



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 456/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Geoffrey Forman Trustee of the Geoffrey Forman Family Trust

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 4998 ON PLAN 118107 (TARWONGA 6391)
LOT 3836 ON PLAN 111884 (ARTHUR RIVER 6315)
LOT 2 ON DIAGRAM 98654 (ARTHUR RIVER 6315)
Local Government Area: Shire Of West Arthur & Shire Of Williams
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	30	Mechanical Removal	Miscellaneous

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
Medium woodland; marri, wandoo & mallet	Isolated paddock trees and small degraded paddock stands.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	

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 at variance to this Principle**
The area consists of isolated paddock trees and small stands spread across the location and is not representative of vegetation considered to be of a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology EPA (2000)

(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 may be at variance to this Principle**
Aerial Photography indicates that the vegetation may provide some habitat for fauna species, however the level of disturbance within the site is likely to limit the habitat value of the vegetation.

Methodology GIS databases: Wagin 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01

(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**
Banksia oligantha, Conostylis drummondii and Calectasia pignaltiana (Declared Rare Flora) all occur within a 10km radius of the properties. The closest is 7.9km north east. There is also one priority 2 specimens and seven priority 4 specimens within a 10km radius.

The condition of the vegetation and disturbance to the site limits the potential conservation value of the vegetation it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on significant flora.

Methodology GIS databases: - Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - 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 records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Threatened Plant Communities (TPC) within the local area (10km radius).

There is a low probability of the proposed clearing being at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

(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 application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion in the Shires of West Arthur and Williams. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 58.3%, 29.8% and 33.1% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation** status
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest***	4544335	2 624 301	58.3	Least Concern
Shire of West Arthur	282 614	84 226	29.8	Vulnerable
Shire of Williams	228 482	75 562	33.1	Depleted
Vegetation type:				
Beard: Unit 4	1 427 834	292 993	23.5	Vulnerable
Beard: Unit 1073	21 268	6 164	29.0	Vulnerable

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002); EPA (2000)).

The proposed clearing is isolated paddock trees and small degraded stands and is therefore not representative of the vegetation complexes .

Methodology EPA (2000)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS databases:
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Pre European Vegetation - 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 at variance to this Principle**

Proposed clearing approx 50m to 300m from minor perennial watercourses within the property.

The proposed clearing is not considered to impact on the water course within the property.

Methodology GIS databases: 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 may be at variance to this Principle

There is no information for Acid Sulphate Soils on the property. Groundwater salinity is mapped at 14000 - 35000 mg/L. Salinity is mapped at a low risk area.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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

CALM Managed Lands/Water located near the area under application include a nature reserve 3km north and the Highbury State Forest 7.5 km north east of the property. The areas are not linked vegetatively to the area under application.

Methodology GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95
- Wagin 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing is not within a gazetted public drinking water supply area, it is in the Hardy Estuary_Blackwood River Catchment and is not likely to degrade water quality.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03
- PDWSA, Gazetted - WRC 01/11/02

(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 at variance to this Principle

Flooding impacts are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its size.

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

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

Comments

No planning issues or other issues have been raised by the Shire of West Arthur or Williams.

The property is zoned Rural.

Methodology GIS database:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98.

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	30	Grant	The proposed clearing is not at variance to the principles. The applicant has also given supporting information indicating that revegetation has been undertaken in the past and has identified areas to be revegetated in the coming 3 years.

5. References

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.
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.
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.