



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 72/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Neville Hale Chief Executive Officer Shire of Lake Grace

1.3. Property details

Property: Newdegate Townsite Lot 154
Newdegate Townsite Lot 149
Newdegate Townsite Lot 155
Colloquial name: Crown Reserve 29080

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2.97		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

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
The area proposed to be cleared consists of Beard Unit 131. This vegetation type is described as Mosaic; Medium woodland; salmon gum and gimlet/Shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood and black marlock.	The vegetation proposed to be cleared can be described as being part of a 2,000ha island of native vegetation within and surrounding the town of Newdegate. This area is linked with other larger remnants of native vegetation via road reserves.	Pristine: No obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The remaining vegetation percentage for Beard Unit 131 is currently only 7.2%, this is regarded as being a level representing 'endangered'. The National Objective and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS 2001) recognises that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is the target.

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 may be at variance to this Principle

Given the highly fragmented landscape and low level of vegetation representation, this vegetation is a significant component of biodiversity in the region.

Methodology CALM advice.

(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

Proposal is unlikely to have an impact on threatened or priority fauna.

Methodology CALM advice.
Species known to occur in the local area (based on CALM's Threatened and Priority Fauna Database).

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

Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle

Four populations of *Bentleya spinescens* (DRF) have been recorded within 1.5km of the proposed clearing. These populations occur on the same vegetation type as the proposed clearing. The vegetation association is

also suitable habitat for 3 priority species found in the surrounding area. 10 specimens of DRF have been recorded in the area. 5 were recorded on the same vegetation type as the proposed clearing.

Methodology CALM Advice.
Species known to occur in the local area (based on CALM's Threatened Flora Data Management System and Herbarium Specimen Collection Database).

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.

Comments **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.**

No known TEC's in the area proposed to be cleared.

Methodology CALM Advice.
TEC known to occur in local area based on CALM's Database.

(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 at variance to this Principle**

Area to be cleared occurs in the Mallee Bioregion with 55.1% remaining vegetation. The coverage of the Mallee Bioregion within the Intensive Landuse Zone is only 19.5% of the pre-European extent.

The remaining vegetation percentage for Beard Unit 131 is currently only 7.2%, this is regarded as being a level representing 'endangered'. The National Objective and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (AGPS 2001) recognises that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is the target.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %**	Conservation % in reserves/CALM-status***	managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Mallee	4,130,281*	806,971	19.5	Vulnerable	
Shire - Shire of Lake Grace	1,031,972	225,891	21.9	Vulnerable	
Beard veg type - 131	387,141	27,707	7.2	Endangered	10.3

* Area within the Intensive Landuse Zone

** (Shepherd et al. 2001)

*** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology 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**

The area proposed to be cleared is not associated with any wetlands or watercourses. The nearest wetland is 1.6km North East

Methodology WRC advice

(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**

The proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable on site or off site land degradation.

Methodology AGWA Advice

(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 at variance to this Principle

The proposed clearing will have no effect on CALM Conservation Reserves. However only 10.3% of Beard vegetation type 131 is protected in secure tenure. The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (Janis, 1997) has not been met for this vegetation complex.

Methodology CALM managed areas known to occur in the local area
CALM Advice.

(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 proposal is unlikely to degrade water quality or change water regimes.

Methodology AGWA / WRC Advice

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

Proposal unlikely to have an impact on flood levels.

Methodology GIS information.

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	2.97		Given the potential of rare flora occurrences at the site, it is recommended that Level 2 assessment occur, with the proponent to provide a flora survey.

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.

JANIS Forests Criteria (1997) Nationally agreed criteria for the establishment of a comprehensive, Adequate and Representative reserve System for Forests in Australia. A report by the Joint ANZECC/MCFFA National Forest Policy Statement Implementation Sub-committee. Regional Forests Agreement process. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

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.