Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 533/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **South Kal Mines Pty Ltd.**

1.3. Property details

Property: PART LOT 50 ON PLAN 226299
Local Government Area: City Of Kalgoorlie/Boulder
Colloquial name: Hampton East Location 50 - Volume 34, Folio 248A

1.4. Application

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

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 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (Eucalyptus torquata) & goldfields blackbutt (E. le soufii), (also some e10,11). (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001)	Woodlands of Eucalyptus toquata, E.le soufii with sclerophyll shrubs on sub-cropping mafic basalt, dolerite, gabbro and felsic porphyry. (Western Botanical, 2004)	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Area is a small isolated, vegetated stand between pits and other areas of highly disturbed land with no remaining vegetation. (Western Botanical, 2004) The area was also extensively disturbed during historic mining activities. Therefore, the extant vegetation is mostly regrowth. (MBS Environmental, 2005)

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
The area of vegetation under application is a common vegetation association for the area of which more than 250,000ha remains (Shepherd et al 2001). The small pocket of vegetation is isolated as it has been separated from other stretches of vegetation by mining infrastructure. It was part of previously disturbed vegetation due to being cleared by historic mining activities. It is unlikely therefore to have a high level of biological diversity.

Methodology
Western Botanical (2004)
MBS Environmental (2005)
GIS databases: -
Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/011
Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 02

(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
The area of vegetation is isolated by pits and other mining activities making it unlikely to be significant habitat for fauna.

Methodology
Site visit, 05/05/2005
GIS database: -
Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 02

(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 Declared Rare or Priority Flora species located within the area under application or within the vicinity of the clearing as proposed. The nearest Declared Rare or Priority Flora species is approximately 30km from the proposed clearing.

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 Threatened Ecological Communities with 50km of the proposed clearing.

Methodology

GIS database: -
Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05

(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 State Government is committed to the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS 2001) which includes a target 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.

The vegetation at the site is a component of Beard Vegetation Association 9 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is ~99.7% of the pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001). The vegetation under application is degraded through the effects of mining and is therefore of 'least concern' for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002).

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Coolgardie	12,917,718	12,719,084	98.5	Least concern	
Shire - Carnarvon	No information available				
Beard vegetation association 9	250,894	250,183	99.7	Least concern	0.0

* Shepherd et al. (2001)
** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

Methodology

EPA (2000)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
Hopkins et al. (2001)

GIS databases:
- Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EA 18/10/00

(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 proposed area of clearing is separate from any watercourse in the area as it has been surrounded by a large open pit mine, mine waste dumps and roadways and infrastructure relating to the mining. Any water flow then would be due to immediate rainfall and would not flow beyond the area of vegetation to be cleared.

Methodology

Site visit, 05/05/2005
GIS databases: -
Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 02

(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 to be used in the expansion of the adjacent open pit mine, the Hampton-Boulder Pit. It is surrounded by existent mining infrastructure and is highly disturbed. The clearing as proposed is, therefore, unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Methodology Documentation accompaning application - MBS Environmental, 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

The nearest conservation area is approximately 12km south of the area of proposed clearing.

Methodology GIS databases: -
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/041

(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 clearing of vegetation in the area under application will not degrade surface or groundwater as it is distant from any surface water system. It is also only 5.3ha in the middle of a highly disturbed mine site of approximately 940ha.

Methodology GIS database: -
Lake Lefroy 1.4m Orthomosaic - DLI 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

Any flooding around the area under application would be managed by the stormwater drainage system of the site as it is within the footprint of the site and will be part of the Hampton-Boulder Pit.

Methodology Documentation accompanying application - MBS Environmental, 2005

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

Comments

No comment received from Shire of Kalgoorlie/Boulder or Department of Industry and Resources.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Mining	Mechanical Removal	5.3	**Grant**	All the clearing principles were addressed and the proposed clearing was not likely to be at variance with all ten Principles. The assessing officer advises that the permit be granted.

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.

MBS Environmental (2005) Documentation accompanying application for a clearing permit (area permit), TRIM Ref. IN20605

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.

Western Botanical (2004) Flora, vegetation and habitats of the South Kal Mines Pty Ltd holdings and surrounding area, Western Botanical, Mundaring, Western Australia. TRIM Ref. KGI815