



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6428/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Donald Kimberley North

1.3. Property details

Property: Miscellaneous Licence 47/169
Miscellaneous Licence 47/170
Local Government Area: City of Karratha
Colloquial name: N/A

1.4. Application

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
| 2.29 | | Mechanical Removal | Access Road |

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 26 February 2015

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 |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area (Government of Western Australia, 2013; GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 127: Bare areas, mud flats. - 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, <i>Triodia wiseana</i> <p>A flora survey has not be undertaken over the application area however one has been undertaken over the neighbouring tenements M47/249 and M47/805 (West Ecology, 2012). The following vegetation types were recorded in the flora survey of M47/249 and M47/805:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Triodia epactia</i> and <i>Triodia angusta</i> closed hummock grassland on islands and sand dunes 2. <i>Acacia sclerosperma</i> subsp. <i>sclerosperma</i> high open shrubland of over <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> (Buffel Grass) tussock grassland on degraded sand dunes. 3. <i>Tecticornia auriculata</i> and <i>Tecticornia halocnemoides</i> subsp. <i>tenuis</i> low open shrubland on mudflats. 4. <i>Tecticornia auriculata</i> low shrubland on degraded sand dunes. | <p>DK North proposes to clear 2.29 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 2.29 hectares for the purpose of an access road. The project is located approximately three kilometres east of Karratha in the City of Karratha.</p> | <p>Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994)</p> <p>To</p> <p>Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).</p> | <p>Vegetation condition derived from condition mapping undertaken by West Ecology over neighbouring tenements M47/249 and M47/805 and analysis of aerial photography.</p> |

5. *Avicennia marina* shrubland over low shrubland of *Tecticornia* sp. on mudflats.

Based on vegetation mapping undertaken by West Ecology (2012) compared with aerial photography of the application area, the vegetation within the application area is most likely to consist of Vegetation Types 1 and 3.

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 area occurs within the Roebourne subregion of the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). Quaternary alluvial and older colluvial coastal and subcoastal plains with a grass savannah of mixed bunch and hummock grasses, and dwarf shrub steppe of *Acacia stellaticeps* or *A. pyrifolia* and *A. inaequilatera* (CALM, 2002).

A flora survey has not been undertaken over the application area however one was undertaken over the neighbouring tenements M47/249 and M47/805 (West Ecology, 2012). Based on vegetation mapping undertaken by West Ecology (2012) compared with aerial photography of the application area, the vegetation within the application area is most likely to consist of Veg Type 1 - *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia angusta* closed hummock grassland on islands and sand dunes, and Veg Type 3 - *Tecticornia auriculata* and *Tecticornia halocnemoides* subsp. *tenuis* low open shrubland on mudflats. These two vegetation types are well represented in the local area (West Ecology, 2012).

No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities or Threatened Flora were recorded within M47/249 and M47/805 and based on available databases (GIS Database) they are unlikely to occur within the application area. One individual plant of the Priority flora species *Gomphrena leptophylla* (P3) was recorded at the western edge of M47/249 located on degraded sand dunes (West Ecology, 2012). Sand dunes exist within the application area which may support *Gomphrena leptophylla* however given this species has been previously recorded in the Pilbara and Dampierland bioregions in a range of habitats including open flats, sandy creek beds, the edges of salt pans and marshes, and stony hillsides, the potential impacts to this species would be minimal.

A fauna survey has not been undertaken over the application area. A search of NatureMap (DEC, 2015) has found that 239 fauna species may occur within 20 kilometres of the application area, consisting of 169 bird, 103 reptile, 60 fish, 38 invertebrate, 36 mammal and 7 amphibian species. This would indicate that the area is high in faunal diversity; however this diversity can be attributed to the application area being within 20 kilometres of the Burrup Peninsula and Dampier Archipelago and the diverse range of habitats in these areas (DEC, 2006). Considering the application area primarily consists of mudflats with very little vegetation, the application area is expected to have lower fauna species diversity than indicated above.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2002)
DEC (2006)
DEC (2015)
West Ecology (2012)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(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 fauna survey has not been undertaken over the application area.

Based on Beard vegetation mapping (Government of Western Australia, 2013; GIS Database) and the flora survey by West Ecology (2012), the habitat of the application area can generally be described as hummock/tussock grassland and samphire mudflats. This type of habitat has been found to be common in the region (Government of Western Australia, 2013). The flora survey did not record any significant habitat features, such as caves, rocky outcrops, watercourses or vegetation capable of bearing logs or significant leaf litter (West Ecology, 2012).

A search of NatureMap by the assessing officer has found 27 conservation significant fauna species occurring

within 10 kilometres of the application area (DEC, 2015). Twenty-two of these are species of bird, which are considered to be highly mobile and have extensive home ranges. The remaining conservation significant fauna species are Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (Threatened), Airlie Island Skink (*Ctenotus angusticeps*) (Threatened), Woma Python (*Aspidites ramsayi*) (Specially Protected), Lined Soil-crevice Skink (*Notoscincus butleri*) (DPaW - Priority 4) and Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) (DPaW – Priority 4) (DEC, 2015).

