GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 2842 / 1
File Number: DEC9759
Duration of Permit: From 18 January 2009 to 18 January 2011

PERMIT HOLDER
Sally Anne Thomas
Jeffrey John Thomas

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Lot 13 on Plan 16971

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
Clearing of up to 10 hectares within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 2842/1.

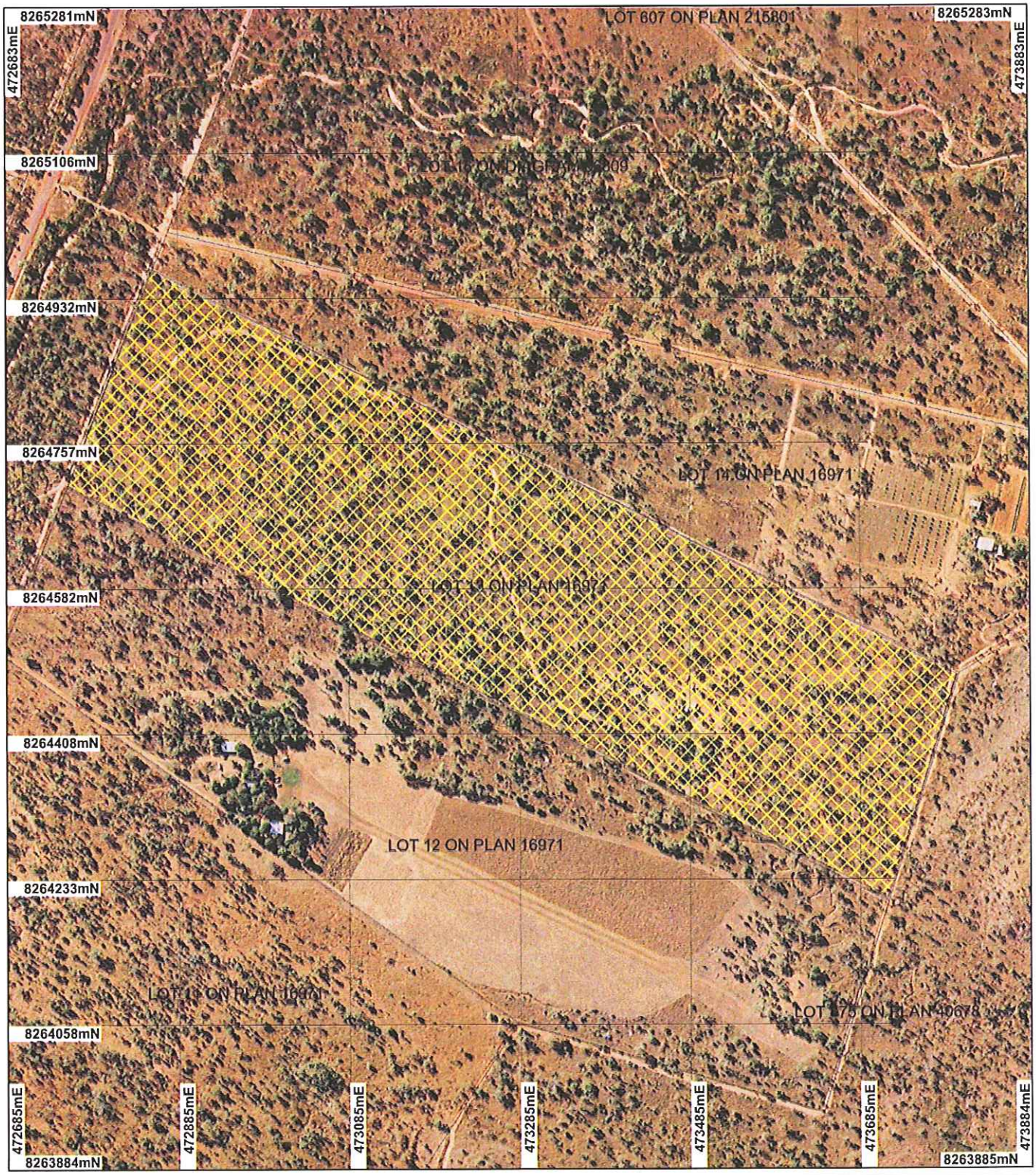
CONDITIONS
Nil

Kelly Faulkner
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

18 December 2008

Plan 2842/1



LEGEND

Cleaning Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear

Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

Cadastre for labelling

N

0 150 m

Scale 1:6502

(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distortion or measurement inaccuracies.

K Faulkner ..... Date 18/12/08

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.

Department of Environment and Conservation

** Project Data. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.*

Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2842/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Jeffrey & Sally Thomas

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 13 ON PLAN 16971 (KUNUNURRA 6743)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

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 Type 909: Grasslands, high grass savanna woodland; bloodwood, stringybark & woolybutt over upland tall grass & curly spinifex on sandplain	The proponent has advised that within the clearing area there are boab trees, White gums, grevillea's, melaleuca's and Bauhinia cunninghamii.. There is also weedy cane grass and Neem. A bushfire went through the whole property at the beginning of the year, so some regeneration is coming through however there are many dead trees and bushes as a result of the fire.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Condition of vegetation was taken from proponents description of the property.

