Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 652/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 5314 ON PLAN 220209 (MORNINGTON 6221)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Collie
Colloquial name: Gastaldo Rd Lot 5314 on Plan 220209

1.4. Application

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

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 Unit 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri Mattiske: Dwellingup (D1) - Open forest of Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones.	The vegetation under application has been previously cleared and has been rehabilitated.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	

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 at variance to this Principle

The area under application is not considered to be of high biological diversity due to the close proximity to the highly disturbed environment of the refinery. The area under application is a previously cleared area that has been rehabilitated and is of a small size, limiting the biodiversity value of the vegetation.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Bunbury Orthomosaic - DOLA 11/00

(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 at variance to this Principle

Aerial Photography indicates that the vegetation is unlikely to provide habitat for fauna species. The level of disturbance within the site, and the small size of the area under application, is likely to further limit the habitat value of the vegetation.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Bunbury Orthomosaic - DOLA 11/00

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

Comments

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

There are seven Declared Rare Flora populations mapped with in the local area (10km radius). The closest is Grevillea rara 7.1 km east south east of the area under application. They all occur on the same Beard vegetation units and on three of the Mattiske vegetation units. Three occur on the same Heddle vegetation unit as the area under application and are not vegetatively linked.

Two Priority 3 populations occur in the local area, the closest being Meeboldina thyanantha 5.9km north east of the area under application. These populations occur on the same Beard vegetation type, one occurs on the same Heddle vegetation type and one on the same Mattiske vegetation type as the area under application. It is not vegetatively linked.

Three Priority 4 populations occur in the local area, the closest being, Pultenaea skinneri, 2.2 km south of the area under application. All occur on the same Beard vegetation type, two on the same Heddle vegetation type and two on the same Mattiske vegetation type as the area under application. It is not vegetatively linked.

The area under application is a previously cleared area that has been rehabilitated. It is within an active area of the refinery and is therefore a low probability of the proposed clearing being at variance with this principle.

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) or Threatened Plant Communities (TPC) within the local area (10km radius).

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

(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 area under application is located in the Jarrah Forest Bioregion in the Shire of Collie. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 58.3% and 94.1% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

	Pre-European (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining (%)*	Conservation** status
IBRA Bioregion				
- Jarrah Forest***	4544335	2 624 301	58.3	Least Concern
Shire of Collie	172 072	161 845	94.1	Least Concern
Vegetation type:				
Beard: Unit 3	3 046 385	2 197 837	72.1	Least Concern
Mattiske:				
Dwellingup (D1)	2 082 806	1 832 869	88	Least Concern
Heddle:				
Darling Plateau Complex (no data available)				

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)
*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

Methodology

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
Havel (2002)
Heddle et al. (1980)
Hopkins et al. (2001)
Shepherd et al. (2001)
GIS databases:

- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01

(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

The area under application is not within any watercourses or wetlands. The closest watercourse is located 338m south east (a minor perennial watercourse).

The areas under application are unlikely to significantly degrade the environmental values of this watercourse.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

(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

There is no information for Acid Sulphate Soils within the area under application. Groundwater salinity is mapped at 500 - 1000 mg/L. Salinity is mapped at a low risk area.

Methodology

GIS databases:
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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

The area under application is within the Harris River State Forest. The area has undergone a high level of disturbance and has been previously cleared and rehabilitated.

Clearing of the area under application is unlikely to significantly reduce the environmental value of the area.

Methodology

GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04

(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

The area under application is within the Brunswick Catchment Area Water Source Protection Plan.

The area has undergone a high level of disturbance and has been previously cleared and rehabilitated. Due to the small scale of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely to significantly degrade water quality.

Methodology

GIS database:
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04

(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

Flooding impacts are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its small size.

Methodology

GIS databases:
Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments

The Shire of Collie has not responded to any planning issues or other issues.

There is no other RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act Licence that will affect the area that has been applied to clear.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Building or Structure	Mechanical Removal	0.28	**Grant**	Recommended that the application be granted as it is not at variance to any of the Clearing Principles. Extension of Western Power Corporation Worsley 132kV substation aerial busbars

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.

Havel, J.J. and Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2002) Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation complexes, Conservation Commission.

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.

Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.

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)