Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 252/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Judeen Nominees Pty Ltd**
Postal address: P.O. Box 35 Eneabba WA 6518
Contacts: Phone:
Fax: 9952 9080
E-mail:

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10851 ON PLAN 210795 (WARRADARGE 6518)
LOT 10848 ON PLAN 210798 (WARRADARGE 6518)

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

2. Existing Environment

2.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard vegetation association 379: Shrublands; scrub-heath on lateritic sandplain in the central Geraldton Sandplain Region. Beard vegetation association 49: Shrublands; mixed heath. (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	Native vegetation to be cleared includes isolated Eucalyptus todtiana, Nuytsia floribunda and Dryandra sp.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit: the area under application has been heavily cleared with only a few Eucalyptus todtiana, Eucalyptus capillosa, Nuytsia floribunda and Dryandra sp. remaining. The site is heavily infested with weed species including silver grass, Cape weed, lupins and wild oats. The extensive clearing has been offset with large areas of intact vegetation, fenced off and covenanted.

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 area under application falls within the Geraldton Sandplains, an area identified as being highly biodiverse, however the previous clearing and subsequent grazing pressures have reduced species richness significantly compared to others in the region. This observation was confirmed by the site visit conducted on the 5 November 2004.

Methodology Site visit, DoE Officers, 2004.
GIS Databases: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia-EA 18/10/00.

(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 area under application has been extensively cleared with very little native vegetation remaining. Observations made during the site visit confirm the area is unlikely to be a significant fauna habitat or provide habitat for significant fauna species.

Methodology Site visit, DoE Officers, 2004.

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

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed to be cleared lies within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion, a hotspot of biodiveristy. Dryandra cypholoba, Calytrix chrysantha, Stachystemon axillaris, Darwinia sanguinea, Arnocrinum gracillimum, Verticordia rutilastra, V. insignis, V. albida and V. blepharophylla are known to occur in the general area, however the nearest Declared Rare Flora grows approximately 8 kilometres from the area under application. Extensive clearing and subsequent grazing has removed the majority of native vegetation from the site, opening it up to extensive weed invasion. The proposed clearing is therefore, not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases: Declared Rare and Priority Flora list - CALM 13/08/03.
Site visit, DoE Officers, 2004.

(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**

The Threatened Ecological Community data base did not include this area.

Methodology GIS Databases: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/03

(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 at variance to this Principle**

There is less than 30% of pre-European vegetation remaining in the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion and the Beard vegetation association 379, however the Shires of Carnamah and Coorow, and Beard association 49 have greater than 30% remaining. On a property level the proponent has fenced off and covenanted large areas of remnant vegetation that represents significant habitat for flora and fauna. The proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle however, the area under application is completely degraded and does not represent an area of high conservation value.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	Reserves/CALM-managed land, %
IBRA Bioregion - Geraldton Sandplains	2,474,401	663,290	26.8	Vulnerable	
Shire - Coorow	424,583	164,895	38.8%	Depleted	
Shire - Carnamah	286,940	111.632	38.9	Depleted	
Beard veg type - 49	59,113	23,904	40.4%	Depleted	0.2
Beard veg type - 379	633,325	128,007	20.2	Vulnerable	20.3

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology GIS Databases: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00, Pre-European Vegetation – DA 01/01, Local Government Authorities - DLI 08/07/04.
Shepherd et al, 2001.
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002

(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**

No watercourses or wetlands occur within the area proposed to be cleared. There are earth dams and minor non-perennial watercourses in the vicinity but none of these represent watercourses with significant environmental values.

Methodology GIS Databases: 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 at variance to this Principle**

DAWA advice stated that the proposal would not significantly increase any land degradation risks and that the proponent's intention to clay the area would increase the water and nutrient holding capacity of the soil.

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**

Conservation areas identified near to but not including the area under application include the South Eneabba Nature Reserve, Tathra National Park and the Alexander Morrison National Park. Given the completely degraded nature of the area under application, this site would not provide a significant ecological linkage between these conservation areas. The areas on the property that are under covenant would however provide a significant corridor.

Methodology GIS Databases - CALM Regional Parks – CALM 12/04/02, WRC Estate - WRC 05/99, CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/06/04, Proposed National Parks FMP-CALM 19/03/03, Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03

(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 area under application falls within the Hill River catchment however it is not a public drinking water source area (PDWSA) nor is it part of a PDWSA protection zone. The area under application has been extensively cleared with very little native vegetation remaining. Observations made during the site visit confirm the removal of any remaining vegetation is unlikely to impact on groundwater quality.

Methodology GIS Databases - Current WIN data sets, PDWSA Protection Zones - DOE 07/01/04, Public Drinking Water Sources (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2004.

(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**

Given the relatively small area under application, the few trees remaining and the previous land use it is unlikely that the removal of the remaining vegetation will increase the risk of flooding.

Methodology Site visit, DoE Officer, 2004.

Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments

The Carnamah and Coorow Shire Councils have not indicated that there are any planning requirements/approvals that would affect the clearing.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	15	**Grant**	The assessable criteria have been addressed and may be at variance with Principle e. However, given the relatively small area under application, the degraded nature and the sparse representation of the vegetation remaining, the assessing officer recommends that the permit should be granted.

5. References

DAWA (2004) Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref GD292.

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.

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, 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.