



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2616/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Cue

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 641 ON PLAN 30119 (Lot No. 641 ROBINSON CUE 6640)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Cue

Colloquial name:

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.89		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure

## 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: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered Acaia sclerosperma & A. victoriae over bluebush	The proposal is for the clearing of 2.8989 ha of native vegetation of degraded condition for the purpose of truck assembly area.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Cue Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic (Landgate 05).

## 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**

**Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The proposed clearing of 2.89ha of native vegetation for the purpose of a truck assembly area is not likely to have detrimental environmental impacts. The vegetation is sparse, in degraded condition. The vegetation comprises of Beard vegetation association 313, of which 100% of the pre-European extent remains (Shepherd et al 2001). The local area has sparse vegetation, but this is natural for the location and vegetation type. One rare and two priority flora species occur within the local area (10km):

- Eremophila rostrate subsp. rostrate (Rare, 800m NE)
- Dononaea sp. (Priority 1, 900m S)
- Grevillia inconspicua (Priority 3, 1300m S)

The region has advised that Eremophila rostrate does not occur within the application area (DEC 2008), and given the consolidated nature of the vegetation type, and the degraded condition of the application site, the proposal is unlikely to impact these species.

There are no rare or priority fauna species recorded within the local area (10km), and the vegetation is not considered significant fauna habitat due to the large areas of native vegetation in the area. There are no threatened or priority ecological communities, wetlands or watercourses within the local area, and the nearest conservation area is 12km south east of the proposed clearing.

The terrain is generally undulating on granites with rocky granitic hills, bosses and tors, some breakaways, and a surface stone mantle: chief soils seem to be shallow earthy loams underlain by a red-brown hardpan (Northcote et al. 2001). These soils are not usually affected by wind erosion.

The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1000-3000 mg/L, the rainfall is low - only 300mm, and the annual evapotranspiration is 300mm, resulting in little to no surface flow.

It is therefore considered that the clearing as proposed is unlikely to be at variance with any of the clearing



principles.

#### Methodology

##### References:

- DEC (2008)
- Hopkins et al. (2001)
- Shepherd et al. (2001)

##### GIS database:

- Beard Vegetation Complexes
- DEFL feb08
- Fauna
- Sac Bio Datasets (TEC and PEC points)
- Hydrology, linear
- Groundwater Salinity, statewide
- Rainfall, annual
- Evapotranspiration, Areal Actual
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- CALM Managed Lands
- Soils, Statewide

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

##### Comments

The property under application is Crown reserve, vested with the Shire of Cue zoned for the purpose of a truck assembly area.

The proposed area is mapped as being associated with an Aboriginal Site of Significance, namely the Seven Sisters Male Stone Arrangement. The proponent is advised to liaise with the Department of Indigenous Affairs with regard to obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972.

##### Methodology

##### GIS database:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones
- Native Title Claims
- Rights in Water Irrigation Act Areas
- Environmental Impact Assessments
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

#### 4. Assessor's comments

##### Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s520 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any clearing Principles.

The applicant should liaise with the Department of Indigenous Affairs with regard to Aboriginal Sites of Significance.

#### 5. References

DEC (2008) Regional Advice, DEC TRIM ref DOC 59479

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

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

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.

#### 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)