



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 559/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: CSBP Limited

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 77 ON DIAGRAM 68183
Local Government Area: Town Of Kwinana
Colloquial name: Wellard Rd Lot 77 on Diagram 68183 Vol 1744 Fol 157

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
3.97		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
Beard vegetation association -998: Medium woodland; Tuart (Shepherd et al. 2001)	The proposal includes the clearing of 3.97 hectares of vegetation which has grown upon a phosphogypsum stockpile located within Lot 77 Wellard Road, Leda.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The description of the vegetation under application was obtained after a site visit to the property on 5 September 2005.
Heddle vegetation complex - Quindalup Complex: Coastal dune complex consisting mainly of two alliances - the strand and fore-dune alliance and the mobile and stable dune alliance. Local variations include the low closed forest of <i>M. lanceolata</i> - <i>Callitris preissii</i> and the closed scrub of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> . (Heddle et al. 1980)	The vegetation consists of a relatively dense thicket of <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> with an understorey absent of native vegetation, comprised of introduced grasses and weeds.		

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 vegetation under application is regrowth *Acacia rostellifera*, which has colonised the phosphogypsum stockpile present within Lot 77 Wellard Road. The vegetation is considered to be in a completely degraded condition, having no native understorey or upperstorey, with extensive weed invasion. Based on this vegetation condition, and the close proximity of conservation areas, it is not considered likely that the vegetation under application is representative of an area of higher biological diversity.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**
A site inspection of the applied area on 5 September 2005 revealed that the vegetation under application consists of *Acacia rostellifera* and an understorey limited to exotic weeds and grasses. Taking into account the amount and condition of native vegetation immediately surrounding the proposed area, it is not considered that the vegetation under application is representative of significant habitat for native fauna.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)

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

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

A search of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Declared Rare and Priority Flora List identified eight populations of five different significant flora species within the local area surrounding the application, defined as a five kilometre radius around the property. These species are *Diuris micrantha*, *Aponogeton hexatepalus*, *Caladenia huegelii*, *Dodonaea hackettina*, and *Drakaea elastica*.

All known populations of Declare Rare and Priority Flora are associated with different Heddle vegetation complexes than that under application. Based on this distribution of Priority Flora and the highly modified environment under application, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
 GIS Databases:
 - Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/07/2005
 - Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95

(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**

Landform information obtained from Bush Forever Volume 2 (Government of Western Australia, 2000) in relation to the neighbouring Bush Forever Site 349, suggest the landform on site is a transition between Bassendean Dunes, Spearwood Dunes, and Quindalup Dunes.

Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) associated with these landform types are *Banksia attenuata* woodlands over species rich dense shrubs (20a), Eastern *Banksia attenuata* and/or *Eucalyptus marginata* woodlands (20b), Eastern shrublands and woodlands (20c), *Melaleuca huegelii* - *Melaleuca acerosa* shrublands on Limestone ridges (26a), and *Callitris preissii* and/or *Melaleuca lanceolata* forests and woodlands (30a).

Based on the condition of the vegetation, and the species present within the area, it is not considered that this vegetation is likely to be representative of any TEC, and thus is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
 Government of Western Australia (2000)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002; EPA 2000). The vegetation on site is a component of Beard Vegetation association 998 (Hopkins et al. 2001) and Heddle vegetation Quindalup Complex, which while recognised as being depleted, are above the recommended minimum 30% limit.

Based on the condition of the vegetation under application, it is not considered that this vegetation is representative of the identified vegetation complexes.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion	1,529,235	657,450	43%	Depleted	
Town of Kwinana	11,980.55	4760.18	39.7%	Depleted	
Beard vegetation association - 998	51,094	18,320	35.9%	Depleted	32.9%
Heddle vegetation complex - Quindalup Complex	38,238	18,000	47.1%	Depleted	5.2%

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
 EPA (2000)
 Hopkins et al. (2001)
 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

Lot 77 Wellard Road contains a relatively large portion of what is colloquially known as Mead Road Wetland. This wetland ranges in category from Resource Enhancement within the boundaries of Lot 77, to Conservation Category Wetland, abutting the southern edge of the Lot. Three sections of this wetland have also been identified within the 1992 Environmental Protection Policy for Lakes.

The vegetation under application consists of regrowth *Acacia rostellifera*, which has colonised the phosphogypsum stockpile since its creation during the 1980's. The vegetation is not associated with the wetland systems present in the surrounding area, being vertically separated approximately 10 metres from the original ground level and wetland vegetation.

Based on the condition of the vegetation under application, and the limited nature of the proposed clearing, it is considered that the removal of vegetation is not likely to impact on wetland functions and attributes.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
GIS Databases:
- Geomorphic Wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/2004

(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

The vegetation under application is located upon a phosphogypsum stockpile, on which vegetation is dominated by a substantial groundcover of weeds and introduced grasses. A works approval issued by the Department of Environment contains a condition relating to the management of dust on site, in relation to construction activities.

Based on the substantial groundcover and dust conditions placed on development through the works approval, it is considered that approval of the proposed clearing of *Acacia rostellifera* is unlikely to lead to an increase in wind and water erosion.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)

(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

Lot 77 Wellard Road is located directly adjacent to Bush Forever site 349, and approximately one kilometre north-west of the CALM managed Leda Nature Reserve. Based on the condition of the vegetation under application, and the relatively well vegetated surrounding area, it is not considered that the vegetation under application contributes significantly to ecological linkages or the environmental values of the surrounding conservation area.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters CALM 01/08/04
- Bushforever - MSP 07/01

(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 vegetation under application is located upon a phosphogypsum stockpile; being vertically separated approximately 10 metres from the original ground level and wetland vegetation. Based on the completely degraded condition of the vegetation, the stable grass cover present over the entire area, and the separation from the nearby wetland area, it is considered unlikely that the removal of vegetation will cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
GIS Databases:
- Geomorphic Wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/2004

(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**

While the area immediately surrounding the vegetation under application is a defined sumpland, the vegetation condition and vertical separation from the surrounding groundwater table suggest this proposal is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of localised or off-site flooding.

Methodology Site inspection (5/9/2005)
GIS Databases
- Geomorphic Wetlands (Classification), Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/04

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

Comments

A current works approval exists for Lot 77 Wellard Road. No other statutory approvals are required under legislation administered by the Department when considering this proposal.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	3.97	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed, and no objections have been raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends 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.

Government of Western Australia (2000) Bush Forever Volumes 1 and 2. Western Australian Planning Commission, Perth WA.

Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.

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.

6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
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
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)