

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

2774/1

Permit type:

Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation

1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 297 ON PLAN 93256 (DAMPIER PENINSULA 6725)

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Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

Shire Of Broome

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)

No. Trees

Method of Clearing

For the purpose of:

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

Beard Vegetation Association: 750

Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass & curly spinifex

(Hopkins et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2001).

Clearing Description

The area under application is within the Dampierland biogeographic region. Quaternary marine deposits on coastal plains support mangal, samphire, Sporobolus grasslands, Melaleuca acacioides low forests, and Spinifex-Crotalaria strand communities (Australian Natural Resources Atlas,

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)

Comment

The area under application has been described from aerial imagery.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The proposal is to clear up to 4 hectare of native vegetation for the purpose of a meteorological station. The area under application is within the Dampierland biogeographic region. Quaternary marine deposits on coastal plains support mangal, samphire, Sporobolus grasslands, Melaleuca acacioides low forests, and Spinifex-Crotalaria strand communities (Australian Natural Resources Atlas, 2007).

There is one record of a threatened fauna species (Gouldian Finch, Erythrura gouldia) within a 50km radius. As the area under application is small (4 ha) and there is 99.7% remaining of the Beard vegetation type, it is not significant habitat for any native fauna.

Within the local area (50km radius) there are three records of priority flora species. All flora species grow in the same soil and vegetation type as the area under application. However given the distance (45km south) from the area in question, the size of the proposed clearing (4ha) and the distribution of population it is unlikely to occur within the area under application.

There are 67 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within a 50km radius. The TEC's name is Vine Thickets, this is known as 'vine thickets on coastal sand dunes of Dampier Peninsula'. As the application is small (4ha) there is 99.7% remaining of the Beard vegetation type and the location of the area under application is high in the catchment, the clearing will not directly effect the TECs (DEC, 2008).

The clearing is 560m north of a minor non-perennial watercourse. As the proposed clearing is small (4ha), the removal of vegetation is unlikely to impact on any nearby water courses or associated values.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to any of the principles.

Methodology

DEC (2008)

Shepherd (2006)

Shepherd et al (2001)

GIS Layers:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/05
- DEFL SAC Bio Datasets (12/05/08)
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia EA 18/10/00
- Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
- Threatened Fauna, SAC Bio Datasets (12/05/08)

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

Comments

The area in question is within Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) groundwater Area (Canning - Kimberley).

The boundary of four Aboriginal Site of Significance (Gallen Well, Balawganan, Djarramarron and Andon) is within the proposed area for clearing. Aboriginal Sites of Significance will need to be managed in accordance with requirements under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 and with the Department of Indigenous Affairs.

Methodology

GIS Layers:

- Aboriginal Sites of Significance 26 April 2007
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas DoW 13/07/06

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s510 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing Principles are not likely to be at variance.

5. References

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.

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.

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. eGlossary

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)