



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 6604/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Holcim Australia Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: Mining Lease 52/7
Mining Lease 52/62
Mining Lease 52/609
Mining Lease 52/661
Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name: Warrawanda Creek

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
141		Mechanical Removal	Sand Mining

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant
Decision Date: 9 July 2015

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description 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):

- 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups
- 216: Low woodland; mulga (with spinifex) on rises.

A level one flora assessment has been undertaken over the application area by MWH Global (MWH) in April 2015 (MWH, 2015a). The flora assessment recorded three broad vegetation units within the application area, which are:

- EcMg: Mid isolated clumps of trees dominated by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* with *Acacia sericophylla* over tall isolated clumps of shrubs dominated by *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over low mixed grasses and forbs.
- ChAsTt: Mid isolated trees dominated by *Corymbia hamersleyana*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Acacia sericophylla* over tall open shrubland dominated by *Acacia incurvaneura* and *Melaleuca glomerata*, over mid tussock grassland dominated by *Themeda triandra* and **Cenchrus ciliaris*.
- MgAcCc: Tall open shrubland dominated by *Melaleuca glomerata*, *Acacia paraneura* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over mid closed grassland of **Cenchrus ciliaris*.

* introduced species

Clearing Description

Warrawanda Creek
Holcim Australia Pty Ltd (Holcim) proposes to clear 141 hectares of native vegetation within a total boundary of approximately 141 hectares for the purpose of sand mining. The project is located approximately 15.5 kilometres south-east of Newman, in the Shire of East Pilbara.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994)

To

Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was determined by botanists from MWH.

Although both Beard vegetation associations 29 and 216 are mapped within the application area, association 216 only accounts for approximately 3% of the application area (GIS Database).

Holcim has applied to clear 141 hectares of native vegetation however, aerial imagery and photographs of the application area taken by Department of Mines and Petroleum staff shows that the vegetation within the application area is very sparse. Therefore, it is unlikely that Holcim will be clearing 141 hectares of native vegetation. However given the difficulties in calculating the exact area of clearing, Holcim has requested this figure.

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 Augusta subregion of the Gascoyne Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database). The Augusta subregion is characterised by rugged low Proterozoic sedimentary and granite ranges divided by broad flat valleys (CALM, 2002). Although the Gascoyne River system provides the main drainage of this subregion, it is also the headwaters of the Ashburton and Fortescue Rivers (CALM, 2002). There are extensive areas of alluvial valley-fill deposits. Mulga woodland with *Triodia* occur on shallow stony loams on rises, while the shallow earthy loams over hardpan on the plains are covered by Mulga parkland (CALM, 2002).

The application area is located within the Warrawanda Creek (GIS Database). A flora assessment has been undertaken over the application area by MWH (2015a), whereby three vegetation types were identified. Vegetation type EcMg "Mid isolated clumps of trees dominated by *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* with *Acacia sericophylla* over tall isolated clumps of shrubs dominated by *Melaleuca glomerata* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over low mixed grasses and forbs" was the most widespread vegetation type, accounting for approximately 81.4% of the application area (MWH, 2015a). None of the vegetation types recording in the application area represent Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (MWH, 2015a).

A total of 74 vascular flora taxa were recorded within the application area, representing 21 families and 56 genera (MWH, 2015a). The most represented families were Fabaceae (peas), Poaceae (grasses) and Malvaceae (hibiscus') (MWH, 2015a). There were no Threatened or Priority flora species identified within the application area (MWH, 2015a). Two Priority species were considered likely to occur within the application area; *Calotis latiuscula* (P3) and *Goodenia nuda* (P4). However MWH (2015a) advise that the survey was undertaken at the optimum time and there were no limitations on the identification of conservation significant species.

Six introduced plant taxa were recorded within the application area (MWH, 2015a). Weeds have the potential to alter the biodiversity of an area, competing with native vegetation for available resources and making areas more fire prone. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

Holcim intends to target bare areas of the river bed for sand extraction therefore keeping vegetation clearing to a minimum (MWH, 2015b). Considering the application area is confined to the sparsely vegetated river bed of the Warrawanda Creek, the proposal is not likely to impact on an area of relatively higher flora diversity.

