



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 2927/1
 Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Augusta-Margaret River

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (PREVELLY 6285)
 ROAD RESERVE (MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 ROAD RESERVE (MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 ROAD RESERVE (MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 ROAD RESERVE (MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 ROAD RESERVE (MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 LOT 5122 ON PLAN 193363 (Lot No. 5122 WALLCLIFFE MARGARET RIVER 6285)
 LOT 4661 ON PLAN 214218 (PREVELLY 6285)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Augusta-Margaret River
 Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.107		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

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
3 = Medium forest; jarrah-marri 1109 = Shrublands; peppermint scrub, Agonis flexuosa 1138 = Low forest; jarrah & marri Matiske W1 = Tall Open Forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor and Corymbia calophylla Callistachys lanceolata on river banks, Agonis flexuosa Allocasuarina decussata on lower slopes, Banksia grandis on upper slopes Lepidosperma tetraquetrum, Lepidosperma effusum on valley floor, Chorilaena quercifolia, Trymalium floribundum, Bossiaea linophylla, Acacia urophylla and Tremandra stelligera on slopes Matiske G3 = Tall Open Forest of Eucalyptus diversicolor with admixture of Corymbia calophylla Agonis flexuosa Tall shrubs of Chorilaena quercifolia, Acacia pentadenia with climbers Hardenbergia	Vegetation to be cleared is roadside vegetation. Select trees and understorey are being removed. Tree species include Peppermint and Marri. Some midstorey bushes also to be removed. Species have been flagged for construction worker identification.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation condition and description was obtained from photos supplied by the proponent.

comptoniana, Clematis
pubescens, also Pteridium
esculentum and Spyridium
globulosum

Mattiske GE = Tall
Shrubland of Agonis
flexuosa, Acacia
rostellifera and Acacia
saligna with stunted
Eucalyptus marginata
subsp. marginata and
Corymbia calophylla
No second storey
Closed Heath of
Melaleuca scabra,
Phyllanthus calycinus,
Hibbertia hypericoides,
Clematis pubescens,
Xanthorrhoea preissii,
Loxocarya cinerea ,
Trachymene pilosa and
Pimelea rosea

Mattiske Cw1 = Woodland
of Eucalyptus marginata
subsp. marginata and
Corymbia calophylla on
slopes, Woodland of
Melaleuca preissiana and
Banksia littoralis in
depression Some
Agonis flexuosa under
Eucalyptus marginata
subsp. marginata and
Corymbia calophylla
Pericalymma
ellipticum, Astartea
fascicularis, Taxandria
linearifolia ms,
Mesomelaena tetragona
and Lepidosperma
effusum

Cd = Low Closed Forest of
Agonis flexuosa,
Eucalyptus cornuta
Banksia attenuata and
Corymbia calophylla
No second storey
Hibbertia
hypericoides, Loxocarya
cinerea, Spyridium
globulosum, Hibbertia
cuneiformis, Lepidosperma
squamatum, Burchardia
umbellata and Acacia
pulchella

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 roadside vegetation in a well vegetated area. The proposal is for road widening, which would result in the removal of vegetation from eight sites, totalling 0.107 hectares. Site photos indicate that vegetation to be removed is in 'very good' to 'good' (Keighery, 1994) condition.

Vegetation along the roadside is subject to disturbance and weed invasion. It is unlikely that diversity levels within the proposed clearing areas are high in comparison with surrounding vegetation. It is not likely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology

SAC biodatasets, accessed 7 January 2009
Site photo's, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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 proposed clearing is likely to result in the removal of some *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint trees). This species is known to provide feeding habitat for Western Ringtail possums (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*).

The clearing will be for eight small areas totalling 0.107 hectares. It is unlikely that the habitat removed in these small areas is significant for local native species. There are large stands of remaining vegetation and clearing will not disrupt vegetated corridors.

It is not likely that the clearing as proposed will be at variance to this principle.

