

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: 3714/1

File Number:

DEC2751

Duration of Permit: From 3 July 2010 to 3 July 2012

PERMIT HOLDER

Allan John Deane

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Lot 10039 on Deposited Plan 125453, Deans Road, Wandering

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 0.6 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross hatched yellow on attached Plan 3714/1.

CONDITIONS

Nil.

Kelly Faulkner

MANAGER

NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

3 June 2010

Plan 3714/1



LEGEND

Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear

☐ Cadastre

Brookton-Boddington 1m Orthomosaic - Landgate 2000



Scale 1:6397
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

Note: the data in this map have not been projected. This may result in geometric distantion or measurement inaccuracies.

K Faulkner

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowleged by the agency acronym in the legend.



Department of Environment and Conservation

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Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3714/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Allan John Deane

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10039 ON PLAN 125453 (WANDERING 6308)

LOT 10039 ON PLAN 125453 (WANDERING 6308)

Local Government Area:

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha) No. Trees Method of Clearing For the purpose of:

D.6 Mechanical Removal Dam construction or maintenance

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Cle

Beard Vegetation Association 3 - Medium forest of jarrah-marri.

Mattiske Vegetation
Complex, Michibin (Mi) Open woodland of
Eucalyptus wandoo over
Acacia acuminata with
some Eucalyptus
loxophleba on valley
slopes, with low woodland
of Allocasuarina
huegeliana on or near
shallow granite outcrops in
arid and perarid zones.

Clearing Description

The proposal is to clear 0.6 ha of native vegetation for the purpose of constructing a dam to provide water supply for fire protection and wildlife.

The vegetation under application comprises Wandoo Woodland which has limited understorey with large areas of bare earth. The area has been historically cleared through ringbarking and grazing.

Vegetation Condition

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)

Comment

Vegetation condition description based on aerial photography and photographs of the site taken by the applicant on 11 April 2010 and included with the application (AJ Deane 2010).

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 under application consists of Eucalyptus wandoo trees over sparse native shrubs and some native sedges which is considered to be in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.

There is one species of Priority 2 Flora (Haloragis aculeolata) which has one known population located approximately 9.7km north-west of the applied area, and one species of Priority 3 Flora (Hakea oldfieldii) which has two known populations located approximately 5.1km south-east of the applied area. However, as these species occur in different vegetation types from the vegetation type existing in the proposal area, they are unlikely to occur there.

Given the small area under application and the low species diversity of the vegetation under application, it is not considered likely to be representative of an area of high biological diversity, when compared to remnant vegetation in the local area that is in better condition. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References:

- Keighery (1994)

GIS Datasets

- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99
- Mattiske vegetation complexes (1998)
- SAC Bio Datasets (05/05/10

(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

Within the local area (10km radius) there are five known recorded species of Priority (4) Fauna: the White-browed Babbler (Pomatostomus superciliosus ashbyi), the Bush Stone-curlew (Burhinus grallarius), the Western Brush Wallaby (Macropus irma), the Water Rat (Hydromys chrysogaster), and the Carpet Python (Morelia spilota imbricata).

Also, there are three known recorded species of Threatened Fauna: the Baudin's Black-cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus baudinii), the Red-tailed Phascogale (Phascogale calura) and the Numbat (Myrmecobius fasciatus), and one recorded species of Vulnerable Fauna: the Western Rosella inland ssp. (Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys).

Given the small and degraded condition of the vegetation under application it is not considered to be a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia and is therefore not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

SAC Bio datasets 05/05/10

(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

There are no known populations of DRF species within a 10km radius (local area) of the area under application.

Given this, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Declared Rare and Priority Flora List? DEC 05/05/10

SAC Bio datasets 05/05/10

(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

There are no known occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the local area (10km).

Given this, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:

SAC Bio datasets 06/05/10

Threatened Ecological Communities - DEC

(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

Beard defines the vegetation under application as vegetation association 3 which has 86.11% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd, 2007).

