GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 4736/1
Permit Holder:	Mount Short Aero Club Inc.
Duration of Permit:	3 May 2013 – 3 May 2018

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. **Purpose for which clearing may be done**
   Clearing for the purpose of aviation safety.

2. **Land on which clearing is to be done**
   Lot 855 on Deposited Plan 169268, Ravensthorpe

3. **Area of Clearing**
   (a) The Permit Holder must not clear more than 7 hectares of native vegetation within the area hatched yellow on attached Plan 4736/1.
   (b) The Permit Holder is authorised to clear *trees* within the area cross hatched red on attached Plan 4736/1 only where they exceed the maximum height limits described in Appendix A, Appendix B and Appendix C of this permit.

4. **Application**
   This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

5. **Compliance with Assessment Sequence and Management Procedures**
   Prior to clearing any native vegetation under conditions 1, 2 and 3 of this Permit, the Permit Holder must comply with the Assessment Sequence and the Management Procedures set out in Part II of this Permit.

PART II – ASSESSMENT SEQUENCE AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

6. **Weed control**
   (a) When undertaking any clearing or other activity authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds*:
      (i) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
      (ii) ensure that no *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
      (iii) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

(b) At least once in each 12 month period for the term of this Permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any *weeds* growing within areas cleared under this Permit.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. Records must be kept

The Permit Holder must maintain the following records for activities done pursuant to this Permit:

(a) In relation to the clearing of native vegetation authorised under Condition 3(a) of this Permit:
   (i) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
   (ii) the date that the area was cleared; and
   (iii) the size of the area cleared (in hectares).

(b) In relation to the clearing of *trees* authorised under Condition 3(b) of this Permit:
   (i) the location where the trees were cleared, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
   (ii) the date that the *trees* were cleared; and
   (iii) the species name of each *tree* cleared.

8. Reporting

(a) The Permit Holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
   (i) of records required under condition 7 of this Permit; and
   (ii) concerning activities done by the Permit Holder under this Permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.

(b) If no clearing authorised under this Permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.

(c) Prior to 3 February 2018, the Permit Holder must provide to the CEO a written report of records required under condition 7 of this Permit where these records have not already been provided under condition 8(a) of this Permit.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation;

tree means a perennial plant having a permanent, woody, self-supporting main stem or trunk, usually growing to a considerable height, and usually developing branches at some distance from the ground; and

weed/s means any plant -

(a) that is declared under section 37 of the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976*; or

(b) published in the Department of Environment and Conservation Regional Weed Assessments, regardless of ranking; or

(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

11 April 2013

Plan 4736/1

LEGEND

Road Centrelines
Cadastre
Clearing Instruments
- Areas Subject to Conditions
- Areas Approved to Clear

Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

N

0 ~625 m

Scale 1:21673
(Approximate when reproduced at A4)

