



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3318/4
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: AWE Perth Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: Production Licence L 4
Production Licence L 5
Local Government Area: Shire of Carnamah
Colloquial name: Woodada Gas Field Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Petroleum Production

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 14 August 2014

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
<p>The vegetation of the application area has been broadly mapped as Beard Vegetation Association:</p> <p>378: Shrublands; scrub-heath with scattered <i>Banksia</i> spp, <i>Eucalyptus todtiana</i> & <i>Xylomelum angustifolium</i> on deep sandy flats in the Geraldton Sandplain Region (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora survey of the application area identified the following vegetation types:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus erythrocorys</i> over mixed shrubs including <i>Acacia spathulifolia</i>, <i>Melaleuca systema</i> and <i>Desmodcladus asper</i> on brown sand with limestone outcropping; 2. Heath dominated by <i>Banksia attenuata</i> and <i>Melaleuca leuropoma</i> with emergent <i>Banksia prionotes</i>, <i>Banksia menziesii</i> and <i>Eucalyptus todtiana</i> on yellow sand; 3. Heath of mixed myrtaceous species and sedges including <i>Ecdeicola monostachya</i> and <i>Mesomelaena pseudostygia</i> on grey sand; 4. Open Woodland of <i>Banksia prionotes</i> over <i>Scholtzia laxiflora</i>, <i>Melaleuca leuropoma</i> and <i>Banksia leptophylla</i> on yellow sand; and 5. Low forest of <i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>, <i>Casuarina obesa</i> and <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> over <i>Hakea preissii</i> over predominately introduced herbs (AWE, 2009). <p>Twenty-seven alien weed species were recorded within the application area: Cape Weed (<i>Arctotheca calendula</i>), Maltese cockspur (<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>), Stinkwort (<i>Dittrichia graveolens</i>), Flat Weed (<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>), Rough Sowthistle (<i>Sonchus asper</i>), Common Sowthistle (<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>), Ursinia (<i>Ursinia anthemoides</i>), Paterson's curse (<i>Echium plantagineum</i>), London Rocket (<i>Sisymbrium irio</i>), Geraldton Carnation Weed (<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>), Common Centaury (<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>), Medic (<i>Medicago</i> sp.), Hare's Foot Clover (<i>Trifolium arvense</i>), Hairgrass (<i>Aira</i> sp.), Bearded Oat (<i>Avena barbata</i>), Blowfly Grass (<i>Briza maxima</i>),</p>	<p>Woodada Gas Field project.</p> <p>AWE Perth Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 15 hectares of native vegetation, within a total boundary of approximately 55.3 hectares, for the purpose of petroleum production. The project is located in the Lake Logue Nature Reserve, approximately 9 kilometres west of Eneabba, in the Shire of Carnamah.</p>	<p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p>	<p>The proposed activities includes maintaining previously cleared areas within the Woodada Gas Field (WGF) including vehicle access roads, gas gathering flowline easements and well pads (AWE, 2009).</p> <p>Clearing permit CPS 3318/1 was granted to ARC Energy Ltd on 5 November 2009, and approved the clearing of 15 hectares within a boundary of approximately 30 hectares. Amended clearing permit CPS 3318/2 was granted on 21 January 2010, increasing the permit boundary to approximately 30 hectares. On 2 June 2011, amended permit CPS 3318/3 was granted, further increasing the permit boundary to approximately 55.3 hectares.</p> <p>On 6 June 2014, AWE Perth Pty Ltd applied to amend CPS 3318/3 to extend the permit duration by four years to 30 September 2018, and to change the name of the permit holder from ARC Energy Ltd to AWE Perth Pty Ltd, due to a change of company name.</p>

Shivery Grass (*Briza minor*), Brome (*Bromus* sp.), Burrgrass (*Cenchrus echinatus*), Couch (*Cynodon dactylon*), Perennial Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta calycina*), Barley Grass (*Hordeum leporinum*), Hare's Tail Grass (*Lagurus ovatus*), Ryegrass (*Lolium* sp.), Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), Bartsia (*Parentucellia* sp.), and Black Berry Nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) (Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, 2004).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The amendment to extend the permit duration by four years and to change the name of the permit holder is unlikely to result in any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing. The size of the area approved to clear (15 hectares) and the permit boundaries remain unchanged.

The assessment against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 3318/3.

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

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2004/002) over the area under application. This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are two registered Aboriginal sites of significance occurring within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Determined by the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Filed at the Federal Court
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

- AWE (2009) Woodada Gas Field Clearing Permit Application. Supporting Documentation. Australian Worldwide Exploration Limited, 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 Consulting Pty Ltd (2004) Weed Management Program Woodada Gas Field. Prepared for Hardman Oil & Gas Pty Ltd. Unpublished report dated February 2004

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
DotE	Department of the Environment, Australian Government
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia
DSEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE)
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
s.17	Section 17 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

- T** **Threatened species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).

Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by the Department according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.

Rankings:
CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.
EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild.
VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- X** **Presumed Extinct species:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora).
- IA** **Migratory birds protected under an international agreement:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction.
- S** **Other specially protected fauna:**
Specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice.
- P1** **Priority One - Poorly-known species:**
Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known

threatening processes.

P2

Priority Two - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.

P3

Priority Three - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.

P4

Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

P5

Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:

Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.