



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 504/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Astrik Pty Ltd.**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT M353 ON PLAN 2994 (YARDARINO 6525)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Irwin
Colloquial name: Midlands Road

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2		Burning	Grazing & Pasture

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 433: Mosaic; Shrublands; Acacia rostellifera and Melaleuca cardiophylla thicket / Sparse low woodland; Illyarrie (Hopkins et al. 2001, Shepherd et al. 2001).	Native flora species that may have been affected by this proposal (if fire and bush fire clearing had not occurred) include Banksia sp., Anigozanthos sp., Eucalyptus erythrocorys, Acacia rostellifera and Melaleuca cardiophylla.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Observed during site visit: the area covered by clearing permit 504 once consisted of thick Banksia sp. stands, Acacia sp., Anigozanthos sp. and Eucalyptus erythrocorys but has since been destroyed. The vegetation was burnt (lightning strike) and bulldozed following authorisation from the local Bushfire Control Officer during a recent bushfire event. Cattle have been run through the entire area since August 1989.

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, an area recognised for its biodiversity, however Lot M53 on Plan 2994 has been grazed by cattle since 1989 (Leishman, 2005) and the vegetation under application has been completely destroyed by fire management practices. 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.
Leishman, B., 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 under application has been completely destroyed by fire management practices in a recent fire event and is therefore would not provide a significant habitat for specially protected fauna species.

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

Although *Tricoryne robusta* (a Priority 2 species) has been recorded 1.5km away, the vegetation under consideration has been completely destroyed by bush fire management practices and is unlikely to be, or provide habitat for specially protected flora species.

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

(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

There is greater than 40% pre-European vegetation remaining in the Shire of Irwin and Beard vegetation association 433 but less than 30% in the Geraldton Sandplains Bioregion. Because this vegetation has already been destroyed by fire management practices this proposal is not 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 - Irwin	238,186	114,164	47.9	Depleted	Not available
Beard veg type - 433	37,257	15,234	40.9	Depleted	11.7

* (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 Coastal catchment and lies approximately 864m from the Irwin River. As all the vegetation under application has been destroyed by fire management practices, it would not provide a buffer for wetland or groundwater dependent ecosystems. 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.

(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

DAWA advised that the application to clear 2 hectares is not likely to significantly increase land degradation on or off site and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005
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 at variance to this Principle

The vegetation under application does not 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 at variance to this Principle

The area under application is in the Coastal catchment and does not include any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) or PDWSA Protection Zones. As the vegetation under consideration has already been destroyed by fire management practices there is not likely to be any further increase in sedimentation, erosion, turbidity, eutrophication, salinity or pH. This proposal is therefore not at variance to this Principle.

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

The vegetation under application lies in an extensively cleared Bioregion and is low lying near a significant watercourse; the Irwin River. The vegetation has already been cleared through bush fire management practices in a recent fire event and is unlikely to lead to a further 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 Shire of Irwin has 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
Grazing & Pasture	Burning	2	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the clearing permit be granted.

5. References

DAWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref GD472.

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.