



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 7411/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Cranbrook
Duration of Permit:	15 April 2017 to 15 April 2022

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Purpose for which clearing may be done

Clearing for the purpose of constructing regional motocross facilities.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 406656, Cranbrook

3. Area of Clearing

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 5 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow on attached Plan 7411/1.

4. Application

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise etc. clearing

In undertaking the clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must have regard to the following principles, set out in order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of native vegetation;
- (b) minimise the amount of native vegetation to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Dieback and weed control

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must take the following steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill* or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Fauna management

- (a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a *fauna specialist* to conduct a fauna survey of the Permit Area to identify black cockatoo habitat tree/s being utilised by, or showing signs of previous use by:
 - (i) *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo);
 - (ii) *Calyptorhynchus baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo); or
 - (iii) *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo).
- (b) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall provide the results of the fauna survey in a report to the CEO.
- (c) The fauna survey report must include the following:
 - (i) the location of the black cockatoo habitat tree/s recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
 - (ii) the location of any fauna species listed in condition 7(a), if identified, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA94, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
 - (iii) the name and amount of each fauna species identified; and
 - (iv) the methodology used to survey the Permit Area; and
 - (v) a description of the black cockatoo habitat tree/s identified.
- (d) Where black cockatoo habitat tree/s are identified under condition 7(a) of this Permit, the Permit Holder shall ensure that no clearing within 10 metres of those trees occurs, unless first approved by the CEO.

DEFINITIONS

The following meanings are given to terms used in this Permit:

black cockatoo habitat tree/s: means trees that have a diameter, measured at 1.5 metres from the base of the tree, of 30 centimetres or greater that contain hollows suitable for nesting by Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo or forest red-tailed black cockatoo;

CEO: means the Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;

dieback means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation;

fauna specialist: means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specializing in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*;

fauna survey: means a field-based investigation of the biodiversity of fauna and/or fauna habitat of the Permit Area;

fill means material used to increase the ground level, or fill a hollow;

mulch means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation; and

weed/s means any plant -

(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or

(b) published in a Department of Parks and Wildlife Regional Weed Rankings Summary, regardless of ranking; or

not indigenous to the area concerned.

