Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2479/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Shire of Manjimup**

1.3. Property details

Property: DOLA_LAND_DESCRIPTION

Local Government Area: LGA

Colloquial name: COLLOQUIAL_NAME

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	400	Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

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 under application may consist of one or more of the following Beard Vegetation Associations: - 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri - 1144: Tall forest, karri & marri (Corymbia calophylla) - 1: Tall forest; karri (Eucalyptus diverscolor) - 27: Low woodland; paperbark (Melaleuca sp.) - 1112: Mosaic: Tall forest; karri / Tall forest; jarrah & marri - 23: Low woodland; jarrah-banksia - 1134: Medium woodland; jarrah (south coast) (Shepherd et al 2006).	The proposed clearing is for up to four hundred dead or hazardous trees per annum, scattered throughout land owned by or vested with the Shire of Manjimup. The proposed clearing includes individual trees only and not remnant stands of vegetation. Tree hazard assessment involves three components: - a tree with the potential to fail or present some danger, and - an environment that may contribute to that failure, and - a person or object (target) that may be injured or damaged. By definition, a hazard requires the presence of both a defective tree and a target. As a result assessing hazard is not limited to evaluating the failure potential but must consider the potential presence of a target. Roots may contribute to property damage (footpaths, kerbs, roads, services, fences or buildings) or create a hazard for the unwary where they protrude from the soil (trip hazard) (Shire of Manjimup 2008).	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation is likely to vary throughout the Shire from Excellent to Completely Degraded. The overall condition of the vegetation of which the hazardous tree is a part, is unlikely to be compromised by the removal of individual trees. Remnant understorey will not be affected.

As above	As above	Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (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 proposed clearing is for up to four hundred dead hazardous trees per annum, scattered throughout land owned by or vested with the Shire of Manjimup. The proposed clearing includes individual trees only and not remnant stands of vegetation. Hazardous trees are defined within the permit.

The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on any rare or Priority flora as the clearing is for hazardous trees only, that are likely to be located in though fares for humans and as such are easily accessible. As access to these trees is possible, no understorey is anticipated to be removed to undertake the clearing of the hazardous trees and thus no rare or Priority flora are likely to be affected.

The local area is known to contain many fauna species which may be directly impacted by the clearing of dead trees. The Brush Tailed Phascogale (Phascogale tapoatafa), Western Ringtail Possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis), Forest Red-Tailed Cockatoo (Calyptorhunchus banksia naso), Baudins Black Cockatoo (Calyptorhunchus baudinii), Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) and the Numbat (Myrmecobius fasciatus) may all utilize the tree hollows of dead or dying trees. Due to this, it is recommended that selected trees be inspected for fauna prior to clearing and fauna management conditions will be a requirement of the permit.

Due to the proposed being for scattered trees throughout the Shire, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause any land degradation concerns, increase the incidence of flooding or cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater.

Clearing occuring within Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs) is for individual dead hazardous trees throughout the Shire and therefore the impacts on these areas will be insignificant.

It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to any of the clearing principles, although due to the areas high rainfall and susceptibility to dieback, a dieback control condition should be imposed.

Methodology

Keighery (1994)
Shire of Manjimup (2008)
GIS DataSets:
- Average Annual Rainfall Isohyets - WRC 29/09/98
- Annual Evaporation Contours (Isopleths) - WRC 29/09/98
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) - DEC 30/05/05
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
- Manjimup Orthomosaic DLI04
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 10 May 08
- Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

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

Comments

No submissions from the public have been received.

No EP Act licences or approvals are required.

There is a Native Title Claim over the area under application. The Department of Environment and Conservation's advertising of the application in the West Australian newspaper constitutes legal notification of the native title representative body for the purpose of the future act procedures under the Native Title Act 1993. No response was received from the representative body.

There are Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the Shire of Manjimup. The DEC recommends consulting with local indigenous groups about the impact of the proposed clearing on these registered sites. Aboriginal Sites of Significance will need to be managed in accordance with requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972) and with the Department of Indigenous Affairs (this was also provided as advice in the cover letter to the proponent).

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance - DIA
- Native Title Claims - DLI 07/11/05

4. Assessor's comments

Comment
Assessable criteria have been address and the proposed clearing is not at variance to any of the clearing Principles.

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.

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.

Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001a) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia (updated 2006).

Shire of Manjimup (2008) Technical Services Policies. Management of Hazardous Trees. Trim Ref:DOC50222

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)