GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS
Area Permit Number: 5950/1
File Number: DER2014/000020-1
Duration of Permit: From 29 March 2014 to 29 March 2016

PERMIT HOLDER
Norma Margaret Holzknecht
Alan John Everett Holzknecht

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE
Lot 1595 on Deposited Plan 208473, West River
Lot 1689 on Deposited Plan 208468, West River

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY
The Permit Holder shall not clear more than 50 hectares of native vegetation within the combined areas filled yellow on attached Plan 5950/1a and Plan 5950/1b.

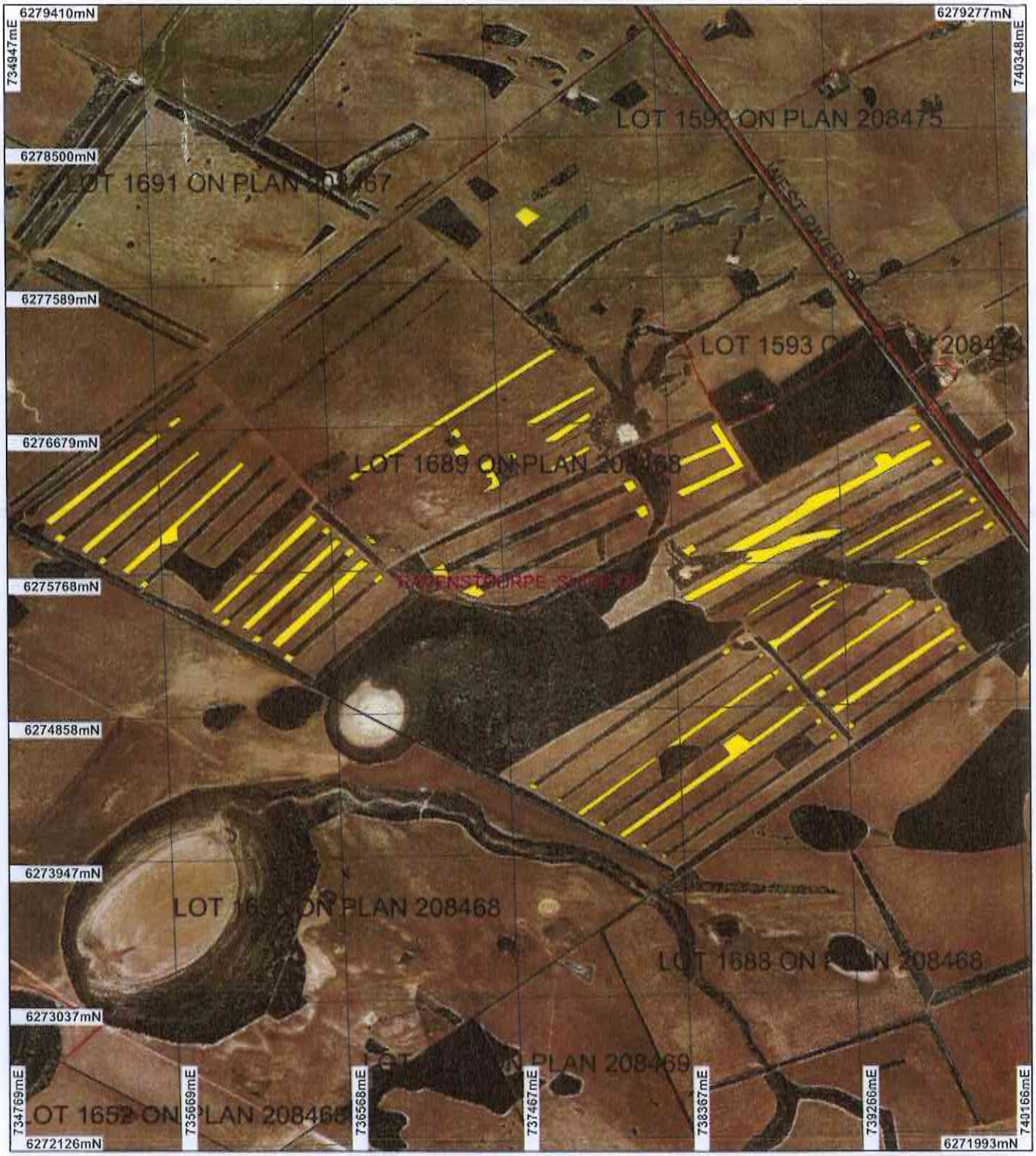
CONDITIONS
Nil.