The Northern Quoll prefers rocky areas and eucalypt forests with hollow logs, rock crevices, caves and hollow trees to hide in (Department of the Environment, 2015), all of which are absent from the application area.

The Arlie Island Skink is known from 12 locations in the north-west ranging from Onslow, Port Hedland and Roebourne to Broome (Department of the Environment, 2015). This species has mostly been recorded in dense vegetation around salt marshes and in mangrove (Department of the Environment, 2015). Although the application area consists of samphire shrub species, it is considered too sparse to provide suitable habitat for the Skink.

The Woma Python prefers open tussock and hummock grasslands (DEC, 2012), but has a wide distribution across northern Western Australia, and is unlikely to be reliant on the habitat within the application area.

Similarly the Western Pebble-mound Mouse has been recorded in numerous areas across the Pilbara and the application area lacks the rocky habitat preferred by the mouse (Morris & Burbidge, 2008).

Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC (2012)
DEC (2015)
Department of the Environment (2015)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
Morris & Burbidge (2008)
West Ecology (2012)

(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**
According to available datasets there are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database).

A flora survey has not been undertaken over the application area. The flora survey undertaken over the neighbouring tenements M47/249 and M47/805 did not record any Threatened flora species (West Ecology, 2012). A search of NatureMap has found that there are no records of Threatened flora within 20 kilometres of the application area (DEC, 2015).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC (2015)
West Ecology (2012)
GIS Database:
- Threatened and Priority Flora

(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**
According to available databases, there are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest known TEC is located approximately 175 kilometres south-west of the application area.

West Ecology (2012) did not identify any TECs in their flora and vegetation survey of M47/249 and M47/805.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology West Ecology (2012)
GIS Database:
- Threatened Ecological Sites Buffered

(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 application area falls within the Pilbara Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database) in which approximately 99.58% of pre-European vegetation remains (Government of Western Australia, 2013). This gives it a conservation status of 'Least Concern' according to the Bioregional Conservation Status of Ecological Vegetation Classes (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002).

The vegetation within the application area is recorded as Beard vegetation associations:

- 127: Bare areas, mud flats.
- 157: Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; hard spinifex, *Triodia wiseana* (GIS Database).

Approximately 95% and 99% of pre-European vegetation remains for Beard vegetation associations 127 and 157 respectively (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

| | Pre-European area (ha)* | Current extent (ha)* | Remaining %* | Conservation Status** | Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Land |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| IBRA Bioregion - Pilbara | 17,808,657 | 17,733,583 | ~99 | Least Concern | 8.37 |
| Beard vegetation associations - State | | | | | |
| 127 | 737,724 | 697,871 | ~94 | Least Concern | 8.77 |
| 157 | 502,728 | 499,311 | ~99 | Least Concern | 18.06 |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion | | | | | |
| 127 | 177,749 | 159,595 | ~90 | Least Concern | 0.09 |
| 157 | 199,832 | 198,409 | ~99 | Least Concern | 5.67 |

* Government of Western Australia (2013)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

The vegetation under application is not considered a significant remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Government of Western Australia (2013)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Pre-European Vegetation

(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 at variance to this Principle

The application area intersects with bare coastal mudflats that are subject to occasional tidal inundation (CALM, 2002). Vegetation type 3 consists of *Tecticornia auriculata* and *Tecticornia halocnemoides* subsp. *tenuisi* which are samphire species generally found in coastal regions in the area (Western Australian Herbarium, 2015). The application will therefore impact on riparian vegetation.

Based on the above the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle. Aerial photography shows that there are extensive areas of coastal mudflats outside of the application area (GIS Database). As the application is for the clearing of 2.29 hectares on the edge of the mudflats, the proposal is not likely to have a significant impact on riparian vegetation.

Methodology Western Australian Herbarium (2015)
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 may be at variance to this Principle

The application area intersects the Littoral Land System (GIS Database). This land system is described as bare coastal mudflats with mangroves on seaward fringes, samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches (Van Vreeswyk *et al*, 2004). Sandy islands or dunes have been identified as being highly susceptible to wind erosion (Van Vreeswyk *et al*, 2004).

Aerial photography indicates that the application area lies on the interface between mudflats and sandy plains (GIS Database). Clearing native vegetation on sandy plains may make the area more susceptible to wind erosion. Potential impacts of land degradation by wind erosion may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Van Vreeswyk *et al* (2004)
GIS Database:
- Rangeland Land Systems

(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 proposed clearing is not located within a conservation reserve (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Crown Reserve R38287, which is located approximately 3.5 kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database).

The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on R38287 given the distance between the reserve and the application area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
- 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

According to available databases, the application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database).