Geocentric Datum Australia 1994

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

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

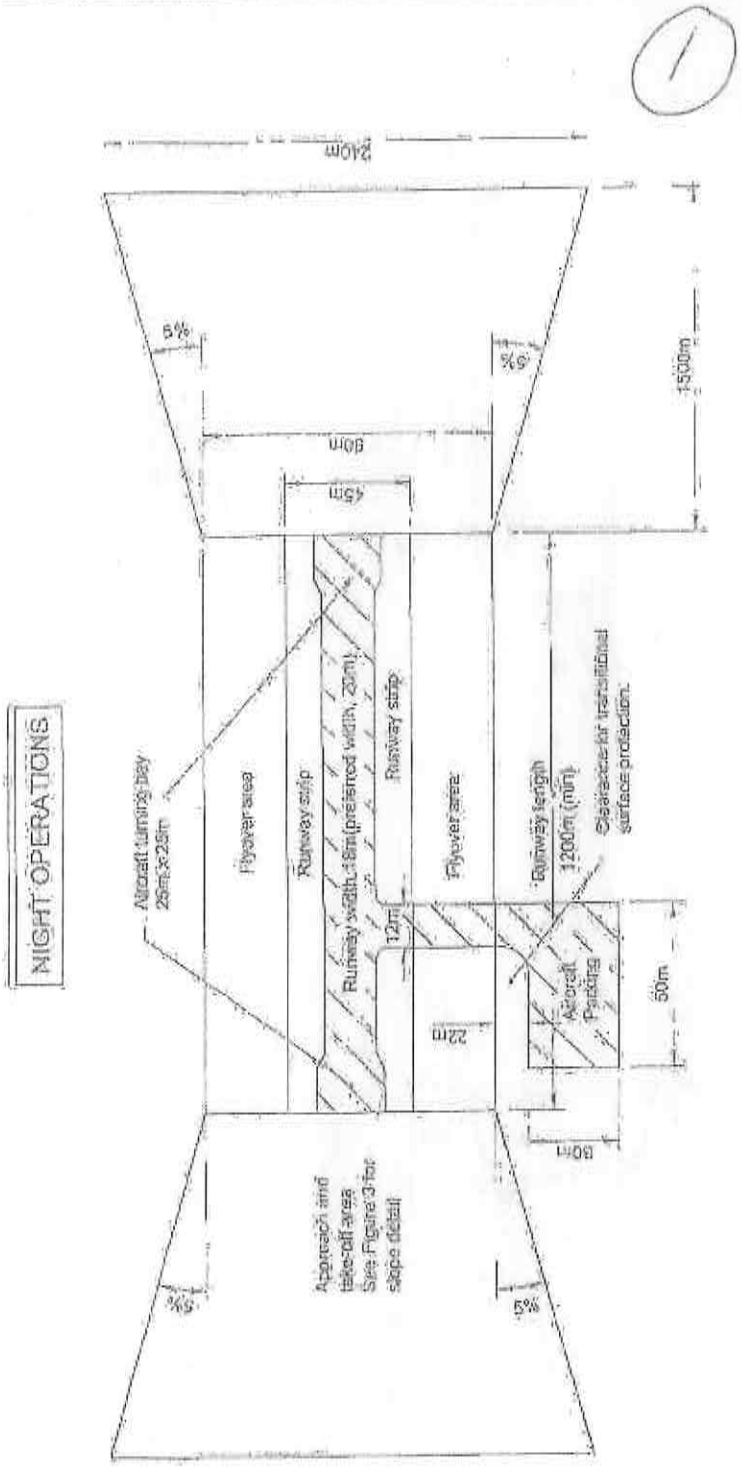
Date 11/4/13

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

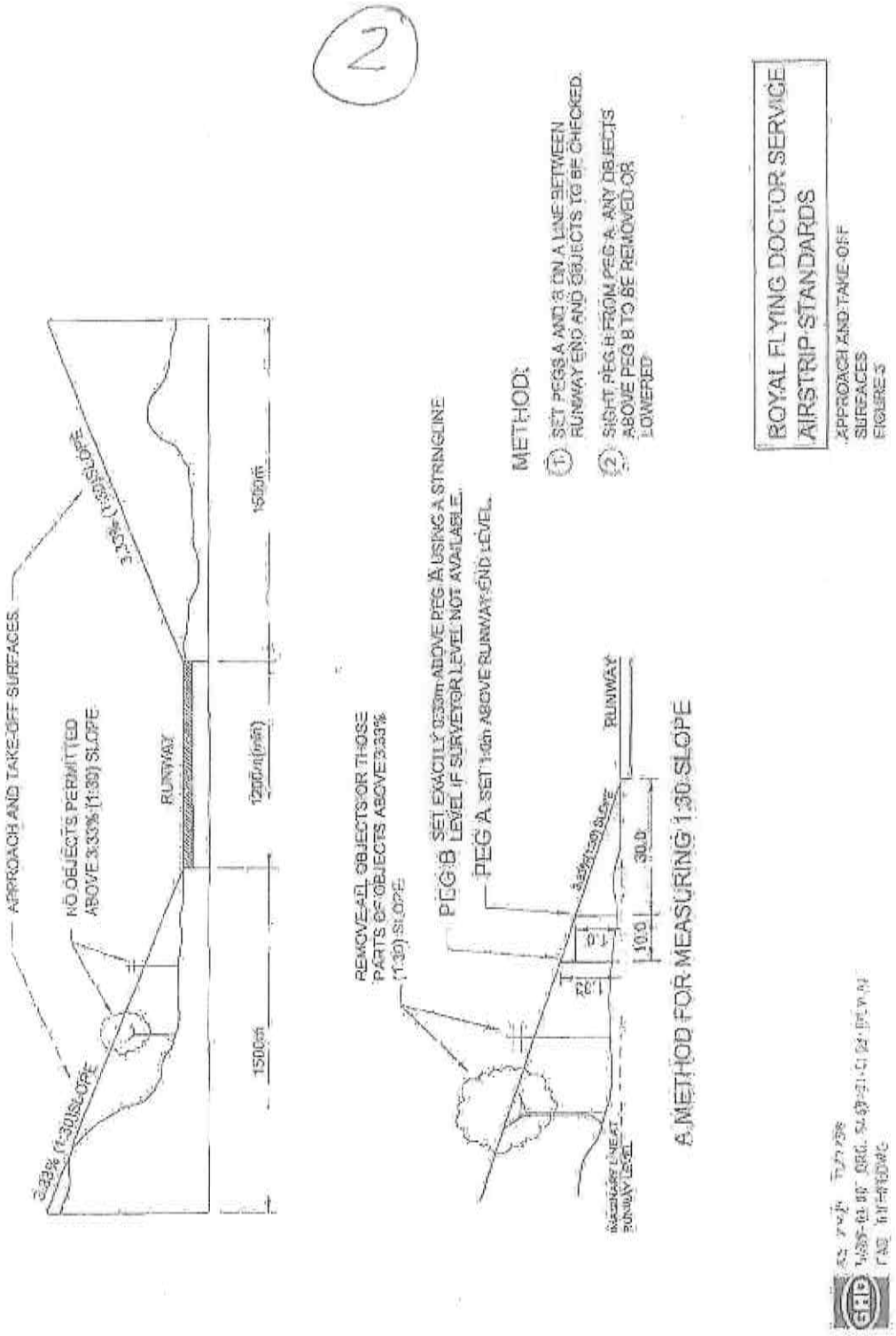
Our environment, our future

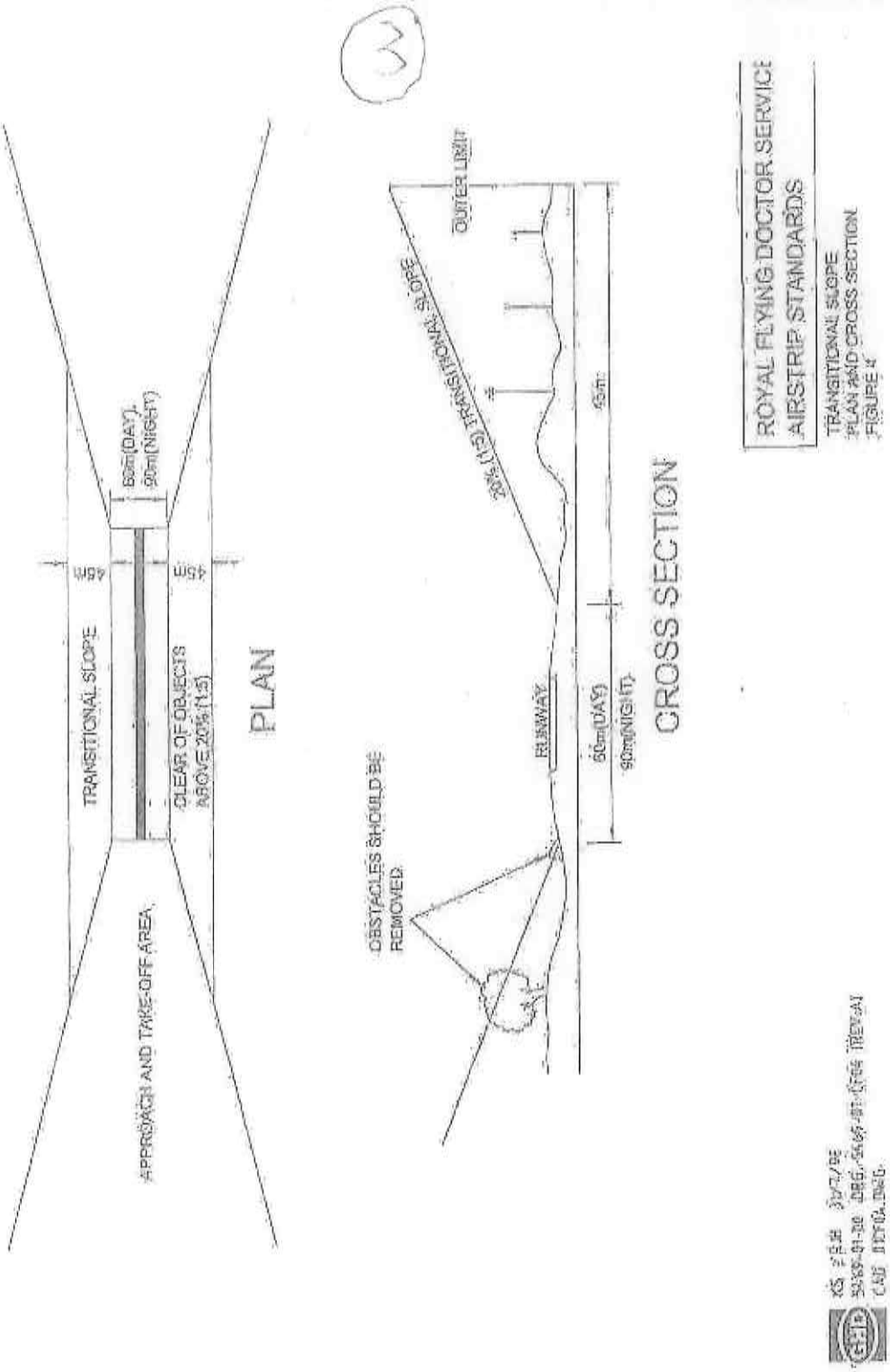
* Project Data is denoted by asterisk. This data has not been quality assured. Please contact map author for details.



ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
AIRSTRIP STANDARDS

AIRSTRIP DIMENSIONS
NIGHT OPERATIONS
FIGURE 2


2
APPROACH AND TAKE-OFF SURFACES
NO OBJECTS PERMITTED ABOVE 3.33% (1:30) SLOPE
RUNWAY
1500m
1200m(min)
1500m
3.33% (1:30) SLOPE
3.33% (1:30) SLOPE
REMOVE ALL OBJECTS OR THOSE PARTS OF OBJECTS ABOVE 3.33% (1:30) SLOPE
PEG B SET EXACTLY 0.30m ABOVE PEG A USING A STRINGLINE LEVEL IF SURVEYOR LEVEL NOT AVAILABLE.
PEG A SET 1.0m ABOVE RUNWAY END LEVEL
RUNWAY
3.33% (1:30) SLOPE
0.3
1.0
30.0
RUNWAY LEVEL
A METHOD FOR MEASURING 1:30 SLOPE
METHOD:
1. SET PEGS A AND B ON A LINE BETWEEN RUNWAY END AND OBJECTS TO BE CHECKED.
2. SIGHT PEG B FROM PEG A. ANY OBJECTS ABOVE PEG B TO BE REMOVED OR LOWERED
ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
AIRSTRIP STANDARDS
APPROACH AND TAKE-OFF SURFACES
FIGURE 3