Mattiske (1998) defines the vegetation under application as 'Michibin' complex of which there is 26.37% of pre-European extent remaining.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). As the vegetation under application is in a degraded condition it does not represent an example of the Michibin complex in Good or better condition.

The vegetation under application is located within a large portion of remnant vegetation which is considered to be significant in the local area and which has been extensively cleared for agriculture.

However, the proposed clearing of 0.6ha is not considered likely to impact this remnant. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2001)

Mattiske (1998) Shepherd et al (2007)

(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

There are three watercourses on the property, the closest being near the proposed site adjacent to the eastern boundary of Lot 10039.

Given that there is no wetland-dependent vegetation within the application area, the proposal is not considered likely to include vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Hydrography, linear - DOW

(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

Soils within the area under application comprise sandy, neutral, and also acidic, yellow mottled soils, all containing ironstone gravels (Northcote et al., 1960-1968).

The area under application is associated with a low risk of salinity and the proposed 0.6 ha is not likely to impact on the salinity risk. The main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil type is considered to be wind and water erosion. Given that the area under application is surrounded by Wandoo woodland which will reduce wind velocity, it is considered that the risk of wind erosion is low.

The main land degradation risk associated with the removal of vegetation on the identified soil type is considered to be water erosion. However, the surrounding Wandoo woodland will reduce the effect of any water erosion, therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

Reference:

Northcote et al., (1960-1968)

GIS Databases:

Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00 Soils, Statewide - DA 11/99

(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

Timber Reserve 467925 is located 5.5km north-west, Timber Reserve 470624 is located 5.8km west, Moomagul Nature Reserve is located 9.8km north-east, and Lupton Conservation Park is located 10.4km north-west of the area under application.

Given that the area under application is 0.6ha and given the distance to the nearest conservation areas, it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing would impact on the environmental values of the nearby conservation reserves. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:

CALM Managed Lands and Waters - DEC 28/10/09

(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 area under application is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) and has a nil to low risk of salinity. The proposed clearing is therefore not likely to have an impact on ground water quality.

The nearest watercourse is the Hotham River which is situated approximately 6.5km to the south-east of the area under application. Given the distance to this watercourse, it is not considered likely that the proposed clearing would have an impact on the surface water quality of this water body.

Given the small area under application, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - DOW

Hydrography, linear - DOW

Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOW

Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00

(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 area under application is located approximately 6.5km to the northwest of the Hotham River and given that the area under application is 0.6ha, it is not considered likely that the proposed removal of vegetation would impact on peak flood height or duration. Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Hydrography, linear - DOW

Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA

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

Comments

No submissions received.

The area under application is part of the RIWI Act area Murray River and Tributaries, RIW_ID 1. However, as the watercourse is minor and either intermittent or ephemeral, a Permit to Interfere with Bed and Banks is not required (Department of Water, 2010).

The area under application is part of EPA Position Statement No.2, Agriculture Region, where further clearing for agricultural purposes is not generally supported. However, given that the area is small (0.6ha), the vegetation condition is degraded, surrounded by a remnant in similar or better condition and the proposal is for construction of a dam, the impact of the proposed clearing is likely to be minimal.

The area under application does not encroach upon a Proclaimed watercourse and does not intercept groundwater, therefore, a Licence to Take Water is not required from the Department of Water. The Department of Water has advised that dam construction should be carried out in the summer months to prevent any potential downstream turbidity issues (Department of Water, 2010).

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Native Title Claims - DLI 02/05/07

4. References

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001?2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, ACT.

Deane, AJ (2010) Clearing Permit Application CPS 3714/1 and additional documents.

Department of Water (2010) advice on CPS 3714/1 from Department of Water - water permit and licence. DEC Ref. A306876. EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority, 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.

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

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.

5. Glossary

Term Meaning

CALM Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC)

DAFWA Department of Agriculture and Food

DEC Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)

DoE Department of Environment (now DEC)

DoW Department of Water

DMP Department of Mines and Petroleum (ex DoIR)

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)