Methodology SAC biodatasets, accessed 7 January 2009
 Site photo's, 2008
 DEC, 2007
 GIS Database:
 - Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

Within the local area there are records of the rare flora species *Caladenia excelsa*. The habitat found within the proposed clearing is similar to that preferred by this species. It is possible that this rare species exists within the proposed clearing area, however, it is unlikely that this species is restricted to the road edge given the extent of vegetation within the adjoining crown reserves.

Methodology SAC biodatasets, accessed 7 January 2009
 GIS Databases:
 - Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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

Within the local area (10 km radius) there are two known threatened ecological communities, *Melaleuca lanceolata* forests and Leeuwin Caves. The areas proposed to be cleared do not contain the required habitat characteristics for these communities to be present.

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

Methodology SAC Biodatasets, accessed 7 January 09
 Northcote et al 1960-1968
 Mattiske et al, 1998
 Site photo's, 2008
 GIS Datasets:
 - Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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

		Pre European (ha)	Current Extent(ha)	Remaining %
Shire of Augusta Margaret River		223,634.44	150,657.95	67.37
Beard Vegetation Type				
1109		34,325.41	32,341.40	94.22
1138		646.43	504.39	78.03
3		2,661,405.03	1,863,719.41	70.03
Mattiske Vegetation Complex				
Cd	Cowaramup	3493.596	2274.165	65.1
Cw1	Cowaramup	6144.576	1786.473	29.1
G3	Gracetown	4334.265	3921.234	90.5
GE	Gracetown	8677.158	8296.186	95.6
W1	Wilyabrup	7296.491	4418.211	60.6

The vegetation types located within the proposed clearing areas are considered to be well represented and the local area (10km radius) contains approximately 60-70% of native vegetation.

It is unlikely that the eight small areas (totalling 0.107 ha) are significant remnants, due to the surrounding remnant vegetation. It is considered that the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Matiske, 1998
Shpeherd, 2007
GIS Databases:
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Leeuwin 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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**
The area proposed to be cleared is not within a watercourse and does not contain vegetation associated with a watercourse. The clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Site photo's, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear

(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**
The area proposed to be cleared contains, with some variation, yellow to brown sands on undulating slopes over limestone, sandstone and granites (Northcote et al, 1960-1968).

The proposed clearing is for 8 small areas totalling 0.107 hectares, spread over 2.6 kilometres. Given the filtered effect of clearing and type of soil present it is unlikely that erosion, water logging, salinity or acidity will be affected by the proposed clearing. The clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology Northcote et al 1960 - 1968
Site photos, 2008
GIS Databases:
- Soils, Statewide
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004
- Topography, 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**
Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park is located to the north and south of the proposed clearing areas. The closest boundary to the clearing is approximately 1.3 km south.

The proposed clearing of 8 small areas totalling 0.107 hectares is unlikely to impact upon the National park or other surrounding conservation areas, and is not likely to degrade the ecological linkages between National parks.

It is not likely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- DEC Managed Lands and Waters
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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 areas proposed to be cleared are small areas totalling 0.107 ha. The closest water course is located approximately 340 metres north of the proposed clearing.

As the proposed clearing sites are small and there is a vegetated buffes between them and the nearest water course it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Hydrography, linear
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

(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 clearing is unlikely to result in excess water runoff as the proposed clearing areas are small and topography remains similar throughout the proposed clearing area. Additionally, there are vegetated buffers surrounding the proposed clearing areas which would impede run off. The clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- Topography, Statewide
- Busselton 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2004

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

Comments The proposed clearing is for the purpose of road widening. This area has been targeted with Black spot funding.

No submissions have been received.

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 maybe at variance to principle (c) and not likely to be at variance to remaining principles.

5. References

DEC (2007) DEC Fauna Habitat Notes.xls. February 2007. Department of Environment and Conservation, 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. (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.
Site Photo's, 2008, TRIM ref DOC 72341

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)