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 area proposed to be cleared is approximately 9 km north of Kununurra. The purpose of clearing is for fire protection and selective clearing of dead vegetation following a bushfire.

The application area is at the western end of a large continuous section of remnant vegetation, with a large area of this comprised of a uniform community of vegetation (Beard Vegetation type 909).

Within the local area (10 km radius) there are numerous records of priority flora, however most species have habitat preferences not found within the application area. One species Brachychiton tuberculatus (P3) has been recorded on the property adjacent to the application area and may be found within the proposed clearing area (DEC, 2008). As the clearing is selective removal and for firebreaks it is unlikely that this population will be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Given that there is an extensive range of similar habitat within the surrounding area and the clearing is for selective vegetation removal and fire protection it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology

SAC Biodatasets, accessed 1 December 2008
DEC, 2008
Shepherd, 2007
GIS Databases:

- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Soils, Statewide

(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

The area proposed to be cleared is part of a large continuous link of vegetation. Vegetation within the application is currently degraded due to a bush fire early this year; however it has the potential to regenerate and provide habitat for native fauna.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not providing a significant ecological linkage as the local and regional area is well vegetated. The surrounding vegetation is relatively uniform in type and the application area is unlikely to be providing habitat not found elsewhere within the local area (10 km radius).

It is unlikely that the proposed clearing would be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

SAC Biodatasets, accessed 1 December 2008
Shepherd et al, 2007
Keighery, 1994
GIS Databases:
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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

There are no recorded occurrences of rare flora within the local area (10km radius). The application area is within a large uniform community of vegetation, so it is unlikely that the clearing proposed will impact on rare flora.

Methodology

SAC Biodatasets, accessed 1 December 2008
Shepherd et al, 2007
GIS Databases:
- Soils, Statewide
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no recorded occurrences of threatened or priority ecological communities within the local area (10km radius) and the application area is part of a large uniform community of vegetation. It is unlikely that the clearing as proposed will impact upon threatened ecological communities.

Methodology

SAC Biodatasets, accessed 1 December 2008
Shepherd et al, 2007
GIS Databases:
- Soils, Statewide
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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

The area applied to clear is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 909 (Hopkins et. al, 2001). Approximately 1% of this Association is located within the IUCN Class I-IV and DEC managed reserves (Shepherd et al, 2007). There is 280,626 ha of this association remaining, approximately 99.6% of the pre-European extent (Shepherd et al, 2007). This association is well represented in the natural environment of the local and regional area. The clearing as proposed is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

SAC Biodatasets, accessed 1 December 2008
Shepherd et al, 2007
Hopkins et al, 2001
GIS Databases:
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no wetlands or watercourses within the area proposed for clearing. A minor, ephemeral drainage line is located along the southern boundary. Clearing as proposed is not considered to impact upon this drainage line. It is not likely that the clearing would be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- RAMSAR, Wetlands
- ANCA, wetlands
- Hydrography, Linear (hierarchy)
- Hydrography, Linear
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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

A DAFWA report (2008) from a neighbouring property identified the soil within the local area as being Cockatoo Sand soil type. This consists of sandy loam to sandy clay textures of yellow and red (Northcote et al, 1960-1968). DAFWA (2008) advise that this soil type is highly erodable under certain conditions; however given that the topography is relatively flat only high intensity rainfall events are likely to result in erosion.

Retaining vegetation is likely to minimise the risk of erosion (DAFWA, 2008). As the proposal is for 10 ha within a 30 ha area and is selective removal of vegetation and fire protection it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would exacerbate current erosion issues.

Methodology

DAFWA, 2008
Northcote et al, 1960-1968
GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide
- Soils, Statewide

(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 area proposed to be cleared is approximately 5.5km north of Mirima National Park. The Lake Argyle and Lake Kununurra RAMSAR wetland is located 9km south of the application area.

The proposed clearing area does not provide a buffer to these conservation areas and is not significant as an ecological linkage, due to the large areas of uncleared of vegetation in the local and regional landscape.

Habitat found within the application area is well represented locally. It is unlikely that the clearing as proposed will impact upon the local conservation areas.

Methodology

Shepherd et al, 2007
GIS Database:
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

(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

The proposed clearing area is located within the Canning Kimberley groundwater sub-area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914. The Public Drinking Water Source Area, consisting of a P1 protection zone, is located 10 km south west of the area proposed to be cleared.

There are no watercourses within the area proposed to be cleared; therefore the clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

The proposal is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA)
- Hydrography, Linear (hierarchy)

- Hydrography, Linear

(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 area proposed to be cleared has low topography and minimal change in gradient over the property. As the clearing is dispersed over the entire block and not in one large area it is unlikely that the clearing will generate excess water runoff resulting in, or exacerbating flooding.

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- Topographic Contours, Statewide
- Kununurra 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2005

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

Comments

No submissions were received for this application.

A subdivision of the property under application was referred to the EPA in 1998. It was set as section 38 scheme not assessed - no advice given.

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 any of the clearing principles.

5. References

DAFWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia. DEC TRIM Ref: DOC52441

Department of Environment and Conservation (2008) Site Inspection Report. Native Vegetation Conservation CPS 2423/1. DEC TRIM Ref: DOC54134

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.

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)