



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2677/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Verve Energy

1.3. Property details

Property: STATE FOREST 4 (SHOTTS 6225)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Collie

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 0.2 | | Mechanical Removal | Building or Structure |
| | | Mechanical Removal | Infrastructure 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. | 0.2ha of native vegetation for the purpose of pipeline construction and borefield compound maintenance. | Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) | The vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Collie 50cm Orthomosaic (Landgate 2006). |
| Mattiske Vegetation Complex Cardiff: Open woodland of <i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> - <i>Banksia</i> spp.- <i>Xylomelum occidentale</i> - <i>Nuytsia floribunda</i> on sandy soils on valley slopes in the subhumid zone. | The proposed clearing is linear and along existing vehicle access tracks, and previously cleared vegetation. | | |

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the clearing of 0.2 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of pipeline construction, and maintenance of bore field compounds. As the vegetation is considered riparian, the clearing is not eligible for a clearing permit exemption. The clearing is linear along existing vehicle access tracks and over previously cleared vegetation.

Several rare and priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (10km radius). However, given the small and linear area under application, coupled with the existence of large areas of good condition vegetation surrounding the application, the vegetation to be cleared is unlikely to constitute significant habitat for these species.

Whilst there have been recordings of rare and priority flora species within the local area (10km radius), an assessment carried out by Smith (2008) found no occurrences of rare or priority flora species along the proposed clearing sites.

The vegetation under application intersects minor watercourses in multiple locations and is therefore likely to cause some deterioration in the quality of the surface water. However, as the clearing is of a small area (0.2ha) along existing vehicle access tracks, the degree of degradation is likely to be small and short term.

Although the proposed clearing lies within the CAWS Act Wellington catchment Zone D, it has a low salinity risk and as such the Department of Water has no objection or condition requirements with regards to this proposal.

As the proposed clearing occurs within State Forest, in order to protect the conservation area's environmental



values, weed and dieback conditions will be placed on the permit.

Methodology Smith (2008)
Department of Water advice (2008)

GIS Database:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Heddl Vegetation Complexes - DEP 22/06/95
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 1 Oct 08

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

Comments

Verve Energy have authority to access the State Forest 4 through the Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979. They have also issued a Notice of Entry to Griffin Coal, and permission has been granted by Premier Coal (Wesfarmers), to access lands under mining leases (TRIM Ref DOC60568).

Methodology GIS Database:
- Cadastre - Landgate Dec 07
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Native Title Claims - LA 2/5/07

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 may be at variance to Principles (f), (h) and (i) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

5. References

- 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.
- Smith (2008). 'Vegetation Survey and Rare Flora Report - Stockton North Borefield'. Ekologica Pty Ltd for Verve Energy. TRIM Ref DOC60568.

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) |