A total of 48 vertebrate fauna species were recorded during the fauna assessment conducted by MWH (2015a). This comprised 39 bird, four mammals (one native), two reptiles and one amphibian (MWH, 2015a). The application area is not considered to represent high fauna diversity.

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

Methodology

CALM (2002)
MWH (2015a)
MWH (2015b)
GIS Database:
- IBRA WA (Regions - Sub Regions)
- Hydrography, Linear

(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**

MWH (2015a) has undertaken a fauna assessment over the application area and has identified the following two habitat types:

- Major Drainage Line; and
- Mulga Woodland.

Major drainage line is the dominant habitat type, accounting for approximately 81% of the application area (MWH, 2015a). It consists of tree hollows and sandy banks for nesting avian fauna, with a total lack of leaf litter and woody debris (MWH, 2015a). This habitat type is generally in excellent to very good condition, although some areas have been disturbed by grazing, weed invasion and erosion (MWH, 2015a).

The mulga habitat type is less common within the application area (MWH, 2015a). This habitat type consists of dense vegetation suitable for supporting an abundance of small birds, reptiles and mammals; however due to the homogeneity of the habitat type, it is not likely to support a great degree of diversity of fauna species (MWH, 2015a). Large trees within the application area lack hollows, making this habitat unsuitable for hollow-nesting birds and mammals, while the substrate is a compact, stony surface layer which is poorly suited for burrowing species.

Based on these habitat types, conservation species considered likely to occur within the application area include (MWH, 2015a):

- Australia Bustard (*Ardeotis australis*) – Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) Priority 4
- Eastern Great Egret (*Ardea modesta*) – Migratory under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), Schedule 3 under Wildlife Protection Act 1950 (WC Act)
- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) - (Migratory under EPBC Act, Schedule 3 under WC Act)

Of these, Rainbow Bee-eater was sighted within the application area (MWH, 2015a). Although the application area is considered suitable habitat for these species, all three species are highly mobile and would not be reliant on the vegetation within the application area for habitat. MWH (2015a) advises that both habitat types are common and widespread in the Pilbara region and can be found in close proximity to the application area. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on fauna.

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

Methodology MWH (2015a)

(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). The nearest record of Threatened flora is located approximately 30 kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database).

The flora assessment undertaken by MWH (2015a) did not identify any Threatened flora within the application area.

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

Methodology MWH (2015a)
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 8.5 kilometres north-west of the application area.

MWH (2015a) did not identify any TECs in their flora assessment of the application area.

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

Methodology MWH (2015a)
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 Gascoyne Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) bioregion (GIS Database) in which approximately 99.96% 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:

- 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups
- 216: Low woodland; mulga (with spinifex) on rises.

Beard vegetation associations 29 and 216 both retain approximately 99% of their pre-European extent at the state level and the bio-region level (Government of Western Australia, 2013).

	Pre-European area (ha)*	Current extent (ha)*	Remaining %*	Conservation Status**	Pre-European % in DPaW Managed Land
IBRA Bioregion - Gascoyne	18,075,219	18,067,441	~99	Least Concern	10.30
Beard vegetation associations - State					
29	7,903,991	7,900,200	~99	Least Concern	5.22
216	280,759	279,237	~99	Least Concern	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
29	3,802,459	3,799,635	~99	Least Concern	7.82
216	254,089	252,864	~99	Least Concern	0.00

* Government of Western Australia (2013)

** Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)

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 is to clear vegetation from the river bed of the Warrawanda River (GIS Database), therefore the proposed clearing will be impacting on vegetation growing in a watercourse. The vegetation varies from spinifex groundcover to large trees consisting of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Corymbia hamersleyana*.

