

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 232/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Broome

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2827 ON PLAN 190924

Colloquial name: Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre

1.4. Application

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

2. Site information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description

Vegetation Association 750 - Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box and cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass and curly spinifex.

Clearing Description

The vegetation to be cleared is highly disturbed and is burnt approximately every two years.

Vegetation Condition

Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic strucure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) Comment

Assessment based on correspondence from the Shire of Broome (2003).

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 to be cleared is within the town of Broome and has been subject to many and varied disturbance pressures including a rubbish disposal point, a night-soil dump, a disposal point for green waste following cyclones and due to its location is burnt on average every second year (Shire of Broome 2003).

It is unlikely that the vegetation on site is of significant biodiversity value.

Methodology Aerial photography; Correspondence from Shire of Broome (2003)

(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

Due to the frequency of fires at the site and other disturbances, it is unlikely that the vegetation is of significant value for fauna.

Methodology

(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

There are no Declared Rare or Priority Flora known from the site.

Methodology GIS database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora Lists - CALM 13/08/03

(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 at variance to this Principle

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities at the site.

Methodology GIS database: 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

The vegetation at the site is Beard Vegetation Association 750, of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (1,294,465 ha). Of this, ~2% is protected within the conservation estate (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Methodology GIS database: Pre-European Extent - DA 01/01; Shepherd et al. (2001)

(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 vegetation is not associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Methodology Aerial photograph

GIS database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04.

(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 Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation approved the clearing of 2 ha at the site in 2003. There is unlikely to be any land degradation concerns with the clearing of a further 3 ha (DAWA 2004).

Methodology DAWA (2004)

(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

There are no conservation areas adjacent to the vegetation.

Methodology GIS database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - 1/06/04

(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 vegetation is highly disturbed by frequent fires and it is unlikely that its mechanical removal will significantly effect surface or ground water quality.

Methodology

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

It is unlikely that the clearing will ioncrease or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

Methodology

(k) Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

Reserve 42502 is vested with the Shire of Broome for the purposes of 'Recreation, Civic and Cultural Centre'.

Methodology Shire of Broome (2004)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose Method Applied Decision Comment / recommendation area (ha)/ trees

Recreation Mechanical 3 Grant Some of the area was approved by the Commissioner for Soil and Land

Conservation and has been cleared. The present proposal is unlikely to present

any issues that were not considered for the previous proposal.

Advice to the proponent:

The proponent must ensure that regeneration of the site (including landscaping activities) is undertaken using locally indigenous species. The proponent must actively pursue opportunities to collect seed and seedlings from the existing vegetation prior to its removal for use in the rehabilitation and landscaping of the site.

5. References

Keighery, BJ (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.

Shire of Broome (2003) Ralph, A.E., Manager Engineering Services, Shire of Broome. Supporting letter, Shire of Broome's previous application to the Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation. Correspondence dated 21/03/2003 DoE TRIM ref No IN13274