Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2617/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Carbone Bros Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 11 ON DIAGRAM 94705 (House No. 94 GIUMELLI HENTY 6236)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Dardanup
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.7		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 Complex: 968 - Medium woodland; jarrah, marri & wandoo 1017 - Medium open woodland; jarrah & marri, with low woodland; banksia Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Whicher Scarp - Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on escarpment with some Corymbia haematoxylon, 4 Banksia attenuata and Xylomelum occidentale in the humid zone.	The proposal is for the clearing of 0.7 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of extractive industry with in the Shire of Dardanup.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Condition of vegetation determined by a site inspection of the applied area (DEC, South West Region, 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is for the clearing of 0.7 ha of native vegetation in completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition for the purpose of extractive industry within the Shire of Dardanup.

There is little species diversity within the area under application and given that the clearing is small (0.7 ha) and the area is completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) the applied area is not likely to have a high level of biodiversity (DEC, 2008a).

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2008a)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/05
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
SAC Biodatasets accessed 19 August 08

(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

The area under application (0.7 ha) is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2008a).

A site visit of the applied area identified some trees with hollows within the applied area (DEC, 2008b) however there are nearby remnants of vegetation in better condition that the applied area which would be more suitable habitat for native fauna.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle as the vegetation under application is not likely to be significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2008a)
DEC (2008b)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
Mattiske Vegetation 01/03/1998
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
SAC Biodatasets accessed 19 August 08

(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

The area under application (0.7 ha) is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2008a).

The vegetation under application has in the past (and possibly continues to be) grazed by cattle. It is not likely that any priority or rare flora, found within the local area (10km radius), would occur within the applied area as a result of grazing activity and the condition of the vegetation (DEC, 2008a)

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2008a)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
Mattiske Vegetation 01/03/1998
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
SAC Biodatasets accessed 19 August 08

(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 6 Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) recorded within the local area (10km radius). The closest TEC is approximately 7.5km north west of the application area.

Due to the distance between the closest TEC and the application area the clearing as proposed is not likely to be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
SAC Biodatasets accessed 19 August 08

(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	Remaining % area (ha)	% in reserves/DEC-managed extent (ha)	land
IBRA Bioregion **					
- Jarrah Forest		4,506,654	2,405,331	53.4	25.7
LGA					
- Shire of Dardanup*		52,860	25,677	48.6	34.8
Beard vegetation associations**					
- 968		296,877	97,572	32.9	33.3
- 1017		17,527	11,480	65.5	0.1
Mattiske vegetation complex***					
- Whicher Scarp (WC)		38,658	29,363	76	N/A

* (Shepherd et al., 2001; Hopkins et al., 2001)
** (Shepherd, 2007)
*** (Mattiske Consulting, 1998)

The local area (10km radius) has approximately 20% native vegetation remaining therefore the local area has been extensively cleared. However as the area under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition it is not significant as a remnant in the local area.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
Hopkins et al. (2001)
Keighery (1994)
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Shepherd (2007)
Shpherd et al. (2001)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
Mattiske Vegetation 01/03/1998
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01

(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**
The area under application is approximately 90 metres south of a minor perennial watercourse, 95 metres from an earth dam and 610 metres from a perennial lake.

In addition, the application area is approximately 95 metres south of mapped dampland and palusplain wetlands. These wetlands are classified in the multiple use management category which Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) wetlands branch consider to have few remaining important attributes and functions. Protections of these wetlands are of lowest priority while still considering the ecological and sustainable development and best management practice contexts surrounding the wetlands. (DEC, 2008c)

Given that the area under application is of a higher elevation (approximately 10m higher) than both the river and wetlands areas the vegetation under application is not likely to be growing in association with a watercourse or wetland.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:

DEC (2008c)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain DEC 11/04/07
Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

(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
Given that the area under application is small (0.7 ha) and the vegetation under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DEC, 2008a) the clearing as proposed is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2008a)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
Average Annual Rainfall Isohyets - WRC 29/09/98
Annual Evaporation Contours (Isopleths) - WRC 29/09/98
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

(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 8 conservation areas within a 10km radius, the closest being Boyanup State Forest which is approximately 2km south south west of the applied area.

Given that the area under application is small (0.7 ha) and the distance to the nearest conservation area is approximately 2km the clearing as proposed is not likely to have any impact on the environmental values of a conservation area.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05

(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 vegetation under application is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition and much of the area under application is pasture grass (DEC, 2008a).

Given that a limited number of trees will be removed from within the small (0.7 ha) applied area the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2008a)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
Bunbury 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2006
Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain DEC 11/04/07
Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

(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

Given that the area is relatively small (0.7 ha) and the application area is on a hill slope, it is unlikely that this proposal will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
Topographic contours statewide - DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02

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

Comments

The proposal is for the purpose of Extractive Industry an Extractive Industry Licence has been granted by the Shire of Dardanup (DOC69866).

The land is currently zoned as General Farming, the proposed extractive industry activities are outside of the zoned land use, special approval has been granted by the Shire of Dardanup DOC69866.

Methodology GIS Database:
Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

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 not likely to be at variance with any of the principles.

5. References

DEC (2008a) Advice to assessing officer from Department of Environment and Conservation South West Regional Office, unpublished, trim ref DOC64691

DEC (2008b) Site Inspection Report and Photos, Department of Environment and Conservation, unpublished report, trim ref DOC64434

DEC (2008c) Memo re Standard Wetlands Advice for Native Vegetation Conservation Branch. Dated 17/07/2008. Species and Communities Branch, Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.

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

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.

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)