M Warnock
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION CONSERVATION BRANCH

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

27 February 2014

Plan 5950/1a



LEGEND

Road Centrelines Cadastre

Local Government Authorities

Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear

Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

N

0 ~750 m

Scale 1:32000

(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

Date 27/2/14

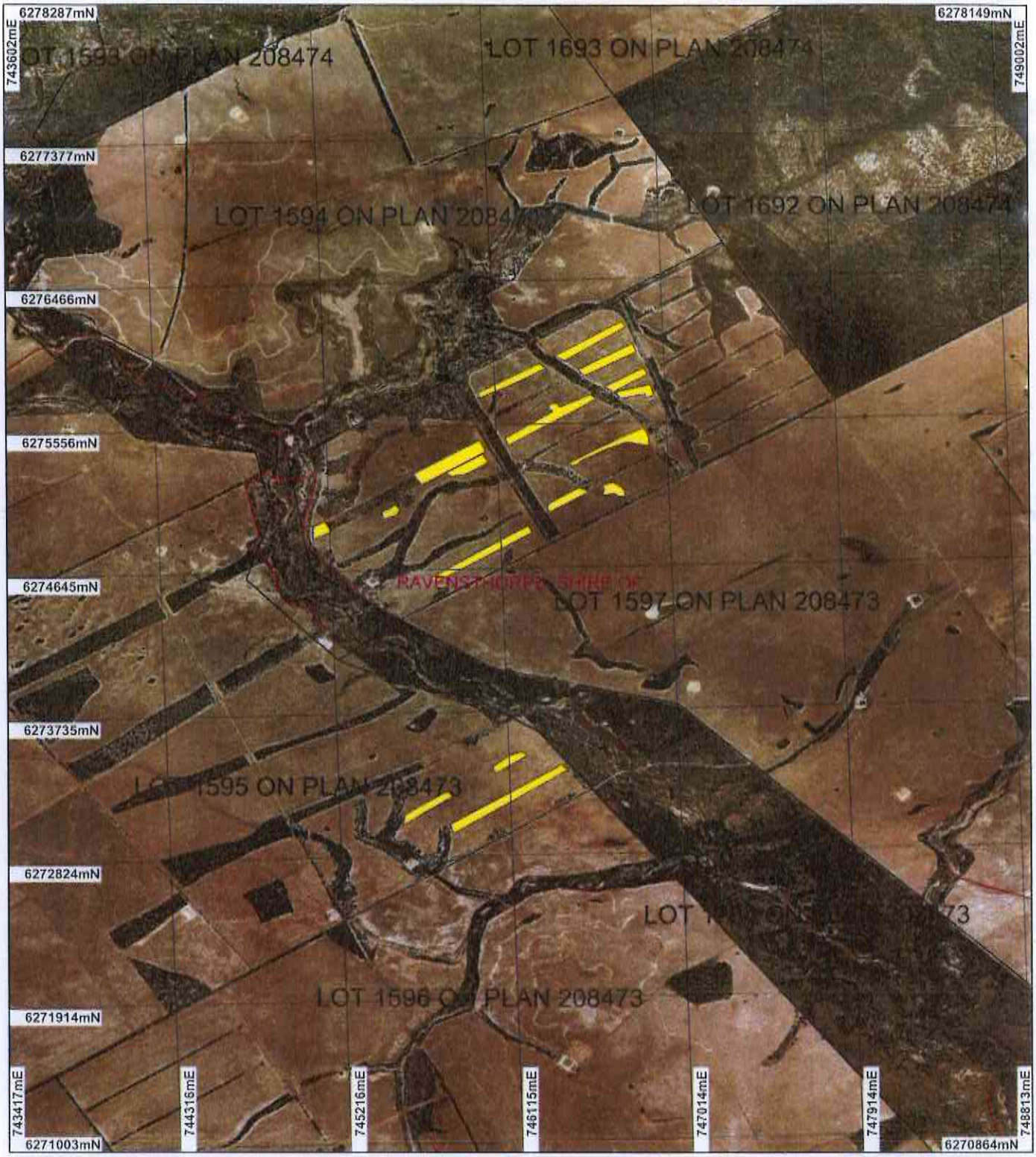
Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

