



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2549/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Midland Brick Company Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT M1326 ON DIAGRAM 5449
Local Government Area: Shire Of Chittering
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	40	Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

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 Vegetation Association 1020: Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Medium woodland; marri-wandoo. (Shepherd, 2007).	The proposal is to clear 40 trees from Lot M 1326 for the purpose of expanding the existing clay extraction pit.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation and clearing description based on a site inspection undertaken on 11 July 2008 (DEC, 2008).
Hedde Vegetation Complex: Reagan Complex: Vegetation ranges from low open woodland of Banksia species E. todiana to closed heath depending on the depth of soil. (Hedde et al, 1980).	The vegetation under application comprises scattered Eucalyptus Wandoo, E. accedens and Corymbia calophylla over grassy weeds.		
Mattiske Vegetation Complexes: Mogumbar: Open woodland of Corymbia calophylla with some mixture of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. thalassica and a second storey of Eucalyptus todiana-Banksia attenuata-Banksia menziesii-Banksia ilicifolia on sandy-gravels on the uplands in arid and periarid zones; and	The vegetation under application showed obvious signs of grazing.		
Reagan Complex: Mixture of low open woodland of Banksia spp.-Eucalyptus todiana to closed heath of Myrtaceae-Proteaceae spp. depending on depth of soils on escarpment. (Mattiske and Havel, 1998).			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

During a site inspection (DEC 2008) the vegetation in the area under application was considered to be in completely degraded condition and comprised scattered Eucalyptus wandoo, E. accedens and Corymbia calophylla and over grassy weeds; therefore, is not considered likely to comprise high biological diversity or to provide significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Within the local area (~5km radius) there are 52 known records of rare flora. The closest known record of rare flora is Thelymitra stellata approximately 3.5km north of the area under application. Given that vegetation under application comprising scattered trees over grassy weeds, the area under application is not considered likely to support Thelymitra stellata.

Within the local area (~5km radius) there are three recorded occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC). The closest TEC is an occurrence of Muchea limestone approximately 4.1km west of the area under application. The vegetation complexes and soil type mapping for the area under application are different to those required for the Muchea Limestone TEC. Therefore, the area under application is not considered likely to comprise or be necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

There is a Conservation Category Wetland (CCW) ~25m south of the area under application with a minor watercourse (minor tributary of Ellen Brook) traversing the wetland. During a site inspection (DEC, 2008) the vegetation in the CCW was observed to comprise non native species that appeared to have been planted some years past. Given that the proposed clearing is limited to scattered *Eucalyptus wandoo*, *E. accedens* and *Corymbia calophylla* the vegetation under application is not considered likely to be growing in or in association with a wetland.

The soil type mapped within the area under application comprises yellow sands with ironstone and lateritic gravels (Northcote et al 1960-68). The main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil type is considered to be water erosion. However, given that the area under application is limited to 40 trees it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing would cause appreciable land degradation or cause deterioration to surface or underground water quality.

Within the local area (~5km radius) there are three conservation areas. The closest conservation area is Bullsbrook Nature Reserve (also a system 6 conservation reserve) is located 4km south of the area under application. Given the distance to the nearest conservation area and that the area under application is limited to 40 trees the area under application is not considered likely to impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.

- Methodology**
- References:**
- DEC (2008)
 - Northcote et al (1960-68)
- GIS Databases:**
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Classification), Swan Coastal Plain
 - Hydrology, Linear
 - SAC Bio datasets accessed 12/7/08
 - Soils, Statewide

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

Comments

There is an Aboriginal Site of Significance mapped within the area under application, DEC will advise the proponent of their responsibilities under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

Lot M1326 on Diagram 5449 is zoned Rural 1-Landscape Protection in the local Town Planning Scheme.

The proponent has provided a copy of the Planning Consent from the Shire of Chittering (Land Insights 2008a).

The proponent has provided a temporary Extractive Industry License from the Shire of Chittering (Land Insights 2008b).

- Methodology**
- References:**
- Land Insights (2008a)
 - Land Insights (2008b)
- GIS databases:**
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the principles.

5. References

DEC (2008) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2549/1, Lot M1326, Muchea East Road, Muchea. Site inspection undertaken 11 July 2008. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref. DOC59104

Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

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

Landform Research (2008a) Planning Consent for Lot M1326 Wandena Road, Muchea TRIM Ref DOC56057

Landform Research (2008b) Temporary Extractive Industry Licence for Lot M1326 Wandena Road, Muchea TRIM Ref DOC68614

Mattiske, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.

Shepherd, D.P. (2007). 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)

