



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 651/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Peter C. and Kathyryne L. Lynch

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 46 ON PLAN 138987 (GRASS PATCH 6446)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Esperance

Colloquial name: Tom Starcevich V.C. Road - Lot 46 on Plan 138987

1.4. Application

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

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 519 - Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus eremophila (Hopkins et al, 2001; Shepherd et al, 2001).	The vegetation consists of single mallees with little or no understorey (grazing pressure). The vegetation under application is 1.8ha which is part of a 7ha remnant. The remnant is in a highly cleared landscape, with less than 2% vegetation on the property, less than 5% vegetation in a 5km radius and less than 30% vegetation within a 15km radius.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	A site inspection was not conducted for this site by Department of Environment Officers. Photos were provided by the applicant to show vegetation condition.

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**
Compared to the locality, the vegetation has moderate biodiversity due to the highly cleared nature of the area. However, due to the degraded nature of the vegetation in the area under application, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Photographs in application (TRIM ref IN21876)

(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**
While the trees may provide some habitat for fauna species in a highly cleared landscape, the poor condition of the vegetation is likely to limit the habitat value of the site.

Methodology Photographs in application (TRIM ref IN22148)

(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**
It is not known if the site contains Declared Rare Flora as it has never been surveyed. The nearest recorded Declared Rare Flora is 5km to the east (Eucalyptus merrickiae- Goblet Mallee) of the area proposed to be

cleared. The proposal may be at variance with this Clearing Principle but this risk of this is low as there is little or no understorey remaining in the area proposed to be cleared.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-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 threatened ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
There are no records of Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) in the vicinity of the proposed clearing (the nearest is approximately 60km to the south).

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/03

(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 locality of the area proposed to be cleared has less than 30% remaining within a 15km radius, less than 5% in a 5km radius and less than 2% remaining on the property (TRIM ref AD218). The Shire of Esperance has 27% of native vegetation remaining. However, Beard vegetation association 519 (Hopkins et al, 2001, Shepherd et al, 2001) has 60% remaining which indicates that it is of 'least concern' for biodiversity conservation (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002). Due to the small area involved and well represented vegetation association, this proposal is not considered to be at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology Hopkins et al. (2001), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002), 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 at variance to this Principle**
There are no watercourses or wetlands associated with the area to be cleared. The closest water features are non perennial lakes 2.6km to the south east and east. The proposal is not at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
-Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04

(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 proposed area has a low risk of wind erosion that can be managed using current agricultural practices that focus on maintaining ground cover above 50% (DAWA 2005). The area has a low risk of water erosion (DAWA 2005) due to the sandy topsoils and low gradients of the landscape. The area has a low to very low risk of waterlogging (DAWA 2005) due to combination of low rainfall, soil type and landscape.
Due to the landscape position clearing of the native vegetation is unlikely to contribute to on-site salinity and off-site the final extent of salt affected land will not substantially change by clearing this native vegetation. The Commissioner for Soil and Land Conservation has advised that the proposal is not at variance with this Clearing Principle.

Methodology DAWA (2005) TRIM ref AD173

(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 at variance to this Principle**
No conservation areas have been identified near the proposal. The nearest conservation areas are 7km south (Ridley North & South Nature Reserves), 14km south west (Jeffrey Lagoon Nature Reserve), 16km south west (Swan Lagoon Nature Reserve) and 19km south (Truslove Townsite Nature Reserve).

Methodology GIS Databases:
-CALM Managed Lands and Water - CALM 01/06/04

(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 at variance to this Principle

Proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on groundwater tables due to the small area involved. The property is not in a gazetted or proclaimed water catchment area. The nearest water catchment area is 26km north at Salmon Gums.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 04/11/04

(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 at variance to this Principle

The area under application has 'no to very low' risk of flooding so the proposal is not at variance with this Clearing Principle (DAWA 2005).

Methodology DAWA (2005) TRIM ref AD173

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

Comments

The Esperance Land Conservation District Committee has examined the parcel of land and have no comment to make. The Shire of Esperance have no formal objections to the proposal but provided advice on clearing methods, timing, disposal and rehabilitation.

Methodology Esperance Land Conservation District Committee (TRIM ref AI740), Shire of Esperance submission (TRIM ref AI743)

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	1.8	Grant	It is recommended that the clearing permit be granted as the proposal is - not at variance with Principles (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) (i) and (j) - not likely to be at variance with Principles (a), (b), (c)

5. References

DAWA Land degradation advice. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref AD173.

DAWA Land degradation assessment report. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Agriculture Western Australia. DoE TRIM ref AD173.

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.

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
WRC

Threatened Ecological Community
Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)