

# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

#### 1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

2651/1

Permit type:

Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

MR Kenneth Woodhouse

1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 151 ON PLAN 24982 (Lot No. 151 PLANTATION CAPEL 6271)

Local Government Area: Colloquial name:

Shire Of Capel

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

0.01 Mechani

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

Southern Complex: Open woodland of E.calophylla - E.marginata - Banksia species with fringing woodland of E.rudis - M.rhaphiophylla along creek beds.

Beard Vegetation type 1000: Mosaic: Medium forest; jarrah-marri / Low woodland; banksia / Low forest; teatree (Melaleuca spp.) Clearing Description

The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of some weed species, rushes, shrubs and acacias. There is also a herb layer amongst the shrubs. The condition of the vegetation is very good. Vegetation Condition

Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994) Comment

Condition of vegetation was identified through the DEC site visit (2007) and photographs supplied by the proponent.

#### 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

#### Comments

The area proposed to be cleared has been previously inspected by DEC (2007). The proposed clearing is for the installation of a power transformer, which will be approximately 0.001 ha in size.

The application area is within a mapped Resource Enhancement wetland and lies within the buffer of a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

Due to the application area being small in size it does not have the capacity for high levels of biodiversity or provide significant habitat for fauna. Being of a small size in an area with large remaining stands of vegetation the proposed clearing is not considered significant vegetation.

It was determined during the DEC site inspection (2007) that rare flora was unlikely to occur on this block and the area is not likely to be a threatened ecological community. The nearby TEC, SCP10a, is known as 'Shrublands on dry clay flats' and can be threatened by a change in hydrological regime. Due to this threat a large buffer area has been designated to this TEC. As the application is small (0.001ha), local hydrology regimes will not be impacted by the clearing, and as such the clearing is unlikely to impact the nearby TEC.

The clearing is within the resource enhancement wetland however this section has been fragmented by the construction of the road on one side and the fire break on the other side. Clearing this small section of vegetation is unlikely to impact the wetland or associated values.

Due to the small size of clearing (0.001ha), the proposed area is unlikely to impact on conservation areas, land degradation, water quality or flooding.

Methodology

DEC Site Visit, 2007

Shepherd et al 2006 Heddle et al 1980 GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets accessed 21 September 2008
- Donnybrook 50cm Orthomosaic Landgate 2004
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Mgt Categories), Swan Coastal Plain
- EPP, Lakes

#### 4. Assessor's comments

#### Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s510 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

#### References

DEC Site Visit, 2007, TRIM ref DOC61000

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.

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. (2006). 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

DolR 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)