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

Plan 5950/1b



LEGEND

Road Centrelines
Cadastre

Local Government Authorities

Clearing Instruments

Areas Approved to Clear

Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

N

0 750 m

Scale 1:31998

(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 Date 27/2/14

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

Information derived from this map should be confirmed with the data custodian acknowledged by the agency acronym in the legend

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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5950/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Alan John Everett and Norma Margaret Holzknecht

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 1689 ON PLAN 208468 (WEST RIVER 6346)
LOT 1595 ON PLAN 208473 (House No. 1092 WEST RIVER WEST RIVER 6346)
Local Government Area: Shire of Ravensthorpe
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
50		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 27 February 2014

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 vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association's (Shepherd et al, 2001): • 519 (90 percent of application area), described as medium forest; jarrah-marri. • 940 (10 percent of application area), Medium woodland; marri and wandoo.	Clearing of up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 1595 on deposited plan 208473 and Lot 1689 on deposited plan 208468, to improve agricultural efficiency.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994).	The condition of the vegetation under application was determined via aerial imagery (Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008) and a site inspection undertaken by the Office of the Commissioner of soil and Land Conservation (2014).

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 application is to clear up to 50 hectares of native vegetation to improve agricultural efficiency. The clearing consists of strips of vegetation running parallel (approximately 80 to 100 metres apart) through agricultural paddocks. The application proposes to remove approximately half of these strips opening up the land for larger farm machinery.

The Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) undertook a site inspection of the application area in February 2014, describing the vegetation as a scattered mallee shrub land consisting of mallee and melaleuca species with samphire on saline areas. The condition of the vegetation was rated as degraded due to grazing from livestock.

The local area (20 kilometre radius) surrounding the application area retains approximately 40 percent vegetation. The mapped Beard vegetation type and IBRA bioregion retain above the recommended level of 30 percent (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

Given the observed vegetation type and condition, the amount of vegetation remaining in the local area, and the position of the application area within the landscape, it is not likely to constitute significant fauna habitat. As the applicant proposes to retain half of the vegetated strips and further remnants on the property, much of the fauna habitat value of the property will be retained.

Given the degraded nature of the vegetation, the application area is not likely to contain rare flora, priority flora or be representative of a priority of threatened ecological community.

Given the above, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of soil and Land Conservation (2014)
Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Datasets:
- SacBiodataSets - accessed February 2014

(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 local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 40 percent native vegetation. The application is comprised of strips of vegetation running parallel through agricultural paddocks approximately 80 to 100 metres apart. The application proposes to remove approximately half of these strips opening up the land for larger farm machinery.

Given the amount of vegetation remaining in the local area (approximately 40 percent) and position of the application within the landscape, the vegetation is not likely to be significant for the movement of indigenous fauna through the landscape. As the applicant proposes to retain half of the vegetated strips and further remnants on the property, much of the fauna habitat value of the property will be retained.

The Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) undertook a site inspection of the application area, describing the vegetation as a scattered mallee shrub land consisting of mallee and melaleuca species with samphire on saline areas. The condition of the vegetation was rated as degraded due to grazing from livestock.

Five fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 have been recorded in the local area (10 kilometre radius) (DPaW, 2007-) being Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's Cockatoo), Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl), Pezoporus flaviventris (Western Ground Parrot), Pezoporus wallicus (Ground Parrot) and Pseudomys shortridgei (Heath Mouse). Given the linear nature of the vegetation under application, it is not likely to form significant habitat for these species.

Calyptorhynchus latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo) has been recorded within the local area and may utilise the vegetation for foraging, however given the degraded nature of the vegetation and as large trees suitable for roosting and nesting are not present, the application area is not likely to constitute significant habitat for this species.
Given the above, the application is not likely to be at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of soil and Land Conservation (2014)
DPaW (2007-)

GIS Datasets:
- Carnaby Cockatoo feeding
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008

(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

One rare flora species has been recorded within the local area (20 kilometre radius). Given the degraded nature of the vegetation under application and the current grazing practices, rare flora is not likely to be present within the application area.

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

Methodology

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed February 2014

(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

The threatened ecological community (TEC), "Proteaceae dominated kwongkan shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia" was listed as endangered under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 on the 1 February 2014. A branch of the mapped occurrence of this vegetation community falls approximately two kilometres from the application area.

The conservation advice for this TEC describes the community as proteaceous kwongkan shrubland and heath, or mallee heath with characteristic species including numerous Banksia and Hakea species (Department of the Environment, 2014). A site inspection of the application area (Commissioner of soil and Land Conservation, 2014) described the vegetation as a scattered mallee shrub land consisting of mallee and melaleuca species with samphire on saline areas in a degraded condition.

