

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number: CPS 2985/1

Permit Holder: Clint Michael Hollingsworth

Kylie Kristina Hollingsworth

Duration of Permit: 16 May 2009 – 16 May 2014

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I-CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of building construction, pasture and orchard establishment, water harvesting and upgrading access tracks.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

LOT 371 ON PLAN 127531 (REDMOND WEST 6327)

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 6 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 2985/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures

Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II - ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. Avoid, minimise etc clearing

In determining the amount of native vegetation to be cleared authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. Dieback and weed control

- (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback:
 - (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
 - (ii) shall not move soils in wet conditions;
 - (iii) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
 - (iv) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.
- (b) At least once in each 12 month period for the *term* of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit in relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under this Permit:

- (a) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS)
 unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates
 in Eastings and Northings;
- (b) the date that the area was cleared; and
- (c) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

9. Reporting

- (a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO, on or before 30 June of each year, a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit and activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding year.
- (b) Prior to 16 February 2014, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 8 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 9(a) of this Permit.

Definitions

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

dieback means the effect of Phytophthora species on native vegetation;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

term means the duration of this Permit, including as amended or renewed;

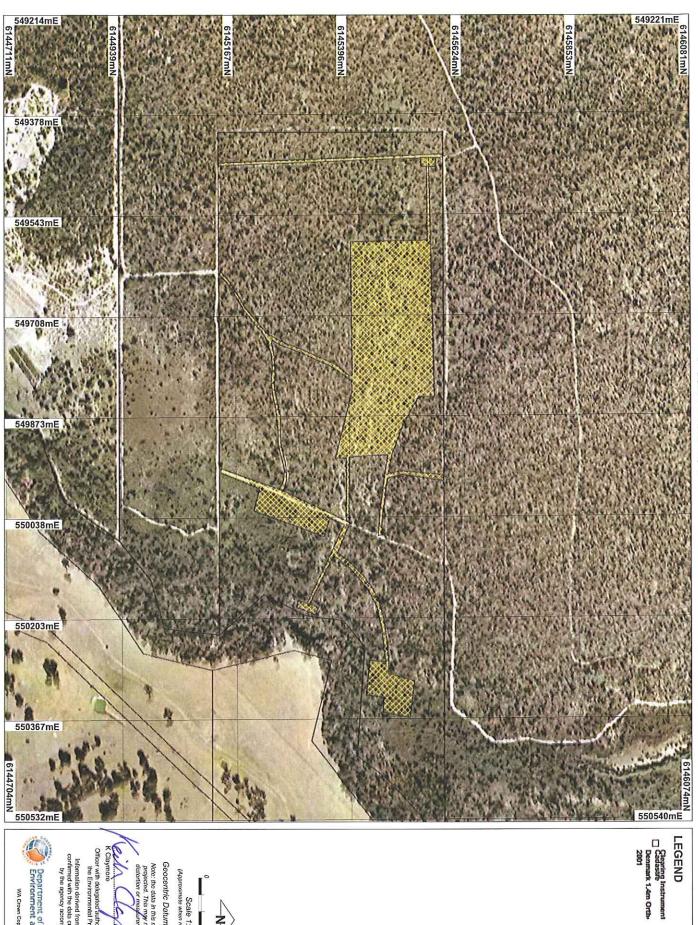
weed/s means a species listed in Appendix 3 of the "Environmental Weed Strategy" published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management (1999), and plants declared under section 37 of the Agricultural and Related Resources Protection Act 1976.

Keith Claymore A/ DIRECTOR

NATURE CONSERVATION DIVISION

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

16 April 2009







Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.:

2985/1

Permit type:

Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name:

Clint and Kylie Hollingsworth

1.3. Property details

Property:

LOT 371 ON PLAN 127531 (REDMOND WEST 6327)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

City Of Albany & Shire Of Plantagenet

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:

3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri

2051 - Sedgeland; sedges with low tree savanna woodland;

paperbarks over & various sedges

Clearing Description

The application is for the clearing of 6 hectares within a 40 hectare area for the purpose of building, pasture, orchard, tracks and water harvesting.

Vegetation Condition

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

The vegetation condition was determined from DEC Site Visit TRIM ref DOC78566.

Mattiske Vegetation Complex:

Valley Terrace - Tall shrubland and closed heath of Agonis spp. on valley floors in hyperhumid to humid zones.

Sedimentary Valleys - Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on slopes and woodland of Eucalyptus occidentalis-fs24 Melaleuca cuticularis on lower slopes in perhumid and humid zones.

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 application is to clear 6 hectares of native vegetation for the purpose of building a house, orchard, pasture, access tracks and water harvesting. The vegetation under application is in excellent (Keighery 1994) condition (DEC 2009).

The application area is surrounded on 3 sides by the Mt Lindesay National Park, and the local (10km radius) area has approximately 70% native vegetation remaining. The vegetation associations under application are well represented, all containing approximately 70% of the pre-European extent.

The vegetation under application is therefore not considered to be a locally significant remnant in terms of biological diversity. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

DEC 2009

GIS database:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/05
- SAC Biodatasets accessed 16 Feb 09
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01

- Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas 30 May 2005
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- (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

Three rare and 4 priority fauna species recorded within the local (10km radius) area may be utilising the vegetation under application, including Setonix brachyurus (Quokka), Myrmecobius fasciatus (Numbat) and Calyptorhynchus banksii naso (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo). Additionally, any impacts on the nearby Hay river may affect habitat for Galaxiella munda (Western Mud Minnow).

