Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2641/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **MR Clifton Bevan Muir**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2406 ON PLAN 128507 (LAKE MUIR 6258)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.5		Mechanical Removal	Fence Line Maintenance

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 (3): Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Shepherd et al. 2001) Mattiske Vegetation Association (BEy1): Tall open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on uplands with a low woodland of Melaleuca preissiana -Banksia littoralis on the scattered depressions in perhumid and humid zones. (Mattiske Consulting 1998)	The area under application has been previously grazed (DEC Site Visit 2008).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Condition determined during site visit (DEC Regional Advice 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

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

Methodology

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

Comments

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

Methodology

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

Comments

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

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

Refer to Principle J.

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 proposal to clear up to 0.5 hectares is for the purpose of renewing fencing, creating a firebreak and access road. The vegetation type of the area under application is well represented in the local area.

There are numerous threatened and priority fauna species recorded within a 10km radius, however, the area under application is small (0.5ha) and there is extensive surrounding vegetation (98% within the local area, 10km radius). Therefore, it is not significant habitat for any native fauna.

The area under application is within a buffer for an ANCA wetland being the Byenup Lagoon system and Lake Muir and as such, is considered to be an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Approximately 0.05 ha of the proposed clearing occurs within the buffer of this wetland. The impacts of clearing on this wetland system are likely to be minimal. The introduction of dieback and weeds may have an impact on this conservation area. Conditions to manage these potential impacts will be placed on the permit.

A range of rare flora species are known to exist in the Lake Muir area, and in the Bevan yellow Landform, however these are primarily associated with wetlands and this fence alignment is on uplands. There are no

records along this fence alignment and it is the DEC's opinion that it is unlikely any populations of rare flora will occur within the area. The area has been previously grazed (DEC Site Visit 2008). There are no Threatened Ecological Communities in a 10km radius.

It is considered that it is not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

Methodology

DEC Site Visit (2008)
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Shepherd (2006)
Shepherd et al (2001)
GIS Layers:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- DEFL SAC Bio Datasets (12/05/08)
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 1/03/1998
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Threatened Fauna, SAC Bio Datasets (12/05/08)

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

Comments

The Town Planning Scheme for the area under application is zoned as Rural.

The area in question is within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) which is registered as un-assigned.

Methodology

DEC Regional Advice (2008)
GIS Database:
- Public Drinking Water Source Area - DOW 07/02/2006
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The assessment found that the clearing was not likely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles.

5. References

DEC (2008) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2641/1, Lot 2406 Thomson, Manjimup. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC61763).

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, Western Australia.

Heddle, 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.

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., 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)