PLAN
TRANSITIONAL SLOPE
APPROACH AND TAKE-OFF AREA
CLEAR OF OBJECTS ABOVE 20% (1:5)
60m(DAY)
90m(NIGHT)
45m
45m
CROSS SECTION
OUTER LIMIT
20% (1:5) TRANSITIONAL SLOPE
45m
RUNWAY
60m(DAY)
90m(NIGHT)
OBSTACLES SHOULD BE REMOVED
ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
AIRSTRIP STANDARDS
TRANSITIONAL SLOPE
PLAN AND CROSS SECTION
FIGURE 4

Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 4736/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Mount Short Aero Club Incorporated**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 855 ON PLAN 169268 (House No. 546 AERODROME RAVENSTHORPE 6346)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ravensthorpe
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
55		Mechanical Removal	Aviation Safety

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 11 April 2013

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
The area under application is mapped as Beard vegetation associations 352 (70 per cent of application area) and 934 (30 per cent of application area). 352: Medium woodland; York gum. 934: Shrublands; mallee scrub (Eucalyptus nutans). (Shepherd et al., 2001)	The Mount Short Aero Club proposes to clear 55 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 855 on Plan 169268, Ravensthorpe, for the purpose of improving aviation safety and subsequently cropping the cleared land. Approximately 65 per cent of the area under application has been cleared within the past 18 - 24 months. The vegetation communities in this area are likely to be Mallee scrub with dominant species including Allocasuarina campestris and various Eucalyptus spp (including E. Tetragona, and E. Pheanophylla) (DEC, 2012a). The western portion of the proposed clearing area has not been disturbed and is open tree, mallee dominated by Eucalyptus phaenophylla, E. Tetragona, Allocasuarina campestris, with dense shrubs including Melaleuca uncinata, Gastrolobium tetragonophyllum, G bilobum, Hakea laurina and Isopogon buxifolius (DEC, 2012a). The northern end of the property is undisturbed Allocasuarina campestris low forest (DEC, 2012a).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) To Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery 1994)	The condition of the vegetation was determined via digital imagery (Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008) and Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) site photos (DEC, 2012b)

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 may be at variance to this Principle

The Mount Short Aero Club proposes to clear 55 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 855 on Plan 169268, Ravensthorpe, for the purpose of improving aviation safety and subsequently cropping the cleared land.

Site photos (DEC, 2012b) indicate that approximately 65 per cent of the area under application has been cleared within the past 18 - 24 months. The cleared areas are regenerating well and have the capacity to return to a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition. Therefore this assessment will consider the environmental values of the vegetation under application as pre-clearing.

The closest identified record of priority flora is a Priority 4 species (Leucopogon sp.) which was recorded on sandy soil near the airport (Hopetoun Road). The soils identified within the application are predominately clay based and therefore it is unlikely to support this priority species.

Given the good to excellent condition of the vegetation under application, a flora survey would be required to ascertain the presence or absence of conservation significant flora.

No Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) have been recorded within close proximity to the application area. The closest PEC is; Banksia Laevigata - B. lemanniana, which is located approximately 6.5km north east of the application area.

The area under application is located within a 12km radius of a confirmed breeding area for Carnaby's cockatoo (Calyptorhynchus latirostris) and contains suitable foraging habitat for this species (DEC 2012c). Therefore the vegetation under application may provide important feeding habitat for this species.

The local area (10km radius) has been extensively cleared for agriculture and therefore the large area under application is a significant remnant and it likely to provide habitat for numerous fauna species. In addition this area of vegetation contributes towards ecological linkages for flora and fauna.

Considering the above and the ability of the vegetation to regenerate to its natural state the area under application may contain a high level of biodiversity and therefore may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2012a)
DEC (2012b)
DEC (2012c)

GIS Dadabase:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Pre European Vegetation

(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 at variance to this Principle

A total of 101 fauna species have been recorded within a 10km radius of the application area (DEC, 2007-). Three species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1914 have been recorded within the local area: Calyptorhynchus baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo), Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo) and Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl) (DEC, 2007-).

