



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 333/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: 19th Chief Engineer Works - Army

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 31 ON PLAN 216193 (HALLS CREEK (S))
LOT 45 ON PLAN 91750 (ST GEORGE RANGES 6728)
YURABI PART LOCATION 68 (ST GEORGE RANGES 6728)
LOT 50 ON PLAN 238578 (HALLS CREEK (S))
Local Government Area: Shire Of Derby-West Kimberley & Shire Of Halls Creek
Colloquial name: AACAP - Fitzroy Crossing

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
6		Mechanical Removal	Building or Structure
6		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	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Beard Vegetation Association 875 - Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; snappy gum over soft spinifex / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex Triodia intermedia on laterite.	Vegetation to be cleared surrounds existing infrastructure (airfield, roads, cattle/horse yards, communities and homestead) and as such has been previously disturbed.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Site visit by Department of Environment officer (2004).
Beard Vegetation Association 877 - Grasslands, tall bunch grass savanna low tree; snappy gum and bloodwood (Eucalyptus dichromophloia) over ribbon grass.	Vegetation to be cleared surrounds existing infrastructure (airfield, roads, cattle/horse yards, communities and homestead) and as such has been previously disturbed.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Site visit by Department of Environment officer (2004).
Beard Vegetation Association 703 - Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over Triodia intermedia	The site proposed to be cleared has been recently burnt and is subject to ongoing grazing pressure.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Site visit by Department of Environment officer (2004).
Beard Vegetation Association 802 - Grasslands, high grass savanna woodland; grey box and cabbage gum over mixed/white grass on basalt and dolorite	The vegetation to be cleared is within a community and as such has been disturbed by previous community construction and maintenance activities.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Site visit by Department of Environment officer (2004).

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 areas to be cleared are in close proximity to communities and as such are subject to some level of existing

disturbance (eg roads, fire, existing infrastructure). It is unlikely that the small areas of clearing (12ha in total) will have a significant impact on local / regional biodiversity.

Methodology GIS Database: Aboriginal Communities - DIA 21/10/2002

(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**

It is unlikely that native fauna will be significantly impacted upon by the clearing of small amounts of vegetation (a total of 12ha at two sites as outlined in the application).

Methodology Permit application

(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**

There are no known Declared Rare or Priority Flora within the areas proposed for clearing.

Methodology GIS Database: Declared Rare and Priority Flora Lists - CALM 13/08/03

(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 areas proposed to be cleared.

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 at variance to this Principle**

The areas to be cleared consist of Beard Vegetation Associations 700, 703, 802, 875 and 877 (Hopkins et al. 2001). All vegetation associations have ~100% of their pre-European extent remaining, with 7.5% of Vegetation Association 703 represented in the conservation reserve system (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 perennial watercourses, but some vegetation may be within minor, non-perennial creeks and drainage lines. It is unlikely that the clearing proposed will have a significant impact on vegetation associated with watercourses.

Methodology GIS Databases: Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04; Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

(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**

In addition to the small scale of the proposed clearing, the landscape is of low relief and it thus erosion from soil disturbance and run-off is unlikely to result in significant land degradation.

The works will be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence's Soil and Water Management Plan which will minimise erosion and impacts on downstream habitats (Dept of Defence, 2004).

Methodology GIS Database: Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02. Department of Defence (2004)

(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 at variance to this Principle**

The nearest conservation reserve is the Geikie Gorge National Park which is approximately 75 kilometres from Yakanara, the closest of the three sites. Therefore, no conservation reserves are in close proximity to any of the areas proposed for clearing.

(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 works will be undertaken in accordance with the Department of Defence's Soil and Water Management Plan which will minimise erosion and impacts on downstream habitats (Dept of Defence, 2004). It is therefore unlikely that the clearing of small areas of vegetation will significantly impact on erosion, sedimentation or turbidity levels in the Fitzroy River catchment.

Methodology Department of Defence (2004)

(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**
The vegetation to be cleared is currently grazed and periodically burnt. It is unlikely that the removal of small areas by mechanical means will have a noticeable impact on flood regimes in the local area.

Methodology Department of Environment site visit (August 2004)

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

Comments
The works proposed are within Reserves under the management of the relevant Aboriginal Corporation with one site on Go Go Pastoral Lease. The Lessee of Go Go Station (M Harris, see supporting documentation to permit application) has provided authorisation for the proposed works.

The Kimberley Land Council has raised concern that the proposed clearing may be a future act under the Native Title Act 1993. However, the works as proposed will support the Living Areas of Yiyili, Ganinyi and Girriyoowa established on Aboriginal Lands Trust land, and the Department of Indigenous Affairs has indicated that the Community Councils are supportive of the projects (see supporting documentation to permit application). The airstrip to be developed primarily for the community at Yakanarra has been agreed to by the Lessee of Go Go Station, on which the airstrip will be located.

Methodology Permit application; KLC (2005)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	6	Grant	
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	6	Grant	

5. References

Department of Defence (2004) Environmental Management Plan for the AACAP Fitzroy Crossing Health and Infrastructure Project, Western Australia.

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.