



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 467/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Jeanian Pastoral Co Pty Ltd

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10891 ON PLAN 210786 (ENEABBA 6518)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Carnamah & Shire Of Three Springs
Colloquial name: Victoria Loc 10891

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
10		Mechanical Removal	Fence Line Maintenance

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 379: Shrublands; scrub-heath on lateritic sandplain in the central Geraldton Sandplain Region.	Native flora species that may be affected by this proposal include Acacia sp., Eucalyptus tottiana and Eucalyptus sp. The remaining native vegetation has been grazed for over 30 years and has extensive weed invasion by species including Wild Radish and Clover Burr.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit: the area covered by clearing permit 467 consisted of regrowth Acacia species, Eucalyptus tottiana and Eucalyptus sp. along fence lines and in isolated stands in paddocks. The land has been stocked for over 30 years and the understorey vegetation has been mostly removed. Weed invasion is quite extensive over the sandy soils.
Beard vegetation association 49: Shrublands; mixed heath (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).			

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 under application falls within the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion. This area is generally recognised for its biodiversity, however the vegetation affected by this proposal has been cleared and grazed for over 30 years, to the point where species richness and density have been significantly reduced. This proposal is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia-EA 18/10/00.
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

(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 at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation affected by this application is regrowth Acacia species, Eucalyptus tottiana and Eucalyptus sp. and has been extensively grazed. This native flora is unlikely to provide a significant habitat for specially protected fauna species and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM's Threatened and Priority Fauna Database [The comprehensiveness of the database is dependent on the amount of survey carried out in the area and does not necessarily represent a comprehensive listing (CALM, 2005)].
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

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

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

Three populations of *Daviesia speciosa* (Declared Rare - between 1.8 and 2.5km away), *Daviesia chapmanii* (Priority 4 - 2.7km away), *Calytrix chrysantha* (Priority 3 - 4.5km away) and *Grevillea biformis* (Priority 2 - 3.7km away) have been recorded in the area. The historical use of land and the complete removal of native understorey species suggests that this proposal is however unlikely to be, or provide habitat for, specially protected flora species. This proposal is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases: Declared Rare and Priority Flora list - CALM 13/08/03.
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.
Florabase, 2005.
CALM's Threatened and Priority Flora Database [The comprehensiveness of the database is dependent on the amount of survey carried out in the area and does not necessarily represent a comprehensive listing (CALM, 2005)].

(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 at variance to this Principle

The Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) data base did not include the vegetation affected by this application, therefore this proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/03
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

(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 at variance to this Principle

The remaining vegetation represents less than 30% in the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion, the Shire of Three Springs and Beard vegetation association 379, therefore this proposal is at variance to this Principle.

	Pre-European Reserves/CALM- area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	managed land,
%					
IBRA Bioregion -					
Geraldton Sandplains	2,474,401	663,290	26.8	Vulnerable	Not available
Shire - Carnamah	286,940	111,632	38.9	Depleted	Not available
Shire - Three Springs	258,882	51,008	19.7	Vulnerable	Not available
Beard veg type - 379	633,325	128,007	20.2	Vulnerable	20.3
Beard veg type - 49	59,113	23,904	40.4	Depleted	45.7

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology GIS Databases: Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00, Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01, Local Government Authorities - DLI 08/07/04.
Shepherd et al, 2001.
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002

(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

The area under application falls within the Hill River catchment and contains no watercourses or wetlands of environmental significance. The proposed clearing therefore, is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases: Hydrography, linear - DoE 01/02/04, Hydrographic Catchments (Basins and Catchments) - DoE 03/04/03.
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

The area under application is part of the Coalara 2 Subsystem characterised by 60% pale sands on well drained flats and footslopes, 30% gravels on gentle slopes and 10% coloured and earthy sands on well drained flats and footslopes. This subsystem has a very high risk of phosphorous loss over 30% of the area but a low

risk of salinity, water erosion, wind erosion and waterlogging. Therefore the proposal to clear 10 hectares of vegetation will not cause significant on or off site land degradation.

Methodology Department of Agriculture (2005) Map Unit Database.
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

(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 vegetation affected by this application is surrounded by the Eneabba Nature Reserve in the North West, the Tathra National Park, 950m to the South East, the White Gums Nature Reserve and the Depot Hill Nature Reserve. The historical land use and degraded nature of remaining vegetation suggests that this proposal is however unlikely to contribute to, provide a buffer for or provide an ecological linkage to a conservation area. This proposal is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases - CALM Regional Parks - CALM 12/04/02, WRC Estate - WRC 05/99, CALM Managed Lands & Waters - CALM 01/06/04, Proposed National Parks FMP-CALM 19/03/03, Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005.

(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 in the Hill River catchment over the Perth basin and the Parmelia formation aquifer. The area does not include any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) or PDWSA Protection Zones, however the water table has been steadily rising at a rate of 60cm per year (DAWA, 2004). Given the size of the aquifers and the Perth basin, no meaningful assessment of the impact of individual areas of clearing on groundwater quality can be made. The cumulative affect of clearing will contribute to a rise in groundwater tables. This particular proposal, assessed on its own merits, is not likely to increase sedimentation, erosion, turbidity, eutrophication, salinity or pH.

Methodology GIS Databases - Current WIN data sets, PDWSA Protection Zones - DOE 07/01/04, Public Drinking Water Sources (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04, Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments - DOE 03/04/03.
DAWA, 2005.

(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

Although the vegetation under application lies in an extensively cleared area, the site is not a low lying area near a significant watercourse. In addition, the proposal will not impact on major population centres. The proposed clearing of 10 hectares is therefore unlikely to lead to an incremental increase in peak flood height or duration.

Methodology GIS Databases - Rainfall, Mean Annual - BOM 30/09/01, Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00, Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01, Local Government Authorities - DLI 08/07/04.
Shepherd et al, 2001.
Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002

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

Comments

The Shires of Carnamah and Three Springs have not indicated that there are any planning requirements/approvals that would affect the clearing.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Fence Line	Mechanical	10		The assessable criteria have been addressed and one objection was raised. The proposal is at variance to Principle e) A remnant in a cleared area. Although the remaining vegetation represents less than 30% in the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion, the Shire of Three Springs and Beard vegetation association 379, the vegetation is not a significant remnant. The remaining flora is degraded and the Beard vegetation types, 379 and 49 are well represented in CALM managed reserves. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the clearing permit be granted.
Maintenance	Removal			

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.
- 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.