The area under application is located within a 12km radius of a confirmed breeding area for Carnaby's cockatoo and contains suitable foraging habitat for this species (DEC, 2012c). Therefore the vegetation under application may provide important feeding habitat for this species.

Carnaby's cockatoos are listed as endangered (under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999), with populations declining dramatically due to land clearing for agriculture in regional areas and for urban development around Perth (Shah, 2006).

The vegetation under application provides habitat for wildlife occurring within and dispersing from nearby vegetated areas and provides an ecological linkage between patches of remnant vegetation in the local area.

The local area (10km) has been extensively cleared for agriculture and therefore the large area under application is considered to be a significant remnant and it likely to provide habitat for numerous fauna species. The area under application is also likely to act as a 'stepping stone' between vegetated areas for avifauna and forms part of an ecological corridor for indigenous fauna.

Given the above it is considered that the vegetation under application is significant fauna habitat. Therefore, the area under application is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

Reference:
DEC (2007-)
DEC (2012b)

GIS Dadabase:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Pre European Vegetation

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

Comments

Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

Within the local area (10km radius) seven records of a rare Daviesia species and four records of a rare Acacia species have been identified.

The Daviesia sp. is confined to heavy red gravelly clay over laterite in the Ravensthorpe Range (CALM, 1998). The Ravensthorpe Range is located approximately 6.5 km north east of the application and therefore the area under application is not likely to support this species.

The Acacia sp. has only been recorded twice, both times from near Kundip in Ravensthorpe Range. In this area, it is found in open mallee scrub on stony slopes will well drained sandy soil (CALM, 1998). The application area contains sandy soils and mallee scrub and therefore favourable habitat conditions for this species are present within the application area.

Given the good to excellent condition of the vegetation under application, a flora survey would be required to ascertain the presence or absence of conservation significant flora.

The local area (10km) has been extensively cleared for agriculture and therefore the large area under application is considered to be a significant remnant and may provide habitat for conservation significant flora species.

Given the above the propose clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
CALM (1998)

GIS Dadabase:
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Pre European Vegetation

(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

No threatened ecological communities have been recorded in the local area (10km radius).

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Dadabase:
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Pre European Vegetation

(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 area under application is located within the Esperance Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 51 per cent of its Pre European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2009).

The application area is mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 934 and 352. These vegetation associations have approximately 46 and 29 per cent of their pre-European extent remaining in the Esperance Plains bioregion respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2009).

Digital imagery (Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008) indicates that the local area (10km radius) retains

approximately 25 per cent vegetation.

Large tracts of remnant vegetation are located approximately 3.5km east and west of the application, however the area between these large remnants is highly cleared, with only isolated patches vegetation remaining. Given the highly fragmented nature of the local area the vegetation under application is likely to provide an important stepping stone for fauna moving between larger patches of vegetation.

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The local area and Beard Vegetation Association 352 retain less that the Nationally recommended threshold level.

The areas under application falls within the agricultural area defined in Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Position Statement No. 2. EPA Position Statement No. 2 (EPA, 2000) states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred on agricultural land, leading to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation, and therefore any further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture cannot be supported.

The area under application is considered to be a significant remnant as it may contain a high level of biodiversity, is considered to be significant habitat for indigenous fauna and because it is likely to be an important stepping stone for fauna moving through a highly cleared landscape. Considering that vegetation association 352 retains less than the nationally recommended level and that the local area (10km radius) and regional area (EPA defined agricultural area) have been extensively cleared, the area under application is considered to be a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

The clearing as proposed is at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion*				
Esperance Plains	2 899 950	1 488 030	51	54
Shire*				
Shire of Ravensthorpe	982 191	610 239	62	31
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*				
934	8 343	3 845	46	26
352	22 187	6 581	29	0.2

Methodology

References:
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- EPA (2000)
- Shepherd (2009)

GIS Dadabase:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Pre European Vegetation

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

No wetlands have been recorded within the local area (10km radius).

