



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2531/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Dandaragan

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 501 ON PLAN 56853 (JURIEN BAY 6516)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Dandaragan
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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
Vegetation Type 1029: Shrublands; scrub-heath dryandra-calothamnus association with Banksia prionotes on limestone in the northern Swan Region	Vegetation is heath and scrub over shallow sandy soils with limestone outcrops. Species are diverse, with some areas of mallee, some herb species and a predominant mid storey.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition and description was assessed on a site visit on 15 July 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

Proposal is at variance to this Principle

The area proposed to be cleared displays diverse kwongan vegetation. The regional area is well known for its high levels of biodiversity, with the Leseur area (13km north) identified as having 10% of the states known flora (Burbidge et al, 1990).

Vegetation within the application area is in very good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. There are shallow sandy soils with limestone outcropping throughout the site creating different micro-habitats within the proposed clearing area. A site visit (2008) noted a diversity of herb species, shrub, heath and mallee species.

It is considered that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology

Site Visit, 2008
Keighery, 1994
Burbidge et al, 1990
GIS Databases:
- Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

Given the 'very good' (Keighery) condition of the vegetation it is likely that local native fauna species would utilise the proposed clearing area. However, given the continuous surrounding vegetation and nearby conservation estates it is unlikely that the 1ha proposed for clearing is providing significant habitat.

Methodology

Site Visit, 2008

Keighery, 2008
 GIS Databases:
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 24 June 2008
 - Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 00/01/02

(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**
 Within the local area there is one species of recorded rare flora, *Eucalyptus argutifolia*. The proposed clearing area provides areas of shallow sands over limestone, which are similar to the preferred habitat requirements of this species. However, DEC Regional advice states that this species is unlikely to occur within the proposed clearing area.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
 Regional Advice, 2008
 GIS Databases:
 - SAC Biodatasets, 23 June 2008

(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**
 There are no records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the local area (10km radius). The proposed clearing area does not contain any known habitat characteristics of TECs and is unlikely to support or impact upon a TEC.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
 GIS Databases:
 - Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 25 June 2008

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Pre-European	Current extent (ha)	Remaining% (ha)	In reserves (%) DEC Managed Land
IBRA Bioregions			
Swan Coastal Plain	1,501,211	579,227	38.6
Shire			
Dandaragan	670,216	299,289	44.7
Beard Vegetation Complex			
1029	71,035	53,212	74.9

The proposed clearing area is within an area of continuous vegetation, with numerous nearby conservation areas. The local area (10km radius) is relatively undeveloped with approximately 70-80% of vegetation remaining. Clearing 1ha of vegetation within this area is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
 Shepherd, 2006
 GIS Databases:
 - Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02
 - EPA Position Paper No 2 Agriculture Region
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 23 June 2008

(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**
 There are no mapped wetlands or watercourses within the proposed clearing area, and vegetation within the application is not riparian. The proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
 GIS Databases:
 Hydrography, linear

(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

The area proposed to be cleared consists of fine shallow sands over limestone, with limestone outcrops. Salinity in the region is low and the clearing of 1ha of vegetation is unlikely to increase salinity levels.

Some wind erosion is possible, however the large extent of limestone outcropping is likely to subdue wind erosion.

It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Groundwater Salinity - statewide
- Hydrography, linear
- Topographic Contours, Statewide
- Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are four terrestrial conservation areas within the local area:

- * Hill River Nature Reserve
- * Drovers Cave National Park
- * Beekeepers Nature Reserve
- * Southern Beekeepers Nature Reserve

The proposed clearing area is within an area of continuous vegetation which links all local conservation areas to each other. The area proposed to be cleared is small (1ha) and will not fragment the vegetated corridor. The application area is not providing buffering functions to the conservation areas and is unlikely to contain habitat not represented in the conservation area.

It is considered that the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters
- Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02

(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 proposed to be cleared contains fine sands with vegetation of heath, scrub and some mallee species. It is not near any watercourses and wetlands, and is small (1ha) in size. Given these factors it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear
- Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02

(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

As the area proposed to be cleared contains fine sands with limestone substrate, and is small (1ha) in size, it is unlikely that clearing will cause or exacerbate flooding.

Methodology Site Visit, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Hill River Arrowsmith 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI00/01/02

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

Comments

The proposed clearing area is within EPA Position Statement No.2 Agricultural Region. The proposed land use is for landfill and not agriculturally based. The tenure of the land is vested for the purpose of rubbish disposal.

DEC Industry Regulation have advised that no further licence is required as the Shire is not changing its capacity or the Lot numbers for the landfill.

Methodology

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

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 at variance to principle (a), maybe at variance to principle (c), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

5. References

- Burbidge, A, Hopper, S and Van Leeuwen, S, 1990, A report to the Environmental Protection Authority from the Department of Conservation and Land Management, EPA Bulletin 424.
- DEC, Regional Advice, 2008, TRIM ref DOC 59149
- 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. (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.
- Site Visit Report, 2008, DEC, TRIM ref DOC 58918

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)