DoW are the interest holder.

The property is within the East Murchison groundwater area under the RIWI Act. DoW have granted a licence to construct or alter six exploratory wells within these properties (TRIM Ref: DOC54117).

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application. Section 24MD of the Native Title Act 1993 provides that any registered native title claimants have the same procedural rights as they would have in relation to the granting of a purpose permit as they would if they held ordinary title to the land concerned. DEC considers that an owner has a direct interest in the subject matter of the application and accordingly has invited the native title claimants under section 51E(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 to comment on the application and by section 51E(5) to take those comments into account when deciding whether to grant or refuse a permit. Notification was made to the native title representative body and to the native title claimants, inviting their submission. No response was received from the representative body.

Methodology GIS database:
- Cadastre - Landgate Dec 07
- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas - DoW 13/07/06
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The assessment found that the clearing is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

5. References

- 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.
- O'Keefe G. and Eckermann B. (2006) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Water Corporation's Proposed Bore Field near Sandstone. Western Botanical (DOC44440)
- Shepherd (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.

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)