Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2670/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Michael and Pauline McHenry

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2011 ON PLAN 202979 (House No. 101 WILLIAMS SCOTSDALE 6333)
LOT 2011 ON PLAN 202979 (House No. 101 WILLIAMS SCOTSDALE 6333)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Denmark
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.73		Mechanical Removal	Aquaculture

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
Mattiske Vegetation Complex Granite Valleys: Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor-Eucalyptus patens on slopes with Agonis flexuosa-Allocasuarina decussata -Callistachys lanceolata on valley floors in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.	Removal of 0.73ha of native vegetation by mechanical methods for teh purpose of dam construction. The vegetation appears to be in degraded condition owing to livestock access.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Denmark 1.4m Orthomosaic (Landgate 2001) and information provided by the proponent (TRIM Ref DOC 60386).

Beard Vegetation Association 977:
Low forest; teatree & casuarina

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 application is for the clearing of 0.73ha of native vegetation for the construction of a dam and artificial wetlands.

The condition of the vegetation under application is considered degraded (Keighery 1994) due to stock access disturbing the understorey and increasing weed invasion, and as such the biodiversity and have been significantly compromised (DEC 2008). Additionally, the small size of the proposed clearing reduces the impact the clearing would have on surrounding vegetation. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)

Gis database:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 5 Sept 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

Whilst 6 rare and 3 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (10km radius), the 0.73ha of native vegetation under application is unlikely to be providing significant habitat for these species.

The application is surrounded by vast areas of good condition vegetation including Mt Lindesay National Park, Denmark Catchment State Forest and un-named Conservation Commission vested reserves. The vegetation under application is in degraded condition (DEC 2008), and as such habitat value is reduced.

The vegetation under application is unlikely to provide significant habitat for indigenous fauna, and the clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS database:
- Denmark 1.4m Orthomosaic (Landgate 2001)
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 5 Sept 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**
Although 4 rare and 23 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (10km radius), the vegetation under application is unlikely to be necessary for the continued existence of any of these species.

The vegetation under application is degraded with weed intrusion and a disturbed understorey from livestock access (DEC 2008). The district has advised that whilst two priority flora species are known to extend into the property from the Northern boundary, there are no known records of these species within the vegetation under application, and the application is unlikely to support these species (DEC 2008).

The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this proposal.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS database:
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 5 Sept 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**
The property under application adjoins a threatened ecological community. Mt Lindesay/Little Lindesay Vegetation Complex is known to lie 2.6km north of the proposed clearing, and is therefore within the 5500m buffer. The vegetation type, however, is mapped as being Lindesay while the vegetation under application is Granite Valleys (Mattiske 1998). The region has advised that the clearing as proposed is not likely to impact on this threatened ecological community (DEC 2008) owing to the degraded nature of the vegetation to be cleared. The proposal is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS database:
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 5 Sept 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**
The application area lies within the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia bioregion Jarrah Forest, in which 53.2% native vegetation remains (Shepherd et al. 2001). The vegetation?s Beard Vegetation Association and Mattiske Vegetation Complex are both well represented with 52.09% and 85.9% respectively remaining. Additionally, the Shire of Denmark is well vegetated with 78.02% of pre-European vegetation remaining.

Therefore, the 0.73ha under application is not considered significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared, and the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Shepherd (2007)
Shepherd et al (2001)

GIS database:
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00

- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04

(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 at variance to this Principle

The vegetation to be cleared occurs along a minor perennial watercourse, and as such is at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS database:
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06

(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 area proposed to be cleared has a low salinity risk and a groundwater salinity of 500-1000mg/L. Additionally, the scale (0.73 ha) of the proposed clearing reduces the likelihood of appreciable land degradation occurring as a result. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

(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

Several conservation areas surround the application to clear native vegetation. Mt Lindesay National Park is 330m north, Denmark Catchment State Forest 500m south, and an unnamed Conservation Commission of WA reserve 530m east. The 0.73ha of native vegetation under application is unlikely to be providing significant ecological linkages between these conservation areas (DEC 2008), especially compared to the heavily vegetation unallocated Crown land which neighbours the application property to the south-east.

The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)

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 proposed clearing is within the Country Area Water Supply Act Zone C. Department of Water (2008) have no objections to unconditional granting the 0.73ha clearing application.

The district has advised that as the watercourse within the application area does not feed into the Denmark river tributary, the proposal is unlikely to have any significant impact down stream (DEC 2008).

The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC (2008)
DoW (2008)

GIS database:
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

(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

As the proposed clearing is for the construction of a dam, it is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding, and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06

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

Comments

The application lies within CAWS Zone C. DoW (2008) advise that compensation has not been paid and that greater then 10% native vegetation remains on the original holding. DoW therefore have no objections to the granting of this clearing application.

Methodology DoW (2008)

GIS database:
- Country Area Water Supply Act (Part IIA) Clearing Control Catchments 29/06/2006

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 at variance to Principls (f) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

5. References

DEC (2008) Regional Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2670/1, Lot 2011 on Plan 202979, Scotsdale. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC65781).

DoW (2008) CAWS Act Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2670/1, Department of Water, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC65061).

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)