



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 264/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MAP Nominees Ptd Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1032 ON PLAN 254428  
LOT 1305 ON PLAN 109026  
LOT 1029 ON PLAN 251464  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Waroona  
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
Beard vegetation association	The proposal includes clearing of selected expired Eucalyptus gomphocephala from an area which has been previously utilised for pasture.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site inspection 31/5/2005: The trees under application are expired mature E. gomphocephala, located primarily within completely degraded paddocks. The majority of the area under application has been significantly altered, with understorey vegetation absent from most areas. A high number of large dead limbs were observed on and beneath the trees under application.
998 - Medium woodland; Tuart			
1026 - Mosaic: Shrublands; Acacia rostellifera, A. cyclops (S) & Melaleuca cardiophylla (N) thicket	The area under application consists primarily of cleared paddocks, containing isolated trees of expired E. gomphocephala, and a sand dune ridge, which is comprised of sparse Acacia rostellifera and individual Agonis flexuosa.		
Heddlle vegetation complexes			
-Quindalup Complex: Coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances - the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance. Local variations include the low closed forest and M. lanceolata - Callitris preissii and the closed scrub of Acacia rostellifera.			
-Vasse Complex: Mixture of the closed scrub of Melaleuca species fringing woodland of E. rudis - Melaleuca species and open forest of E. gomphocephala - E. marginata - E. calophylla.			

### 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 property has been previously cleared and used for the grazing of stock in the past. Vegetation on site is primarily comprised of dead mature *E. gomphocephala* and sparse *Acacia rostellifera*. Due to the extremely degraded condition of the vegetation, and the proximity to areas of significant ecological value, it is considered unlikely that the removal of remaining vegetation would impact on biodiversity.

**Methodology**    Site inspection (31/5/2005)

#### (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**

Lots 1029, 1032, and 1305 are surrounded on all four sides by Yalgorup National Park and large areas of remnant vegetation. While the larger trees under application may provide habitat in the form of tree hollows, this is not likely to represent significant habitat which is much more likely to exist within surrounding areas of vegetation.

**Methodology**    Site inspection (31/5/2005)

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

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

There are 12 known populations of Declared Rare and Priority Flora within the local area surrounding this application. None of these populations are present within the two vegetation complexes under application.

A site inspection of the properties under application found that the remaining vegetation on site is within an extremely degraded condition, with most areas completely devoid of vegetation other than the dead trees under application.

It is therefore considered unlikely that this proposal is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    Site inspection (31/5/2005)  
GIS Database - Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

#### (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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are 20 known Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) present within the local area surrounding this application. None of the known TEC are present within the vegetation complexes under application.

Due to the completely degraded nature of the vegetation under application, the proposal is considered unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**    GIS Database - Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05

#### (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 may be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is defined as Beard vegetation associations 1026 and 998 (Hopkins et al. 2001) and Hedde vegetation complexes 'Quindalup Complex' and 'Vasse Complex' (Hedde et al. 1980), of which Vasse Complex has a representation below 30%.

The State Government is committed to the National Objective Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, which includes targets that prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002; EPA 2000). Beyond this value, species extinction is believed to occur at an exponential rate and any further clearing may have irreversible consequences for the conservation of biodiversity and is, therefore, not supported.

While Vasse Complex is under the recommended 30% retention amount, it is not considered that the approval of this application would significantly impact on the representation of the vegetation complex, as the area has been highly modified from its original condition.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Swan Coastal Plain		1,529,235	657,450	43%	Depleted
Shire of Waroona	83,508	50,761	60.8	Least concern	
Beard vegetation association					
- 1026	124,905	85,076	68.1%	Least concern	46.3%
- 998	51,094	18,320	35.9%	Depleted	13.0%
Hedde vegetation complex					
- Quindalup Complex	38,238	18,000	47.1%	Depleted	5.2%
- Vasse Complex	11,190	3,287	29.4%	Vulnerable	11%

\* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

\*\* (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

**Methodology** Hopkins et al. (2001)  
Hedde et al. (1980)  
Department of Natural Resource and Environment (2002)  
EPA (2000)  
Sherpherd et al (2001)

**(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 wetlands or watercourses located within the boundaries of Lots 1023, 1305 and 1029. While the properties are located within close proximity to both Lake Yalgorup and Lake Preston, the proposed clearing is not within vegetation considered to be wetland dependant.

**Methodology** GIS Database - Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/9/04  
GIS Database - Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

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

The soil landscape on which Lots 1023, 1305 and 1029 are located is classified as coastal dune formations comprised of calcareous sands, backed by the low-lying deposits of inlets and estuaries. The soils within the applied area are classified as Class 3 on the Acid Sulfate Soil risk maps, meaning that there is no known risk of shallow or deeper ASS or PASS. Based on the extremely degraded nature of the vegetation under application, it is not considered that the proposed removal of expired E. gomphocephala is likely to cause an increase in wind or wind erosion on site.

**Methodology** GIS Database: Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99  
GIS Database: Acid Sulfate Soils Risk Map, SCP - DOE 04/11/04  
Site inspection (31/5/2005)

**(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**

While the area under application is located relatively close to many areas of ecological significance, such as the Yalgorup National Park and the Lake Richmond and Lake Preston systems, the applied vegetation is extremely degraded, consisting of large dead E. gomphocephala with no understorey species present. It is therefore considered unlikely that the applied vegetation contributes to the environmental values of the surrounding area.

**Methodology** GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands an Waters - CALM 01/06/04

**(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**

Removal of vegetation is not expected to lead to a deterioration in groundwater quality on site. The area has been extensively cleared in the past, and the proposed clearing expired E. gomphocephala is not expected to have any additional impacts on the water table.

**Methodology** Site inspection (31/5/2005)

**(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**

Flooding is unlikely to occur as a result of clearing, as clearing would present a negligible change to hydrology.

**Methodology Site inspection (31/5/2005)**

GIS Database - FMD 100 Year ARI Floodway and Flood Fringe areas - DoE 02/03

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

**Comments**

No comment.

**Methodology**

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	1	Grant	<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposal may be at variance to Principle (e).</p> <p>The nature of the vegetation to be cleared has been highly altered through historical impacts, and is not likely to be representative of the original vegetation on site. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.</p>

**5. References**

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.