



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2322/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Busselton

1.3. Property details

Property: SUSSEX LOCATION 4511 (Lot No. 4511 GEOGRAPHE BAY QUINDALUP 6281)
SUSSEX LOCATION 4748 (Lot No. 4748 GEOGRAPHE BAY QUINDALUP 6281)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Busselton

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.08		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

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: - Unit 990 (Spearwood): Low forest; peppermint (<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>); (Hopkins et al., 2001; Shepherd, 2006).	The proposal involves clearing approximately 0.08 hectares for the purpose of extending an existing footpath. The area under application lies within the frontal dune of a Crown Reserve vested with the Shire of Busselton (informally known as McQuade Park), and is dominated by peppermint (<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>). The alignment has been selected to avoid the clearing of peppermint by using an existing cleared track.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Description of the clearing application area is based on site inspection conducted by DEC officers on 13 February 2008.
Mattiske: - Quindalup Dry (QD): No description available. (Havel & Mattiske Consulting, 1998).	Vegetation within the area has been previously disturbed, evidenced by extensive weed invasion and lack of understorey.		

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 at variance to this Principle**

The proposal is for the clearing of approximately 0.08 hectares for the purpose of extending an existing footpath. The vegetation under application is considered to be degraded (Keighery, 1994).

Given the degraded condition of the area under application, the proposed clearing does not hold a high level of biological diversity, and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);

GIS Databases:

- Busselton 50cm ORTHOMOSAIC - DLI04

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposal is for the clearing of approximately 0.08 hectares for the purpose of extending an existing footpath. The vegetation under application is considered to be degraded (Keighery, 1994).

There are several records of threatened and priority listed fauna within close proximity to the area under application (10 km radius); however given the proposal is restricted to understorey and ground cover only; the scale (0.08 hectares) and the degraded condition of the vegetation under application, the proposal is not considered significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);

GIS Databases:

- Threatened Fauna, SAC Bio Dataset - 22/8/07

(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

The proposal is for the clearing of approximately 0.08 hectares for the purpose of extending an existing footpath. The vegetation under application is considered to be degraded (Keighery, 1994).

There are several records of declared rare and priority listed taxa within close proximity to the area under application (10 km radius); however given the condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of rare flora, and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- DEFL, SAC Bio Dataset - 22/8/07

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is for the clearing of approximately 0.08 hectares for the purpose of extending an existing footpath. The vegetation under application is considered to be degraded (Keighery, 1994).

There are numerous records of threatened and priority ecological communities within 10 kilometres; however given the degraded condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is not likely to be necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community, and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- TEC Database, SAC Bio Dataset - 22/8/07;

- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM

(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 extent (ha)	Remaining %	% in reserves/DEC-managed land	area (ha)
IBRA Region:				
- Swan Coastal Plain	1,501,211	579,227	38.6*	24.1
Local Government Authority:				
- Shire of Busselton	145,239	61,780	42.5*	17.6
Vegetation type:				
Beard:				
- Unit 990 (Spearwood)	18,691	13,863	74.2*	68.9
Mattiske:				
- Quindalup (QD)	2,397	674	28.0**	13.0

* (Shepherd, 2006)
** (Connell et al., 2000)

The area under application is located in the Shire of Busselton on the Swan Coastal Plain, which retain approximately 42.5% and 38.6% (Shepherd, 2006), respectively of the pre-European extent.

The area under application is mapped as the Busselton Quindalup Dry complex, which retains less than 30% of the pre-European extent (Connell et al., 2000; Naturalise Environmental Services, 2002); however given the scale (0.08 hectares) and degraded condition of the area under application, the proposed clearing is not considered significant remnant vegetation within the Greater Busselton area, and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Shepherd (2006);
Connell et al. (2000);
Naturalise Environmental Services (2002);

GIS databases:
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00;
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01;
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/7/04

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Approximately 50% of the area under application is mapped as a conservation category wetland (CCW); however ground truthing of the site (DEC, Site Inspection, 2008) confirmed no presence of a wetland (or associated vegetation).

Given the proposal is restricted to understorey and ground cover only; the scale (0.08 hectares) and the degraded condition of the vegetation under application, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on vegetation in association with a watercourse or wetland and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC, Site Inspection (2008);

GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, Linear - DoE 1/2/04;
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain

(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**

Given the scale (0.08 ha) and degraded condition; the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation and therefore is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Salinity Risk LM25m - DOLA 00;
- Hydrogeology, Statewide - DoW;
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - DoW

(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 area under application is located along the coast within a Crown Reserve vested in the Shire of Busselton. There are no areas within close proximity (5 km radius) that are managed for conservation; therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of any nearby areas managed for conservation and not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03;
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05

(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

Given the scale (0.08 ha) and degraded condition; the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoW;
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/9/02;
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - DoW;
- Hydrogeology, Statewide - DoW

(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

Given the degraded condition and distance to the coast (approximately 40 metres), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/07/05;
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/9/02

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

Comments

The proposal is to extend an existing foot path within the coastal McQuade Park, for local residents. Within close proximity, several informal tracks along the dunes appear to be currently traversed by pedestrians.

There are two native title claims over the area under application (Harris Family and South West Boojarah); however the granting of a clearing permit is a secondary approval and does not constitute a future act under the Native Title Act 1993.

No public submissions have been received for this proposal.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- Native Title Claims - DLI 7/11/05

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	0.08	The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is not or is not likely to be at variance to all ten clearing Principles.

5. References

- Connell, S., Franke, B., Alder, J. and Jennings, A. (2000). Geographe Catchment Remnant Vegetation Strategy. Consulting report prepared for Geographe Catchment Council.
- DEC Site Visit (2008). Site Inspection Report, Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC). Bunbury, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: DOC47428.
- Hopkins, A.J.M., Beeston, G.R. and Harvey J.M. (2001) A database on the vegetation of Western Australia. Stage 1. CALMSscience 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, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998). Vegetation mapping in the South West of Western Australia. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Perth.
- Naturaliste Environmental Services. (2002). Biodiversity Incentive Strategy for Private Land in the Busselton Shire. Consulting report prepared for the Shire of Busselton.
- Sac Bio Datasets (22/8/07). Department of Environment and Conservation, Sac Bio Datasets, Kensington, Western Australia.
- 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.

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)

