



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2321/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: HCJB Australia

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 579 ON PLAN 184394 (KUNUNURRA 6743)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Wyndham-East Kimberley
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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 proposed to be cleared has been mapped as Beard Vegetation Association 59 which is described as grasslands, high grass savanna sparse tree; bauhinia & coolabah over mitchell, blue & tall upland grasses.	Aerial mapping suggests that the vegetation has been subject to disturbance as it is situated adjacent to areas that appeared to be used for intensive agricultural purposes (possibly mangoes, bananas and sugar cane).	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	

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

The proposal to clear up to 0.46 hectares for the purpose of a banana plantation is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. There are no 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.

The area under application is 60m west of an area that is subject to inundation which is part of a major tributary of the Ord river. There is a road separating the area under application from the area that is subject to inundation. Clearing of 0.46 ha of vegetation is unlikely to impact this major river system.

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

Methodology

Hopkins et al (2001)
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Shepard (2006)
Shepherd et al (2001)
GIS Database:
Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia EA 2000
Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic DLI 05
Local Government Authorities DLI 2004
Mattiske Vegetation CALM 1998
Pre European Vegetation DA 2001
SAC Biodatasets (accessed 07 Mar 08)

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

Comments

The proposal to clear up to 0.46 hectares for the purpose of a banana plantation. The property is part of a 40km stretch of agricultural farming along the Ord River. The property is zoned rural.

The property is within the RIWI licensed Ord River Irrigation district and Canning-Kimberly ground water area. The proponent advised that ground water would be used for the proposed banana plantation. Advice from the Department of Water (DoW) regarding water licence requirements stated that a licence was required if water was being pumped directly from the Ord River. A licence to take water has been issued by DoW (DOC54858).

Methodology

GIS Database
Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic DLI 05
RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas DoW 2006
RIWI Act, Irrigation Districts DoW 2006
Town Planning Scheme Zones MFP 1998

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The clearing as proposed has been assessed and is not likely to be at variance to 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.
- Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM. Sac Bio Datasets (07/03/08). Department of Environment and Conservation, Sac Bio Datasets, Kensington, Western Australia.
- 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)