One minor, non perennial water course partially enters the eastern side of the application area.

Given the above the proposed clearing may include vegetation growing in association with a watercourse and therefore may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Hydrography linear
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy)

(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

The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2012) has advised that that the area under application lies within the Kybulup 2 (244Ky_2) soil-landscape subsystem, which is described as: A level to gently undulating sandplain in upper landscape position on deeply weathered Archaean granite and gneiss, in the southern part of the Ravensthorpe Zone. Soils comprise mostly Grey deep sandy (gravelly) duplex, duplex, sandy gravel and deep sandy gravel, with associated pale deep sands.

The area under application has a moderate to high risk of wind erosion due to the loose sandy nature of the top soils (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2012).

Water erosion risk is low to very low over the majority of the area, due to the short slopes and low gradients on the crests (Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation, 2012). Consideration should be given to the rapidly steepening slopes just off-site, the proximity to stream headwaters and the additional run-off that may be generated from the paved surface of the already cleared areas (primarily the runways). This additional run-off will need to be managed sensitively to prevent off site degradation affecting adjacent farmland and waterways (Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, 2012).

This application may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

Reference:
Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation (2012)

GIS Database:
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes
- SAC Biodatasets - Accessed December 2011
- Topographic Contours, Statewide

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

Approximately two thirds of the area under application has been cleared and is the subject of an investigation. The previously cleared area has the capacity to regenerate to a 'very good' (Keighery, 1994) condition.

The only conservation reserve located within the local area (10km radius) is Overshot Hill Nature Reserve which is located approximately 4km east of the application area.

The absence of conservation areas within close proximity to the application area reinforces the importance of the vegetation to provide an ecological linkage between conservation areas and remaining patches of remnant vegetation.

Given the location of the proposal in relation to the nearest conservation area, the presence of suitable habitat for a number of conservation significant fauna, its contribution to ecological linkages in an extensively cleared landscape and the ability of the vegetation to regenerate to its natural state, it is considered that the vegetation under application may have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas. Therefore, the area under application may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- DEC Tenure
- Pre European Vegetation

(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 may be at variance to this Principle

The groundwater salinity within the application area is 7000 -14 000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids. This level of groundwater salinity is considered to be saline to highly saline.

The proposed clearing will increase the sediment load in surface water leaving the site.

Given the above the proposed clearing may be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide
- Hydrography linear
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy)

- Topographic Contours, Statewide

(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 proposal to clear up to 55 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Therefore, the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this area.

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Mean Annual Rainfall Isohytes
- Topographic Contours, Statewide

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

Comments

History

The applicant has stated that the proposed clearing is primarily for the purpose of improving aviation safety and secondarily for horticulture. The President of the Mount Short Aero Club has advised that it is the clubs intention to crop the cleared land in order to raise funds to support the Club.

Approximately 65 per cent of the area under application has been cleared within the previous 24 months. This clearing was carried out without a clearing permit and is now the subject of an investigation.

On 23 February 2012, DEC sent a letter to the applicant advising of numerous environmental issues and requesting additional advice in regards to what areas are necessary for aviation safety.

A subsequent letter was sent on 6 March 2012 advising that DEC Regional Officers had conducted a site inspection and advised that if the area under application was surveyed it is likely to contain conservation significant fauna (DEC, 2012) .

The applicant responded in a letter dated 25 March 2012 advising, in short, that the airfield has become more dangerous than necessary because of heavy regrowth bush encroachment. The applicant reiterated that the main reason for the proposed clearing is to improve aviation safety. A couple of the environmental issues were briefly addressed however the application was not modified.

In a letter dated 24 May 2012, DEC asked the applicant to provide additional information in regards to CASA's recommendations.

