



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2683/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Barry James Dunnet

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 3717 ON PLAN 136522 (YEAGARUP 6260)
 LOT 11257 ON PLAN 159597 (CHANNYBEARUP 6260)
 LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 10390 (CHANNYBEARUP 6260)
 LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 10390 (YEAGARUP 6260)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
9		Mechanical Removal Mechanical Removal	Timber Harvesting Horticulture

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 Pemberton: Tall open forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor with mixtures of Corymbia calophylla on valley slopes and low forest of Agonis juniperina-Banksia seminuda-Callistachys lanceolata on valley floors in the perhumid zone.	The application is for the clearing of 6ha of native vegetation for the purpose of silviculture.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined from the Native Forest Management Plan (TRIM DOC60696) and aerial mapping Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic (Landgate 2004).
Beard Vegetation Association 1: Tall forest; karri (Eucalyptus diversicolor).			
Mattiske Vegetation Complex Crowea: Open forest to tall open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on uplands in hyperhumid and perhumid zones.	The application is for the clearing of 3ha of native vegetation for the purpose of horticulture. The vegetation includes isolated trees within land already used for agriculture.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic (Landgate 2004).
Beard Vegetation Association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri.			

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 proposal is for the silvicultural thinning of 6 hectares of native vegetation, and the clearing of 3ha of paddock trees for development of an orchard. The application area has weed infestations including blackberry and introduced eastern states acacia species (DEC 2008). The property under application is surrounded by conservation areas including Donnelly State Forest, Greater Beedelup National Park and an unnamed national park. The area proposed for clearing is therefore not a locally significant remnant of native vegetation in terms of biological diversity. It is therefore not likely the clearing as proposed is at variance to this principle.
Methodology	DEC (2008) GIS Databases: - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 September 2008

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

Two rare and 3 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area (10km radius), the majority of these are greater than 9km away from the application area and not likely to occur within the proposed clearing.

Western Ringtail Possums are likely to be present in the area to be thinned, however it is highly likely these would persist during and after thinning (DEC 2008). Conditions will be placed on the permit to retain 2 habitat trees per hectare.

Pouched Lamprey, a priority 1 fish species, has been sighted as close as 4km from the application area within the watercourse that borders the proposed clearing. A 30m buffer condition will be imposed on the permit to protect the watercourse and the fauna that may inhabit it.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 September 2008
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)

(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

One rare and 2 priority flora species have been recorded within the local area (10km radius), however none of these occur within the same vegetation complex and association as the vegetation under application. Additionally, vegetation and soil types within the area are well represented and found within secure tenure. The application area has weed infestations including blackberry and introduced eastern states acacia species (DEC 2008). It is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing area is necessary for the continued existence of threatened flora.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 September 2008
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99

(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

There are no known threatened ecological communities within the proposed clearing area, the clearing is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:

- SAC biodatasets - accessed 11 September 2008

(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 vegetation under application occurs in the Warren IBRA Bioregion, within which 79.5% of the native vegetation remains, and the Shire of Manjimup is 84.6% vegetated. The vegetation is also part of Beard Vegetation Associations 1 and 3 (Shepherd et al. 2001), of which 78.9% and 81.01% of the pre-European extent remains. The vegetation under application is a component of Mattiske Vegetation Complexes Pemberton and Crowea (Mattiske Consulting 1998), of which 65.6% and 78.6% of the pre-European extent is remaining. The clearing of 9ha of native vegetation as proposed is therefore not likely to result in any of these vegetation types falling below the 30% threshold level.

The clearing as proposed is therefore unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology Mattiske Consulting 1998
Shepherd et al. 2001**

GIS Databases:

- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 September 2008
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The clearing is proposed along Fly Brook, a minor river running through the property, as well as smaller contributing streams within the application area. A forest management plan (2008) demarcates the stream area by 30m, and a buffer of 30m from the watercourse will be imposed as a condition of the permit.

Methodology Forest Management Plan (2008)

GIS Databases:
- 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

Clearing is for the purposes of silviculture and horticulture and is therefore unlikely to cause or increase erosion as a result. No evidence of salinity or inundation was noted during a site inspection (DEC, 2008). The application area will be selectively cleared of native vegetation within the 6ha applied to clear, and so is unlikely to affect salinity, water logging or acid sulfate soils.

Methodology DEC (2008)

GIS Databases:
- Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - DLI04
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide DoW 13/07/06

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The area proposed to be cleared is surrounded by conservation land to the north and south. The clearing as proposed is for the purpose of silviculture. Conditions to avoid, minimise and revegetate will be imposed on the permit in order to maintain the buffering function and ecological linkages.

Conditions relating to dieback and weed management will be imposed to prevent the possible transfer of disease or weeds into the conservation areas.

**Methodology GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Donnelly 50cm Orthomosaic - DLI04**

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The area proposed to be cleared lies within the Donnelly River catchment area. The area receives high rainfall (1300mm), with a high evapotranspiration rate (900mm). It is unlikely that groundwater recharge will be affected as the proposed clearing is for selective thinning over a 6ha area and the removal of paddock trees.

Some clearing of selected trees is proposed to occur alongside a minor perennial watercourse, which may have a short term effect on sedimentation and turbidity. The Forest Management Plan (2008) for the proposed clearing area advises the river be demarcated by a 30m buffer, which will assist in reducing sedimentation, and will be a condition of the permit on all watercourses.

Methodology Native Forest Management Plan (2008)

GIS Databases:
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - 07/02/06
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DoW 01/06/07
- Evapotranspiration Isoleths - WRC 29/09/98
- Rainfall, Mean Annual Isohytes (1975 - 2003) - DEC 02/08/05
- Hydrography, linear - 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**
Given the nature of the proposed clearing (silviculture and paddock trees) it is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding, as the majority of clearing is thinning of Karri, Jarrah and Marri trees over a large area, for a sustained period of time, and it is anticipated that regeneration will occur. Therefore, the clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/9/02

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

Comments The Shire of Manjimup has raised no objections to the proposed clearing.

Methodology Shire of Manjimup (2008)

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

5. References

DEC (2008) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2683/1, Lot 2 on Diagram 10390, Channybearup. Site inspection undertaken 13/10/2008. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC65237).

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)