The application area intersects bare coastal mudflats that are subject to occasional tidal inundation (CALM, 2002). The application area experiences an annual average rainfall of 272.8 millimetres and an average annual evaporation rate of approximately 3,400 millimetres per year (BoM, 2015; GIS Database). The only surface water runoff expected would be following significant storm events or strong tides.

The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of surface water runoff as the proposed clearing is considered to be small in scale and on the edge of these mudflats.

Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology BoM (2015)
CALM (2002)
GIS Database:
- Evaporation Isopleths
- PDWSAs

(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

The climate of the application area can be described as arid (semi-desert) tropical with highly variable rainfall, falling mainly in summer (CALM, 2002). Cyclonic activity is significant, with several systems affecting the coast and hinterland annually (CALM, 2002). Based on an average annual evaporation rate of approximately 3,400 millimetres (GIS Database), there is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains. Whilst large rainfall events or tidal surges may result in flooding of the area, the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an increase in incidence or intensity of flooding.

Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology CALM (2002)
GIS Database:
- Evaporation Isopleths

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

Comments

There is one Native Title Claim (WC1999/014) over the area under application (GIS Database). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court of Australia. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Water, and the Department of Parks and Wildlife, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 26 January 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received.

Methodology GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims – Determined by the Federal Court

4. References

- BoM (2014) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Karratha, Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology, <http://www.bom.gov.au>.
- CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
- DEC (2006) Proposed Burrup Peninsula Conservation Reserve: Draft Management Plan 2006-2016. Department of Environment and Conservation.
- 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.
- DEC (2012) Fauna Profiles: Woma Python. Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth. <http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au>.
- DEC (2015) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>.
- DotE (2015) *Dasyurus hallucatus* in Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of the Environment, Canberra. <http://www.environment.gov.au>.
- 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.
- Morris, K. & Burbidge, A. (2008) *Pseudomys chapmani*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. www.iucnredlist.org.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) Technical Bulletin - An Inventory and Condition Survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, No. 92. Department of Agriculture, Government of Western Australia, Perth, Western Australia.
- West Ecology (2011) Flora and Vegetation Survey of Norwest Sand and Gravel Tenements M47/249 and M47/805. Unpublished report prepared for Norwest Sand and Gravel Pty Ltd.
- Western Australian Herbarium (2015) FloraBase - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Parks and Wildlife. <http://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| BoM | Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government |
| DAA | Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia |
| DAFWA | Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia |
| DEC | Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (now DPaW and DER) |
| DER | Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia |
| DMP | Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia |
| DRF | Declared Rare Flora |
| DotE | Department of the Environment, Australian Government |
| DoW | Department of Water, Western Australia |
| DPaW | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia |
| DSEWPaC | Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DotE) |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia |
| EP Act | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia |
| EPBC Act | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act) |
| GIS | Geographical Information System |
| ha | Hectare (10,000 square metres) |
| IBRA | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia |
| IUCN | International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union |
| PEC | Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia |
| RIWI Act | <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia |
| s.17 | Section 17 of <i>the Environment Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia |
| TEC | Threatened Ecological Community |

Definitions:

{DPaW (2013) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia}:-

| | |
|-----------|---|
| T | Threatened species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Threatened Fauna or the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Threatened Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). Threatened Fauna and Flora are further recognised by DPaW according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List criteria. For example Carnaby's Cockatoo <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> is specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered. <u>Rankings:</u> CR: Critically Endangered - considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. EN: Endangered - considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild. VU: Vulnerable - considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild. |
| X | Presumed Extinct species: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice for Presumed Extinct Fauna and Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice for Presumed Extinct Flora (which may also be referred to as Declared Rare Flora). |
| IA | Migratory birds protected under an international agreement: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice. Birds that are subject to an agreement between governments of Australia and Japan, China and The Republic of Korea relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction. |
| S | Other specially protected fauna: Specially protected under the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act 1950</i> , listed under Schedule 4 of the Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice. |
| P1 | Priority One - Poorly-known species: Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records (generally less than five), all on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, Shire, rail reserves and Main Roads WA road, gravel and soil reserves, and active mineral leases and under threat of habitat destruction or degradation. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. |
| P2 | Priority Two - Poorly-known species: Species that are known from one or a few collections or sight records, some of which are on lands not under imminent threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, unallocated Crown land, water reserves, etc. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and |

appear to be under threat from known threatening processes.

P3

Priority Three - Poorly-known species:

Species that are known from collections or sight records from several localities not under imminent threat, or from few but widespread localities with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat. Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several localities but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them.

P4

Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring:

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that do not qualify for Conservation Dependent, but that are close to qualifying for Vulnerable.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

P5

Priority Five - Conservation Dependent species:

Species that are not threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (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.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.
- (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.
- (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.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (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.
- (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.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.