



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 313/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: BJ Young Earthmoving Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: M45/531

Local Government Area: Town Of Port Hedland

Colloquial name: M45/531

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
7		Mechanical Removal	Extractive Industry

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
Vegetation Association #589 - Mosaic: short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex (Shepherd et al., 2001).	The vegetation of the site retains mixed hummock grassland with sparse scrub and very sparse open woodland (Astron Environmental, 1997). The main vegetation types in the open woodland include <i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i> .	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The site under application is an extension of an already existing and operational sandpit. The influence of fire has substantially degraded the vegetation thus limiting its potential conservation value (Astron Environmental, 1997).

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 vegetation of the site retains mixed hummock grassland with sparse scrub and very sparse open woodland, which has previously been disturbed by fire (Astron Environmental, 1997). It is therefore unlikely to represent an area of outstanding biological diversity.

Methodology Astron Environmental, 1997;
GIS Database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01

(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**
A fauna assessment (Astron Environmental, 1997) identified a small number of bird species that are considered Specially Protected and Priority species. These include sightings of the Grey Falcon, Black Breasted Buzzard, Bush Thicknee and Grey Honeyeater. These species are likely to be only occasional visitors to the application area as they were sampled in low densities and are quite mobile populations. Since the type of vegetation in the application area is regionally abundant, and the area to be cleared is quite small at only 7 ha, it is unlikely the fauna will experience any major disturbance.

Methodology Astron Environmental, 1997

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

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No Declared Rare or Priority Flora species were surveyed within the project area (Astron Environmental, 1997). The influence of fire has substantially degraded the vegetation thus limiting its potential conservation value (Astron Environmental, 1997).

Methodology Astron Environmental, 1997;
GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the area proposed for clearing.

Methodology GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03

(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 vegetation under application is Beard Vegetation Association 589 (Hopkins et al., 2001) of which there is ~100% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001).

Methodology Hopkins et al. 2001;
Shepherd et al. 2001;
GIS Database: Pre-European Extent – DA 01/01

(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 vegetation to be cleared is not associated with a wetland or watercourse.

Methodology GIS Database: Hydrography, linear – DOE 1/2/04

(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

Off site land degradation impacts stemming from vegetation removal are likely to be minimal as the vegetation cover is already relatively sparse (Astron Environmental, 1997).

Methodology Astron Environmental, 1997

(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 project area is not adjacent to any existing or proposed conservation reserves.

Methodology GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04

(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

It is unlikely that the vegetation clearing will have a significant impact on ground or surface water quality.

Methodology GIS Database: Hydrography, linear – DOE 1/2/04

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

Flooding impacts are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its size of 7ha and location. The elevation is between 15-20 meters, with no river systems in the vicinity. It is considered that the removal of vegetation from the site would have no impact on peak flood height or duration.

Methodology GIS Database: Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments

The Pilbara Native Title Service raised concerns that the clearing of significant areas of vegetation may be a matter which affects native title, through the future act processes of the Native Title Act 1993.

Methodology Pilbara Native Title Service Submission (2004)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Extractive Industry	Mechanical Removal	7	Grant	Recommended that the permit be granted. The concern of the Pilbara Native Title Service is clarified by advice received from the State Solicitor's Office that indicates the granting of the permit would not be invalidated by the Native Title Act 1993.

5. References

- Astron Environmental (1997) Flora and Fauna Survey - Leases M45/531, M45/681, M45/689 Port Hedland.
- 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, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- 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.