



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2710/1
 Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Verve Energy

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 6199 ON PLAN 33283 (WORSLEY 6225)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Collie
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.3		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	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 3: Medium forest; jarrah-marri.	The application is for the clearing of 0.3ha of native vegetation for the construction of a saline booster pump.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Collie 50cm Orthomosaic (Landgate 2004).
Mattiske Vegetation Complex Dwellingup: Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones.			

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 local area is well vegetated, with 84.69% of the Shire's native vegetation remaining. 88.74% of this is reserved in DEC controlled lands, including the Wellington National Park within which this application lies. The vegetation types associated with the proposal are also very well represented, with 70.89% of the Beard Vegetation Association and 93% of the Mattiske Vegetation Complex remaining.

The application is for the clearing of 0.3ha of native vegetation, within previously cleared vegetation and along an existing track, for the purpose of construction of a booster pump station. As the local area (10km radius) is well vegetated with good or better condition native vegetation, the vegetation under application does not consist of a locally significant level of biological diversity. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

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

GIS database:
 - SAC Biodatasets - accessed 29 Oct 08
 - CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05

(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**
 Although 8 rare and 6 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local (10km radius) area, the vegetation under application is unlikely to be necessary for the maintenance of any of these species.

The local area is well vegetated, and the vegetation types associated with the proposal are also well represented. This, coupled with the small size of the area under application (0.3ha), reduces the local significance of the vegetation to be cleared as habitat for rare or priority fauna. Therefore the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this proposal.

Methodology GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 29 Oct 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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no records of rare flora within 10 km radius of the proposed clearing. Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 29 Oct 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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no records of threatened ecological communities within 10 km radius of the proposed clearing. Therefore, the proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 29 Oct 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 local area is well vegetated, with 84.69% of the Shire's native vegetation remaining. 88.74% of this is reserved in DEC controlled lands, including the Wellington National Park within which this application lies.

The vegetation types associated with the proposal are also very well represented, with 70.89% of the Beard Vegetation Association and 93% of the Mattiske Vegetation Complex remaining.

As the application is for 0.3ha of native vegetation within a well vegetated area, 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:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 1/03/1998
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 Feb 08
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

(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 not at variance to this Principle**
The nearest watercourse is 1.5km south of the proposed clearing, and therefore outside the recommended 50m buffer. The proposal is therefore not considered to be growing in association with a watercourse or wetland, and is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - 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 at variance to this Principle

The proposal lies within CAWS Zone C, and is likely to incrementally increase salinity in the area. The proposal is therefore at variance to this principle.

The Department of Water Policy and Guidelines provide for the granting of clearing licences for essential government works provided an equivalent area is reforested within the same CAWS Zone. The DoW (2008) has advised that Verve Energy have accrued clearing credits which can be used to offset the clearing applied for. Alternatively, the proponent may propose an alternative offset. A condition requiring an equivalent area be offset will be placed on the permit.

Methodology DoW (2008)

GIS database:

- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing occurs within the Wellington National Park and as such is at variance to this principle. In order to protect the environmental values of this conservation area, dieback and weed conditions will be placed on this permit.

Methodology 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 at variance to this Principle

The proposal lies 1.5km from Wellington Reservoir (the Hamilton River) within CAWS Zone C. The application is at variance to this principle as it is likely to incrementally increase salinity and impact surface water quality.

The Department of Water Policy and Guidelines provide for the granting of clearing licences for essential government works provided an equivalent area is reforested within the same CAWS Zone. The DoW (2008) has advised that Verve Energy have accrued clearing credits which can be used to offset the clearing applied for. Alternatively, the proponent may propose an alternative offset. A condition requiring an equivalent area be offset will be placed on the permit.

Methodology DoW (2008)

GIS database:

- Country Area Water Supply Act (Part IIA) Clearing Control Catchments 29/06/2006
- 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 at variance to this Principle

As the proposed clearing is only 0.3ha it is not likely to cause or exacerbate the intensity or incidence of flooding. The proposal is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:

- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

The land on which the application lies is part of Wellington National Park. Verve Energy are accessing this land using the Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979.

The application is within CAWS Zone C. DoW advise that Verve Energy has access to clearing credits which can be used in order to offset the clearing under assessment (DOC68179).

No further submissions were received.

Methodology DoW (2008)

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

5. References

- DoW (2008) CAWS Advice. Department of Water. Trim Ref DOC68179.
- 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. (2007). 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.
- 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)