



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2726/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Bernard Beatty

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 83231 (TRIGWELL 6393)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of West Arthur
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
| | 50 | Mechanical Removal | Cropping |

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 50 native trees for the purpose of agriculture. The trees to be cleared are located within a cleared paddock and as such the vegetation is degraded. | Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) | The vegetation condition was determined from aerial mapping Dinninup 50cm orthomosaic (Landgate 2004). |
| Mattiske Vegetation Complex Dalmore 2: Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo-Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on uplands in semiarid and arid zones. | | | |
| Mattiske Vegetation Complex Lukin: Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo with some mixtures of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. thalassica and Corymbia calophylla on the valley slopes with occasional Eucalyptus rudis on valley floors in semiarid and arid zones. | | | |

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal is for the clearing of 50 trees over a 62ha for the purpose of agriculture. The vegetation is in 'degraded' condition (Keighery, 1994) and consists mainly of scattered jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) trees.

The application area is adjacent to Trigwell Nature Reserve, and three other conservation areas lie within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing. The area under application is currently used for agricultural purposes, the clearing as proposed is not likely to increase weed or dieback impacts to the nearby conservation areas, and the vegetation under application is not likely to be providing ecological linkages between remnant vegetation.

The Shire of West Arthur is heavily cleared with less than 30% native vegetation remaining. The application is also part of Mattiske Vegetation Complexes of which only 34% and 23.2% remain. Additionally, the area falls within the Intensive Land Use Zone identified within the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Position Statement No.2 on Agriculture Regions. This position statement was implemented due to high levels of native vegetation clearing which has 'led to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation' (p.7 EPA, 2000), and it was recommended that land within this zone be managed to maintain environmental values. The surrounding area (10km radius) has been heavily cleared, however there are still islands of vegetation, including nearby conservation areas. These remnants appear to be characteristic of the local vegetation types and in 'very good' condition (Keighery, 1994) or better. As the proposed clearing is limited to trees, it has reduced biological diversity and therefore lower environmental value, it is not considered to be significant remnant vegetation.

Although one rare and 3 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local (10km radius) area, the degraded nature of the vegetation to be cleared, coupled with the presence of more significant habitat for these species neighbouring the property, reduces impact the clearing would have on indigenous fauna. It is not likely

that the isolated paddock trees are locally significant habitat for rare or priority fauna.

Seven rare and priority flora species have been recorded within the local (10km radius) area of the application. Of these, 3 occur within the same vegetation and soil types: *Rulingia* sp. Trigwell Bridge, *Stylidium tylocum* and *Caladenia luteola*. As the vegetation to be cleared occurs on land used for agriculture, these species are not likely to be present. Additionally, the proposal is for the clearing of trees only and thus understorey species will not be permitted to be cleared.

Methodology DEC (2008)
EPA (2000)

GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- Hydrogeology, Statewide 05 Feb 2002
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 14 Oct 08
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments The property under application is zoned as rural in the Town Planning Scheme.

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 is not likely to be at variance to any of the Principles.

5. References

- DEC (2008) Regional Advice for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2676/1. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC67110).
- 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.
- 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) |