



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2463/1
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3000 ON PLAN 46759 (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:
0.4		Mechanical Removal	Recreation
		Mechanical Removal	Recreation
		Mechanical Removal	Recreation
		Mechanical Removal	Recreation

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 application area is heavily used for recreation (VMP, 2008) and therefore the vegetation under application is of a degraded condition (Keighery, 1994), consisting of stands of Pandanus aquatica, Nauclea orientalis, Typha domingensis and Eucalyptus camandulensis. The riparian vegetation is a maximum of 10 metres in width and is infested with weeds.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description was assessed through aerial photography (Kununurra orthomosaic) and additional information supplied by the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley (SWEK, 2008)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

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

Comments: Refer to Principle K.

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: Refer to Principle K.

Methodology

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

Comments: Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

Methodology

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

Comments

Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

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

Refer to Principle K.

Methodology

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

Comments

The proposal to clear 0.4ha of native vegetation for the purpose of creating recreational swim beaches on the foreshore of Lake Kununurra, a RAMSAR wetland. There are no records of threatened ecological communities, rare flora or endangered fauna in the vicinity. It is likely, though, that *Hydromys chrysogaster* (Water-rat, Priority 4) may be found near the application area as they have been sighted within adjoining watercourses. They are known to forage close to the shoreline and nest in burrows in banks (Menkhorst & Knight, 2004). The application area equates to less than 1% of the available habitat for *H. chrysogaster*, though as the application involves the removal of riparian vegetation, the proponent intends to keep intact areas of native vegetation between the cleared areas to ensure sufficient fauna habitat is maintained (SWEK, 2008). This is in line with

recommendations in the Lake Kununurra and Lily Creek Lagoon Vegetation Management Plan (VMP, 2008).

Mirima National Park is adjacent to Kununurra Lake near the town of Kununurra. The park is located upstream, and will not be affected by any vegetation removal activities within the lake.

Native aquatic vegetation has become established throughout Lake Kununurra due to the maintenance of stable water level conditions in this man made wetland. Clearing of 0.4 hectares of vegetation in a discontinuous manner will not significantly reduce the remaining extent of the vegetation within Lake Kununurra.

SWEK require a bed and banks licence from the Department of Water (DoW). DoW are co-vestees of the application area and have sent a letter to SWEK (07/08/08) advising that DoW undertake to grant SWEK's bed and banks application given a copy of the native vegetation clearing permit is produced (DEC TRIM Ref: DOC59692).

There are sites of Aboriginal significance within the area proposed to clear. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Methodology

Keighery (1994)

Menkhorst & Knight (2004)

SWEK (2008)

VMP (2008)

GIS Layers:

- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

-CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/06/05

-Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DEC 30/05/05

-Hydrogeology, statewide - DOW 13/07/06

-Hydrology, linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

-SAC Biodatasets 240608

-Town Planning Scheme Zone - MFP 31/08/98

- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The assessable criteria have been addressed and the clearing as proposed is at variance to principle (f) and unlikely to be at variance with to any of the clearing principles.

Creating recreational swim beaches.

5. References

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Menkhorst, P. and Knight, F. 2004. A Field Guide to the Mammals of Australia. 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press.

SWEK (2008). Application for a clearing permit (Purpose permit) additional information provided. Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. 2008.

VMP, 2008. Lake Kununurra and Lily Creek Lagoon Vegetation Management Plan 2008. Kununurra TAFE and Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley. January 2008

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)