GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Government of Western Australia
Department of Environment Regulation

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

**Permit application No.:** 6062/1
**Permit type:** Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

**Proponent's name:** Daleking Holdings Pty Ltd

### 1.3. Property details

**Property:** LOT 577 ON PLAN 28548 (YANDOO CREEK 6701)
**Local Government Area:** Shire of Carnarvon
**Colloquial name:**

### 1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60 | | Mechanical Removal | Building or Structure |

### 1.5. Decision on application

**Decision on Permit Application:** Refused
**Decision Date:** 25 September 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mapped Beard vegetation association 307 is described as low woodland; Casuarina obesa (salt lake) (Shepherd et al 2001).<br><br>Mapped Beard vegetation association 308 is described as Low woodland; bowgada & Acacia subtressarogona (Shepherd et al 2001). | The clearing of 60 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 577 on Plan 28548, Yandoo Creek is for the purpose of constructing a hard stand and temporary laydown area. | Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)<br>To<br>Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994) | The condition and description of the vegetation was determined via aerial imagery. |

## 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 clearing of 60 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 577 on Plan 28548, Yandoo Creek is for the purpose of constructing a hard stand and temporary laydown area.

The area proposed to be cleared is in a good to very good (Keighery 1994) condition. The local area is highly vegetation with 95 per cent native vegetation remaining (10 kilometre radius).

One Priority 3 flora species has been recorded within the local area. This species has been recorded within the application area. Additionally two other records have been recorded within 150 metres of the application area. This species has been recorded on red-brown loam or sandy clay on undulating plains. There is a high potential for this species to occur within the application area (Parks and Wildlife 2014). However this species is known from ten locations including Toolonga Nature Reserve and Zuytdorp National Park and ranges approximately 300 kilometres north south and 175 kilometres east west of the application area (Parks and Wildlife 2014). If this species was located within the application area, the clearing proposed is not likely to have a significant impact on the conservation status of this species (Parks and Wildlife 2014).

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a good to very good (Keighery 1994) condition and therefore may

provide habitat for local fauna species. However, the local area is highly vegetated (95 per cent remaining) and therefore vegetation surrounding the application area in similar or better condition is likely to provide habitat for these species and no loss of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia is expected.

Given the above the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to comprise of a high level of biological diversity in a local and regional context. Therefore the clearing as proposed is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

**Methodology**

References:
- Keighery (1994)
- Parks and Wildlife (2014)

GIS Databases:
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Vegetation Remaining
- SAC Bio Datasets - accessed May 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 vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a good to very good (Keighery 1994) condition and therefore may provide habitat for local fauna species.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly vegetated (95 per cent remaining) and therefore vegetation surrounding the application in similar or better condition is likely to provide habitat for local fauna species and no loss of significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia is expected.

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

**Methodology**

References:
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Vegetation Remaining
- SAC Bio Datasets - accessed May 2014

**(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**

There are no rare flora species recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius). Therefore it is not likely the vegetation proposed to be cleared contains or is necessary for the continued existence of rare flora.

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

**Methodology**

GIS Database:
- SAC Bio Datasets - accessed May 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**

No threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

Given no TECs are located within the local area (10 kilometre radius); the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be necessary for the maintenance of a TEC.

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

**Methodology**

GIS Database:
- SAC Bio Datasets - accessed May 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 Carnarvon Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion. This IBRA bioregion has approximately 99 per cent of its Pre European vegetation extent remaining (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The vegetation under application is mapped as Beard Vegetation Associations 307 and 308 which have approximately 100 and 99 per cent of their Pre-European extent remaining in the Carnarvon bioregion respectively (Government of Western Australia 2013).

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

Digital imagery indicates that the local area (10 kilometre radius) surrounding the area under application retains approximately 95 per cent vegetation cover.

Given the vegetation representations outlined above, the area under application is not likely to be a significant remnant in an extensively cleared area.

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

| | Pre-European (ha) | Current Extent (ha) | Remaining (%) | Extent in DEC Managed Lands (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IBRA Bioregion* | | | | |
| Carnarvon | 8,382,890 | 8,360,803 | 99 | 12 |
| Shire* | | | | |
| Shire of Carnarvon | 4,637,458 | 4,613,566 | 99 | 7 |
| Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion* | | | | |
| 307 | 476,645 | 476,645 | 100 | 13 |
| 308 | 446,977 | 443,484 | 99 | 1 |

* Government of Western Australia (2013)

**Methodology**

References:
-Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
-Government of Western Australia (2013)
-Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
-NLWRA, Current Extent of Vegetation Remaining

## (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**

Three non-perennial lakes have been recorded within one kilometre of the area under application, the closest being recorded approximately 750 metres east of the application area.

Given the distance to the closest non-perennial lake the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be growing in association with a watercourse or wetland.

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

**Methodology**

GIS Database:
- 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**

Mapped soil type Oc42 is described as alluvial plains with extensive clay-pan formations and with many parallel sand dunes: the chief soils are hard alkaline red soils and sandy clays, but there is a considerably greater area of red sand dune soils (Northcote et al 1960 - 1968).

The sandy soils within the area under application maybe prone to wind erosion, however given the purpose of clearing is for constructing hardstand and laydown area the impacts areas likely to be minimal and short term.

Given the local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly vegetated with 95 per cent vegetation cover remaining the clearing as proposed is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

**Methodology** References:
- Northcote et al (1960 - 1968)

GIS Database:
- Soils, statewide

## (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 are located within the local area (10 kilometre radius). The closest conservation area is former leasehold unallocated crown land proposed for conservation located approximately 22 kilometres east of the application area.

Given the distance to the closest conservation area and that the local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly vegetated (95 per cent remaining), the clearing as proposed is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation area.

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

**Methodology** GIS Database:
- Parks and Wildlife, 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**

Three non-perennial lakes have been recorded within one kilometre of the area under application. The closest being recorded approximately 750 metres east of the application area.

Given the distance to the closest non-perennial lake the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely cause deterioration in the quality of surface water.

Groundwater Salinity is mapped between 7000-14000 milligrams per litre of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) which is considered to be saline to highly saline. However given the local area (10 kilometre radius) is highly vegetated (95 per cent vegetation remaining) the clearing of 60 hectares of native vegetation is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality for underground water.

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

**Methodology** GIS Databases:
- Groundwater Salinity
- Hydrology, linear

## (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**

Natural flood events may occur in the Mid West region following cyclonic activity. However, the proposed clearing is not expected to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

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

**Methodology**

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

**Comments**

The Shire of Carnarvon (2014) has advised that it does not have a significant objection the application to clear. To date no planning approval has been sought or issued and under the Shire of Carnarvon District Zoning Scheme 11, planning approval for a 'laydown' (defined as 'transport depot') is required.

Daleking Holdings Pty Ltd is currently under external administration (Creditor Watch n.d.)

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been recorded within the application area.

No submissions have been received in relation to this application.

**Methodology**

References:
- Shire of Carnarvon (2014)
- Creditor Watch (n.d.)

GIS Databases:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

## 4. References


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

Creditor Watch (n.d.)https://creditorwatch.com.au/express/asic/organisation/109705017/DALEKING-HOLDINGS-PTY-LTD. Accessed 12 September 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.

Parks and Wildlife (2014) Flora advice for CPS 6062/1 - Daleking Holdings Pty Ltd. Department of Parks and Wildlife. Species and Communities Branch. DER Ref: A767076.

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 Carnarvon (2014) Advice for clearing permit CPS 6062/1 - Daleking Holdings Pty Ltd. Western Australia. (DER Ref:A767081)