Given the degraded nature of the vegetation with no understorey present and the lack of key species being identified within the application area, the vegetation under application is not likely to be representative of this community. As the vegetation is not likely to be representative, is in a degraded condition and does not meet the requirements of a significant "patch" of vegetation (Department of the Environment, 2014), it is not likely to be necessary in the maintenance of this TEC.

Given the above, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of soil and Land Conservation (2014)
Department of the Environment (2014)

GIS Databases:
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed February 2014

(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 area under application is located within the Mallee and Esperance Plains Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregions. These IBRA bioregions have approximately 56 percent and 52 percent of their pre-European vegetation extent remaining respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard vegetation association 519 (Mallee bioregion) and 940 (Esperance Plains Bioregion) of which there is approximately 59 percent and 43 of their pre-European extent remaining within their respective bioregions (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The area under application is located within the Shire of Ravensthorpe, within which there is approximately 61 percent of pre-European extent remaining (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

The local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 40 percent native 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 percent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%)
IBRA Bioregion				
Mallee	7,395,894	4,185,989	56	30
Esperance Plains	2,899,940	1,508,057	52	54
Local Government Authority				
Shire of Ravensthorpe	982,196	605,707	61	31
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion				
519 (Mallee Bioregion)	2,100,312	1,248,616	59	18
940 (Esperance Plains Bioregion)	260,761	113,525	43	46

Methodology

References:
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Government of Western Australia (2013)

GIS Databases:
- SacBiodataSets - accessed February 2014

(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

No watercourses are mapped within the application area. All watercourses within the property will remain bounded by native vegetation.

Given the above the application is not likely to be at variance to this clearing principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- Hydrography linear

(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 Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) undertook a site inspection of the application area on 19 February 2014. The corresponding Land degradation assessment report found that the risk of the proposed clearing causing land degradation is low, noting:

- Although some salinity was observed on site, given the scattered nature of the application and position of the proposed clearing, the risk of salinity causing land degradation is low;
- Wind erosion is unlikely;
- Given the slope of the land and soil types present, clearing the vegetation is unlikely to significantly increase surface water run off;
- Given the soil type and scattered nature of the clearing, the risk of eutrophication is low; and
- The proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to stream flows and therefore flooding.

Given this, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- Hydrography linear
- Topographic contours

(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 Fitzgerald River National Park lies approximately 10 kilometres from the application area and is the closest conservation reserve to the application area.

The local area (20 kilometre radius) retains approximately 40 percent native vegetation. Given this and the position of the application area within the local area, it is not likely to be significant in the movement of indigenous fauna through the landscape.

As the application area is not situated in close proximity to a conservation reserve, it is not likely to increase the spread of weeds and dieback into these reserves.

Given the above, the application is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology

GIS Datasets:
- Cocanarup 50cm Orthomosaic - Landgate 2008
- DEC Tenure

(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

No watercourses are mapped within the application area.

A site inspection undertaken by the Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) found the risk of clearing the vegetation causing salinity to be low. The inspection also found that the risk of significant erosion and eutrophication to be low, therefore the application is not likely to deteriorate the quality of surface water or groundwater.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Databases:
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide
- 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**
No watercourses or wetlands have been identified within the application area. A site inspection undertaken by The Office of The Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) found that the proposed clearing is not likely to increase stream flows or exacerbate flooding.

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

Methodology References:
Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014)

GIS Datasets:
- Hydrography linear

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

Comments

The Shire of Ravensthorpe (2014) has advised that they have no objections to the proposed clearing.

The application area is zoned General Agriculture under the local town planning scheme zone.

No Aboriginal Sites of Significance have been mapped within the application area.

No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

Methodology References:
Shire of Ravensthorpe (2014)

4. References

Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation (2014) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 5950/1. Lot 1595 on deposited plan 208473 and Lot 1689 on deposited plan 208468, West River (DER Ref: A728829).

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

Department of the Environment (2014) Approved Conservation Advice for Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia. 1 February 2014

DEC (2007 -) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/. Accessed 30 January 2014.

Government of Western Australia (2013) 2012 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2012. 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.

Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68): 'Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data'. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.

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 (2014) Advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 5950/1. Lot 1689 West River Road, West River (DER Ref: A728829).