The local area is well vegetated, with the Mt Lindesay National Park lying to the west of the application area. Additionally, the application is for 6 hectares over a 40 hectare area of native vegetation. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to impact on significant habitat for rare or priority fauna, and not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS database:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/05
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- SAC Biodatasets accessed 16 Feb 00
- Hydrography linear DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) DoW 13/7/06
- (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

Three rare and 23 priority flora species have been recorded within the local (10km radius) area. Of these, 2 priority and flora species were recorded within the same soil and vegetation types. Billardiera drummondii (P4) and Marianthus sylvaticus (P3) were recorded 5.6km and 7.6km south of the application area.

The vegetation under application is therefore not considered to be necessary for the continued existance of rare or priority flora species, and the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

DEC 2009

GIS database:

- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets accessed 16 Feb 09
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- (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

No threatened ecological communities have been recorded within the local (10km radius) area and as such the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:

- SAC Biodatasets accessed 16 Feb 09
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- (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 application lies within the City of Albany and the Jarrah Forest IBRA Bioregion, which retain 38% adn 54.16% native vegetation respectively (Shepherd 2007). Orthomosaic imagery suggests the local (10km radius) area is approximately 65% vegetated.

The vegetation under application is of Beard Vegetation Associations 3 and 2051, both of which have approximately 70% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd 2007). The vegetation is also Mattiske Vegetation Complexes Valley Terrace and Sedimentary Valleys, which also have over 70% native vegetation remaining (Mattiske Consulting 1998).

The area is not considered to be extensively cleared, and therefore the vegetation under application is not a significant remnant in the local area. The clearing of 6 hectares as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

Mattiske Consulting (1998)

Shepherd (2007) Shepherd et al (2001)

GIS Databases:

- Albany Mount Barker 1.4m Orthomosaic Landgate 2002
- Denmark 1.4m Orthomosaic Landgate 2001
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia EA 18/10/00
- Local Government Authorities DLI 8/07/04
- Mattiske Vegetation CALM 1/03/1998
- Pre European Vegetation DA 01/01
- SAC Biodatasets accessed 16 Feb 2009
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001

(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 at variance to this Principle

The eastern end of the application area lies 30m from the Hay River, and a minor perenial watercourse flows through the north eastern end. Part of the vegetation under application is therefore considered to be growing in association with watercourses, and the proposed clearing is therefore at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- Hydrography linear DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) DoW 13/7/06

(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

As the application is to clear a small area (6ha) of native vegetation within a well vegetated landscape, and much of this clearing will be followed up with construction or tree planting, the risk of land degradation is greatly reduced. Additionally, DAFWA (2009) have advised that the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

DAFWA (2009)

GIS database:

- Average Annual Rainfall Isohyets WRC 29/09/98
- Annual Evaporation Contours (Isopleths) WRC 29/09/98
- Hydrogeology, statewide? DOW 13/07/06
- Hydrography, linear DOW 13/7/06
- Salinity Risk LM 25m DOLA 00
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Topographic contours statewide DOLA and ARMY 12/09/02
- Hydrogeology, Statewide 05 Feb 2002

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application area adjoins Mt Lindesay National Park on 3 sides, is 1.1km north west of Blue Gum Creek Nature Reserve, and is 2km north west of Denmark Catchment State Forest. Additionally, the vegetation under application is adjacent to the Denbarker Area National Estate.

The proposed clearing has the potential to introduce or spread Phytophthora (dieback) and weeds into the surrounding conservation areas, and as such may be at variance to this principle. Weed and dieback conditions will be placed on the premit to reduce the potential impacts on nearby conservation areas.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

- CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/06/05
- Register of National Estate Environment Australia, Australian and world heritage division 12 Mar 02

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The local area (10km radius) is well vegetated, especially west of the application area, and as such the proposed clearing of 6 ha of native vegetation is not likely to impact on water quality on a broad scale.

However, as part of the application includes clearing of riperian vegetation and daming of a tributory watercourse, water quality in the Hay River may be affected. As such the proposal may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS database:

- Evapotransporation Isopleths WRC 29/09/98
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide DoW 13/07/06
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrographic catchments, subcatchments DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrography, linear DOW 13/7/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 2003) DEC 02/08/05
- Salinity Risk LM 25m DOLA 00
- Topographic Contours, Statewide DOLA 12/09/02
- (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

Given the application area is in a very well vegetated area, the clearing of 6ha as proposed is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The clearing as proposed is therefore not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS database:

- Evaporation Isopleths WRC 29/09/98
- Hydrographic catchments, catchments DoW 01/06/07
- Hydrography, linear DoW 13/7/06
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes (1975 2003) DEC 02/08/05
- Topographic Contours, Statewide DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

Planning approval has been provided from the City of Albany. TRIM ref DOC81822.

Access to the property under application has been provided via an informal agreement to use and maintain an existing firebreak through the Mt Lindesay National Park. TRIM Ref DOC81823.

Methodology

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 is at variance to Principle (f), may be at variance to Principle (h) and (i), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

5. References

DEC (2009) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 2985/1, Lot 371 Deposityed Plan 127531, Blue Gum Road, Redmond West. Site inspection undertaken 15/1/2009. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC78566).

Department of Agriculture and Food (2009) Advice. Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation. DEC TRIM Ref: DOC81210. 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.

6. Glossary

Term

Meaning

BCS

Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC

	3.9
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)