



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2723/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Garry Charles & Louise Maree Kingston

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12616 ON PLAN 208787 (RINGBARK 6258)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.9		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

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. (Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2001). Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Bevan 1 (BE1) Tall open forest of <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> - <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> on uplands in perhumid and humid zones. (Mattiske Consulting 1998)	The proposal includes clearing of 0.9ha for the purpose of extracting gravel, installing ponds and horticulture. The area under application comprises of regrowth Marri trees and introduced grasses and weeds (DEC Site Visit, 2008).	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition and description has been determined from Aerial Imagery and a DEC Site Visit conducted October 2008.

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 proposed clearing involves selectively removing 0.9 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of extracting gravel, installing ponds (Marron) and horticulture. The area under application is described as being in a completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition, comprising of regrowth Marri trees and introduced grasses and weeds (DEC Site Visit, 2008).

There are 8 different species of priority flora present within a 10km radius of the area under application. *Hemigenia rigida* (Priority 1) grows in the same soil and vegetation type as the area in question. A DEC site visit was conducted in October. No Priority or Declared Rare Flora was observed in the site visit and it is the DEC's opinion that it is unlikely any populations of rare flora or priority flora will occur within the area. As the vegetation has been previously cleared and the vegetation type is well represented in the local area (10km radius); it is not considered to hold significant biodiversity values and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology DEC Site Visit (2008)
 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)
 Keighery (1994)
 Northcote et al. (1968)
 GIS Database:

- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- DEFL, SAC Biodataset (2/10/08)
- TEC Database, SAC Biodatasets - accessed 2/10/08

(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

Within the local area (10km radius from the proposed clearing) there are 7 records of threatened fauna, 3 records of priority species and 1 record of other specially protected fauna. The area under application is small (0.9 ha) and has previously been cleared. Within the local area (10km radius) there is 40% remaining native vegetation of which is well represented fauna habitat. Given these factors proposed clearing is not considered to be significant habitat for the fauna, therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Threatened Fauna, SAC Bio Dataset (2/10/08)

(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

Within the local area (10km radius from the proposed clearing) there are 7 records of threatened fauna, 3 records of priority species and 1 record of other specially protected fauna. The area under application is small (0.9 ha) and has previously been cleared. Within the local area (10km radius) there is 40% remaining native vegetation of which is well represented fauna habitat. Given these factors proposed clearing is not considered to be significant habitat for the fauna, therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Threatened Fauna, SAC Bio Dataset (2/10/08)

(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 known threatened ecological communities (TECs) occurring within a 10km area. Therefore the clearing as proposed is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- DEFL, SAC Biodataset (2/10/08)
- TEC Database, SAC Biodatasets - accessed 2/10/08

(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

	Pre-European	Current Extent	Remaining
IBRA Bioregion			
Jarrah Forest	4,506,655.58	2,440,940.64	54.16
Shire			
Manjimup	6,977,359.72	595,561.57	85.4
Beard Vegetation			
3	2,661,405.03	1,863,719.41	70.03
Mattiske Vegetation			
Bevan 1 (BE1)	767,844	657,120	85.6

The area under application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion and is in the Shire of Manjimup. The extent of the Jarrah Forest is 54.16%. The extent of the pre-European vegetation (3) is 70.03% (Shepherd et al. 2001) and within the Shire of Manjimup is 85.4% (Shepherd et al. 2001). The extent of the Mattiske Vegetation Complex, Bevan 1 (BE1) is 85.6%. Beard and Mattiske vegetation has not been extensively cleared within this region, and is higher than the desirable 30% threshold level target identified by the EPA (2000). As the area in question is in a degraded condition, consisting of a small cluster of trees, with little to no understorey, the area is not a significant remnant in a highly cleared area and is not well representative of this vegetation type. The area under application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology EPA (2000)
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Shepherd (2006) Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS Database:
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation, SAC Bio Dataset (24/07/08)

(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

There is one minor perennial water course 130m east of the proposed clearing site, and one earth dams 130m east of the area under application. The site is not considered to be in association with any water courses or wetlands and therefore clearing will have no impact on the tributary banks, habitat for aquatic fauna or water quality. The proposal is therefore is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearings topography is 280 - 275m AHD (Australian Height Datum). The mean annual rainfall is 1000mm per annum and the evapotranspiration rate is 800mm. As the area under application has a gentle slope and the gravelly nature of the soil water logging and water erosion is unlikely to occur on the site. Therefore is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Northcote et al. (1968)
GIS Database:
- Evapotranspiration Isoleths - WRC 29/09/98
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrogeology, statewide DOW 13/07/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohyets (1975 - 2003) DEC 02/08/05
- 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 not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing is surrounded by State Forest, Timber Reserves, Nature Reserves and Registered National Estates within a 10km radius. Faunadale Nature Reserve is the closest to the area under application, being 1km south.

As the area proposed to clear is degraded, small (0.9ha), consists of a small cluster of trees, with little to no understorey. The area in question is unlikely to have any impact on the registered national estate or DEC managed lands.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Manjimup 50cm ORTHOMOSIAC - Landgate04
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Register of National Estate - Environment Australia, Australian and world heritage division 12 Mar 02

(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

There is one minor perennial water course 130m east of the proposed clearing site and one earth dams 130m east of the area under application.

Given that the small scale of the area under application (0.9ha) and the proposed clearing is not associated with any wetlands or water courses, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water and therefore is not at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Evapotranspiration Isoleths - WRC 29/09/98
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrogeology, statewide DOW 13/07/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) DEC 02/08/05

(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

The proposed clearings topography is 280 - 275m AHD (Australian Height Datum). The soil type of the area under application is described as hard acidic yellow mottled soils, with some hard acidic red mottled soils and brown earths, all containing ironstone gravels (Northcote et al. 1968). The mean annual rainfall is 1000mm per annum and the evapotranspiration rate is 800mm. As the area under application is small (0.9ha), the soil type drains well and the evaporation rate is high. The clearing proposal therefore is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Northcote et al. (1968)

GIS Database:

- Evapotranspiration Isoleths
- WRC 29/09/98 - Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments - DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrogeology, statewide DOW 13/07/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 - 2003) DEC 02/08/05
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

The Town Planning Scheme for the area under application is zoned as Rural.

The Shire of Manjimup has issued an Extraction Industries Licence for the proposed gravel extraction.

The shire of Manjimup states if the proponent wants to establish marron ponds for a commercial venture, as in the proponent wants to sell the produce and not keep them solely for personal use, then the proponent will need to submit a planning application with the Shire of Manjimup. The proponent will also need to be in touch with the Department for Fisheries to gain appropriate licences from them also. With regards to an orchard, that is considered as a rural pursuit and therefore the proponent can establish an orchard for commercial purposes without the need for the Shire's planning approval. Refer to TRIM DOC66613.

As the proponent states the establishing of marron ponds is for private use only and therefore the proponent does not require a licence.

Methodology GIS Database:

- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 31/08/98

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 found principles (a), (b), (c), (e), (g), (h), (i) and (j) are not likely to be at variance and the remaining principles are not at variance.

5. References

- DEC (2008) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2723/1, Lot 12616 Ralston Rd, Ringbark. Site inspection undertaken 23/10/2008. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC66412).
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia.
- Havel, J.J. and Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2002) Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation complexes, Conservation Commission.
- 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.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R.

F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

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)