Holcim advises that clearing activities will be restricted to existing cleared areas, small ephemeral flora and regrowth (MWH, 2015). Furthermore, a buffer of two meters around large trees will be maintained at all times, which is required under the *Mining Act 1978*. Any disturbance within the river bed will also be set back at least four metres from the river bank (MWH, 2015b). Using this approach, the vegetation cleared within the application boundary is likely to be minimal. Further impacts to riparian vegetation in the application area may be minimised by the implementation of a restrictive clearing condition which will prevent the clearing of large trees from within the river.

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

Methodology MWH (2015b)
 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 majority of the application area is located within the River land system (GIS Database). This land system comprises active flood plains and major river supporting grassy eucalypt woodlands, tussock grasslands and soft spinifex grasslands (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004). The system is largely stabilised by buffel and spinifex and

accelerated erosion is uncommon (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004). However, susceptibility to erosion is high or very high if vegetative cover is removed (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).

The application area also partially intersects with the Washplain Land system which is moderately susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk et al, 2004).

MWH (2015b) advises that the application area is a highly transient environment. Strong river flows following significant rainfall events carry high sediment loads which replenish the river bed (MWH, 2015b). Holcim has advised that they will be prioritising existing cleared areas for sand extraction to minimise vegetation clearing (MWH, 2015b). Furthermore, there will be no clearing within the river banks of the Warrawanda River (MWH, 2015b). Although the proposed clearing will likely cause some erosion, it is not likely to be significantly above the natural movement of sediments through the river. Potential impacts from erosion may be minimised through the implementation of a restrictive clearing condition preventing the clearing of large trees from within the river bed.

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

Methodology MWH (2015b)
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 application area is not located within any conservation areas. The nearest conservation area is Collier Range National Park, which is located approximately 112 hectares south-west of the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance between the application area and Collier Range National Park, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the conservation area.

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

Methodology GIS Database:
- DPaW 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 any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) (GIS Database).

The application area falls within the Warrawanda Creek, which is a major seasonal watercourse (GIS Database). The proposal to clear native vegetation from the river bed will likely cause some soil erosion which may lead to a decrease in the quality of surface water. However, Warrawanda Creek only flows following significant rainfall events and the resultant high volume flow of water greatly displaces sediments (MWH, 2015b). Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to generate a greater amount of sedimentation than what is already caused by natural processes. Furthermore, Holcim has committed to targeting cleared areas of the river bed, not clearing mature trees and only operating during dry periods (MWH, 2015b). This will assist with maintaining the stability of the river bed.

Groundwater salinity in the local area is 500 - 1,000 milligrams/Litre Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), which is considered to be a 'marginal' level of salinity (GIS Database). The proposed clearing activity is not likely to cause deterioration of groundwater within the project area.

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

Methodology MWH (2015b)
GIS Database:
- PDWSAs
- Salinity - 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

The application area experiences an arid climate with bimodal rainfall patterns, and an annual rainfall of approximately 318 millimetres (CALM, 2002; BoM, 2015). Any water runoff into the application area will be transported downstream via Warrawanda Creek. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to alter the

incidence or intensity of flooding within the application area or surrounds.

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

Methodology BoM (2015)
CALM (2002)

Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one native title claim over the application area (Department of Aboriginal Affairs, 2015). 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 Sites of Aboriginal Significance located in the area applied to clear (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Sites of Aboriginal Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, the Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water, 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 15 June 2015 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received.

Methodology Department of Aboriginal Affairs (2015)
GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance

4. References

- BoM (2015) Climate Statistics for Australian Locations. A Search for Climate Statistics for Newman Aero, 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.
- Department of Aboriginal Affairs (2015) Aboriginal Heritage Enquiry System. Government of Western Australia. <http://maps.dia.wa.gov.au>.
- 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.
- 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.
- MWH (2015a) Level 1 Flora and Fauna Assessment – Warrawanda. Unpublished report prepared for Holcim Australia Pty Ltd.
- MWH (2015b) Warrawanda Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application for Tenements M52/661, M52/62, M52/609 and M52/7. Unpublished report prepared for Holcim Australia Pty Ltd.
- Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A., Hennig, P (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No. 92 Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth.

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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* is specially protected under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* as a threatened species with a ranking of Endangered.
- Rankings:
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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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 *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, 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:**
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.