On 29 May 2012 a letter was received from the applicant in which it was advised that the whole area under application needs to be cleared in accordance with CASA recommendations. The applicant stated that the CASA recommendations which they area following can be obtained from Civil Aviation Publication No. 92-1(1).

Civil Aviation Publication No. 92-1(1) has been obtained and it appears that the airstrip in its current state meets the recommendations published in this report.

An email was received from the applicant on 14 March 2013 containing two maps showing the Royal Flying Doctor Services (RFDS) airstrip standards for night and day operations.

An additional three maps were provided by the RFDS.

Given the environmental issues identified in the above assessment DEC has decided to grant a permit for seven hectares. In addition, DEC approves the clearing of trees that are greater in height than the height specifications outlined in the three maps provided by the RFDS (Appendices A, B and C). DEC is of the opinion that this level of clearing will allow for safe operation of the Mount Short Airstrip.

Planning instruments and other matters

The Mount Short Aero Club is classified as an Aircraft Landing Area.

Lot 855 is reserved for the purpose of'aerodrome'. Section 3.8 (Prohibited Use) of the Lease Agreement between the Shire of Ravensthorpe and Mount Sort Aero Club states 'Not to use the Land for any business or commercial use other than in accordance with the Permitted Use without written consent of the Lessor or for any illegal or immoral purpose'.

The applicant has provided a letter from the CEO of the Shire of Ravensthorpe stating that 'Provided the clearing of the land you refer to does not contravene Department of Environment and Conservation clearing legislation, Council has no objection to the land being cropped' (Shire of Ravensthorpe, 2011).

The areas under application falls within the agricultural area defined in Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Position Statement No. 2. EPA Position Statement No. 2 (EPA 2000) states that significant clearing of native vegetation has already occurred on agricultural land, leading to a reduction in biodiversity and increase in land salinisation, and therefore any further reduction in native vegetation through clearing for agriculture cannot be supported. The EPA (2000) recommends that all existing native vegetation be protected from passive clearing through, for example, grazing by stock or clearing by other means.

In exceptional circumstances the EPA would consider supporting clearing for agriculture within this region if:
(a)There are alternative mechanisms for protecting biodiversity.
(b)The area to be cleared is relatively small, depending on the scale at which biodiversity changes over the area, including extent of vegetation in the surrounding area and recognising that values will vary for different ecosystems.
(c)The proponent demonstrates that the elements set out in Section 4.3 of Position Statement No 2 are being met. This will require extensive local and regional biodiversity work.
(d)Land degradation, including aquatic environments and threatening processes, such as dieback, salinisation or disruption of catchment processes, on-site and off-site would not be exacerbated.

The secondary purpose of this application is for cropping however the points listed above have not been met.

Methodology

References:
DEC (2012)
EPA (2000)
Mount Short Aero Club (2012)
Shire of Ravensthorpe (2011)

4. References

CALM (1998) Western Australia's Threatened Flora. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2012) Land Degradation Report for Lot 855 on Plan 169268 (Reserve 26977, Oldfield Location 855), Ravensthorpe. Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DEC Ref: A477180).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.

DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/. Accessed December 2011.

DEC (2012a) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4736/1, Lot 855 on Plan 169268, Aerodrome Road. Site inspection undertaken 28 January 2012. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (DEC Ref: A479488).

DEC (2012b) Preliminary Regional Advise for Clearing Permit Application CPS 4736/1. Department of Environment and Conservation. Western Australia (DEC Ref: A475792).

DEC (2012c) Site Photos provided via email. 3 January 2012. Department of Environment and Conservation. Western Australia (DEC Ref: A463944).

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.

Government of Western Australia (2011); 2011 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). WA Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Mount Short Aero Club (2012) Letter dated 25 March 2012 (DEC Ref: A489817).

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.

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.

Shire of Ravensthorpe (2011) Letter from the CEO advising that the Shire has no objection to the land being cropped. 25 July 2011 (DEC Ref: A453336).

5. Glossary

Term	Meaning
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community