



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2770/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Brett Raymond George Edwards

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 2134 ON PLAN 119631 (MAYFIELD ROAD, BEERMULLAH 6503)
 Local Government Area: Shire Of Gingin
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	30	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
Heddlle Vegetation Complexes: Mungala Complex: Vegetation ranges from open woodland of E. calophylla - E. decipens to closed scrub of Melaleuca spp. - Casuarina spp.	The area under application (30 trees) is located within Lot 2134; a 51 hectare property (zoned rural). The proposed clearing is for the purpose of cropping.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the native vegetation under application was sourced from aerial imagery (Gingin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2006).
Beard Vegetation Associations: 37 - Shrublands; teatree thicket.	The vegetation under application is described as scattered trees over pasture.		
1014 - Mosaic: Low woodland; banksia / Shrublands; teatree thicket			

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The vegetation within the area under application comprises of 30 native trees sparsely scattered over pasture and is in a completely degraded condition. Given this, it is not considered likely for the area under application to comprise of a high level of biological diversity.

There closet recording of a conservation significant fauna species is the Western Brush Wallaby (*Macropus irma*) being 7.4 km east of the area under application. Given the small number of trees being cleared, the lack of native understorey and the lack of preferred habitat for the fauna species listed above, it is not considered likely for the area under application to provide significant habitat for local fauna.

There is one known occurrences of rare flora within the local area (~5km radius) this being *Banksia mimica* recorded ~ 770 m north of the area under application. This species is a prostrate, lignotuberous shrub, growing between 0.15 and 0.4 m high. It has yellow and brown flowers during Dec-Feb. It occurs on white or grey sand over laterite, sandy loam (Western Australian Herbarium 1998-).The area under application consists of tress over pasture and occurs on neutral, and alkaline, yellow mottled soils (Northcote et al. 1960-68). Therefore it is not considered likely for this rare species to occur in the area under application.

There are no known records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the area under application. The closest known TEC in the local area is identified as Shrublands and Woodlands on Muchea Limestone, located ~1 km southeast of the area under application. Given that the vegetation in the area under application comprises individual trees over pasture, it is not considered likely that the areas under application would comprise or be necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

As the area under application is limited to 30 native trees scattered over pasture, it is not considered likely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation.

The southwest portion of the area under application is located within a mapped multiple use wetland. In addition there are a number of wetlands and watercourses within the local area (5km radius) the closest being a conservation category wetland and an un-named minor river which are respectively located ~109 metres north and ~638 metres west of the applied area. Given the vegetation under application comprises individual trees over pasture, it is not considered likely that the vegetation under application is growing in, or in association with a watercourse or wetland.

The soils within the area under application are described as yellow mottled soils (Northcote et al, 1960-680). The main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil type is considered to be wind erosion and water erosion. In addition, salinity mapping has identified the central portion of the area under application as having a high salinity risk.

Given that the proposed clearing is limited to 30 trees, it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing would cause appreciable land degradation through wind or water erosion or cause deterioration in surface or underground water quality. The limited clearing is not considered likely to have an impact on peak flood height or duration.

The closest conservation reserve to the area under application is Moore River Nature Reserve being 2.7 km northwest. Yurine Swamp Nature Reserve and Bootine Nature Reserve also occur within the local area (5 km radius). Given the distance to these conservation reserves it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing would impact on the environmental values of these conservation areas.

Methodology References

- Northcote et al. (1960-68)
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)
- GIS Databases
 - Geomorphic Wetlands (Classification), Swan Coastal Plain
 - Hydrography, linear (hierarchy)
 - Salinity Mapping LM 25 - DOLA 00
 - Soils, statewide
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02
 - Town Planning Scheme Zones
 - SAC Bio Dataset 28/10/2008

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

Comments

The proposal is to clear 30 native trees for the purpose of cropping.

The area under application is zoned Rural under the Shire of Gingin Town Planning Scheme.

In a submission received, the Shire of Gingin have no objection to the proposed clearing for the purpose of cropping. TRIM ref: DOC67552.

Methodology

- References:
- Submission - Direct Interest Submission 6/11/2008. TRIM DOC67552.
- GIS Databases
- Town Planning Scheme Zones

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The assessable criteria have been addressed and the clearing as proposed is not at variance to any of the Principles.

5. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Targets and Objectives for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, AGPS, Canberra.

Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In

Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, 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.

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. (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.

Submission, Direct Interest Submission, 6/11//2008, TRIM DOC 67552.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998). FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Environment and Conservation. <http://florabase.dec.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 3/11/2008).

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)

