



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 501/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Simon Ferrari

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1 ON DIAGRAM 70030 (CROSSMAN 6390)
WILLIAMS LOCATION 15030 (CROSSMAN 6390)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Boddington
Colloquial name: Part 15030 perpetual lease no. 1601 - free hold

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	12	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
<p>Beard vegetation associations: 3- Medium forest; jarrah-marri 4- Medium woodland; marri & wandoo (Shepherd et al, 2001)</p> <p>Matiske vegetation complexes: Coate (Ce) - Low open woodland of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla-Allocasuarina fraseriana-Banksia ilicifolia and low open woodland of Melaleuca preissiana-Banksia littoralis on broad depressions in upper gullies in perhumid and humid zones.</p> <p>Coolakin (Ck) - Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo with mixtures of Eucalyptus patens, Eucalyptus marginata subsp. thalassica and Corymbia calophylla on the valley slopes in arid and perarid zones.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Yalanbee (Y6) - Woodland of Eucalyptus wandoo-Eucalyptus accedens, less consistently open forest of Eucalyptus marginata fs24 subsp. thalassica - Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands and breakaway landscapes in arid and perarid zones.</p> <p>(Mattiske Consulting, 1998)</p>	<p>The proposal includes the clearing of 12 trees for the purpose of providing fencing materials, and paddock improvement for machinery operation.</p> <p>The vegetation under application is primarily open woodland of Corymbia calophylla, which has been heavily grazed in the past, leading to an almost complete lack of understorey vegetation (Darralyn Ebsury, personal communication, 21/6/2005).</p>	<p>Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)</p>	<p>Aerial photography of the Boddington region shows an area which has been significantly altered through agricultural practises. Vegetation within the local area surrounding the Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030 is relatively sparse, comprising primarily of small isolated stands of remnant vegetation and vegetated hill tops but with larger remnants to the north, east, and south.</p>

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**
Vegetation within Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030 has been significantly modified through historic agricultural practises. The trees under application are mainly isolated paddock trees, located within or adjacent to cropping paddocks. Based on the relatively close proximity to large stands of remnant vegetation, it is considered unlikely that the vegetation under application comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology GIS Database: Brookton-Boddington 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 01/04

(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**
Vegetation under application is described as dead and dying Eucalyptus lane-poolei Maiden and Eucalyptus marginata. Large trees may provide some habitat for fauna species, however, the level of disturbance within the vegetation is likely to limit the habitat value of the site.

Methodology GIS Database: Brookton-Boddington 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 01/04

(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 (DRF) present within the boundaries of Lot 1 and Williams location 15030. While the local area surrounding these properties does contain 19 known populations of DRF, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to the principles, based on the selective removal of trees and the vegetation quality of the areas under application.

Methodology GIS Database: 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 known Threatened Ecological Communities within Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030, or within the local area (10 km radius) surrounding the application.

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 may be at variance to this Principle**
The vegetation within Lot 1 and William Location 15030 is part of Beard vegetation associations 3 and 4 (Hopkins et al, 2001), as well as Mattiske Consulting (1998) complexes Ce, Ck, Mi, Y6. Of these vegetation types, Michibin complex and association 4 have representations below 30% of their previous extent.

The State Government is committed to the National Objective Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, which includes targets that prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002; EPA 2000). Beyond this value, species extinction is believed to occur at an exponential rate and any further clearing may have irreversible consequences for the conservation of biodiversity and is, therefore, not supported.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM- managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Jarrah Forest					
Shire of Boddington	4,544,335	2,665,480	58.7%	Least concern	
Beard vegetation association					
- 3	195,281	138,327	70.8%	Least concern	
- 4	3,046,385	2,197,837	72.1%	Least concern	10.1%
Mattiske vegetation complex					
- Ce	1,247,834	292,993	23.5%	Vulnerable	14.8%
- Ck	242,947	237,288	97.7%	Least concern	
- Mi	1,338,992	573,908	42.9%	Depleted	
- Y6	1,345,524	356,512	26.5%	Vulnerable	
	1,583,884	814,609	51.4%	Least concern	

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology Hopkins et al (2001)
Mattiske Consulting (1998)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Shepherd et al (2001)

(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

While Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030 do contain some minor non-perennial watercourses, the trees under application do not correspond with the location of these. It is therefore considered unlikely that the removal of the vegetation under application is at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS Database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/02/04

(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

DAWA (2005) define the soils within Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030 primarily as hillslopes containing soils formed by the weathering of fresh rock, with rock outcrops being quite common, and valley floors subtended by the steep slopes of the Michibin unit; yellow duplex soils and a lower sandy terrace.

The 12 trees under application for the purpose of fencing material and paddock improvement are spread over Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030, and is therefore not likely to cause appreciable on-site or off-site land degradation.

Methodology DAWA (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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

No conservation areas were identified near Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030, with the nearest CALM Nature Reserve located approximately 7.5 kilometres to the south. Due to the degraded nature of the vegetation under application, it is considered unlikely that it would contribute significantly to ecological linkages to stands of remnant vegetation.

Methodology GIS Database: Brookton-Boddington 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 01/04
GIS Database: CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/08/04

(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

While the drainage lines within Lot 1 and Williams Location 15030 are identified as being slightly salt affected, the proposed clearing of 12 dead or dying trees is not likely to impact on the quality of surface of groundwater.

Methodology GIS Database: Salinity Mapping LM 25m - DOLA 00

(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 under application is not associated with any waterlogged and riverine areas, and thus is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

Methodology GIS Database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04

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

Comments

The Shire of Boddington has no objections to the proposed clearing, on the condition that an equivalent number of trees are replanted.

The property owner is actively involved with the Hotham Catchment Landcare Office in regards to revegetation and fencing of remnant vegetation (Darralyn Ebsury, personal communication, 21/6/2005).

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	12	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and the proposal may be at variance to Principle (e). The nature of the vegetation to be cleared has been highly altered through historical impacts, and is not likely to be representative of the original vegetation on site. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.

5. References

- DAWA (2005) AGMaps Land Manager CD-ROM. Department of Agriculture Western Australia.
- 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. CALM Science after J. S. Beard, late 1960's to early 1980's Vegetation Survey of Western Australia, UWA Press.
- 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 Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.
- 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.