



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2733/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Town of Port Hedland

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5551 ON PLAN 240246 (Lot No. 5178 THE ESPLANADE PORT HEDLAND 6721)
 Local Government Area: Town Of Port Hedland
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.1		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
Pre-European vegetation complex 117: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.	Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Condition determined from aerial photography and photographs supplied by the applicant.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The proposal to clear 0.1ha for the purpose of constructing a viewing platform within a section of a foreshore reserve is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts. From photographs provided by the applicant the area under application appears to consist mainly of hummock grasslands, grass steppe and or soft spinifex with some grassy weeds.

The area under application consists of Beard vegetation association 117 which has approximately 96% of the Pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al., 2006).

Given the small area and condition of the vegetation within the proposed clearing area, it is unlikely that the vegetation to be cleared is significant as a remnant of vegetation.

There are no rare flora species or threatened ecological communities recorded in the vicinity of the project.

A submission was received advising that the area proposed to be cleared is right beside a significant Flatback turtle nesting rookery. The submission suggested that a condition should be imposed to restrict operations to occur strictly between the hours of 10:00am-3:00pm each day.

DEC considers that the viewing platform is unlikely to significantly disturb nesting sea turtles in this area. The beach to the south east is more significant.

It is considered that the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the clearing principles.

Methodology Shepherd et al., (2007)
 GIS Layer:
 - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (subregions) - EA 18/10/00.
 - Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01.
 - Port Hedland Townsite 20cm Orthomosaic - DLI 02.

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

Comments

The vesting of the land, recreation, is consistent with the purpose of the proposed clearing and the land is vested with the Town of Port Hedland.

Methodology

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 the 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.
- 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.

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)