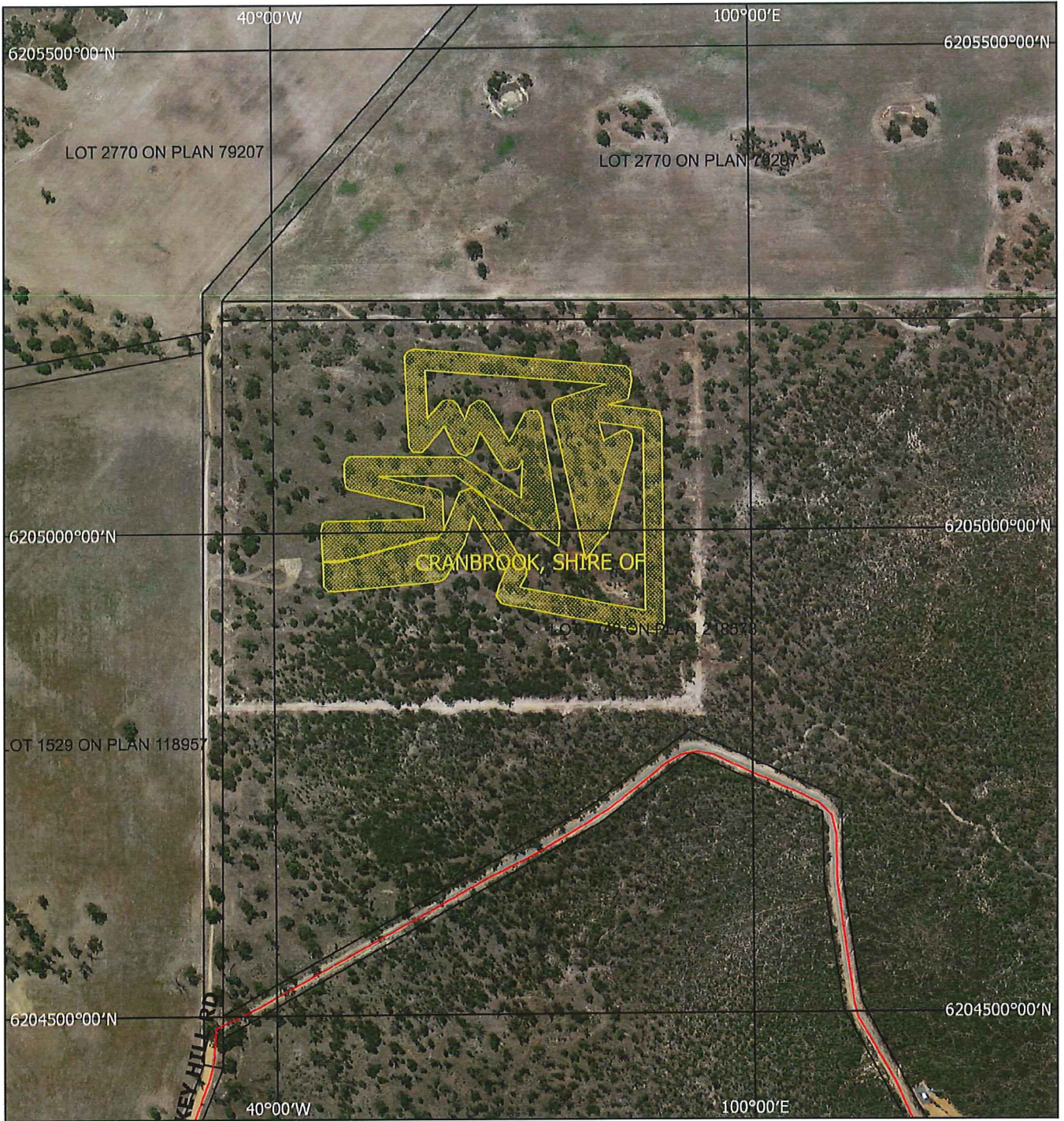


James Widenbar
MANAGER
CLEARING REGULATION





*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

14 March 2017

Plan 7411/1



Legend

-  Roads
-  LGA
-  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
-  Areas approved to clear



1:7,240

MGA 94
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

 Date: 14/3/17
J Widenbar

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7411/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Cranbrook

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 300 ON DEPOSITED PLAN 406656, CRANBROOK
Local Government Authority: CRANBROOK, SHIRE OF
DER Region: South Coast
DPaW District: ALBANY
Localities: Cranbrook

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
5		Mechanical Removal	Construction of a regional motorcross facility

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Granted

Decision Date: 14 March 2017

Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 16 December 2016, and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principle (b) and (h) and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The application area may include suitable nesting trees for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and/or forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*). To prevent significant impacts to these fauna a condition has been included on the permit requiring potential nesting trees to be inspected prior to clearing for evidence of use. If evidence of use is identified, clearing within ten metres of such trees is not permitted unless approved otherwise based on further assessment.

Through assessment it was determined that there is a risk that mechanical clearing of native vegetation may cause the spread of weeds and/or dieback into adjacent vegetation within Sukey Hill Reserve. To mitigate potential impacts to Sukey Hill Reserve, a weed and dieback management condition has been placed on the permit requiring earth-moving machinery to be clean of weed and dieback contamination when entering and exiting the application area.

The Delegated Officer determined that, with the implementation of fauna and hygiene management conditions, the proposed clearing is unlikely to pose a significant risk to the environment.

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
Broad scale vegetation mapping classifies the application area as:	The application is to clear 5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 406656, Cranbrook for the purpose of constructing a regional motorcross facility.	Degraded; Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery, 1994). To	The applicant engaged external consultant, Wendy Bradshaw to complete a flora and vegetation survey of Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 406656, Cranbrook.
Beard vegetation association 47: Shrublands; tallerack mallee-heath (Shepherd et al., 2001); and			The survey was undertaken on 8 and 25 January 2015 over 6 quadrats and rapid survey transects identifying a total of 61 native species from 5 different vegetation types.
Beard vegetation association 696: Shrublands; casuarina &		Excellent; Vegetation	

dryandra thicket with wandoo and powderbark wandoo (Shepherd et al., 2001).

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

The application area is predominately within the mapped Disturbed Wandoo Open Woodland to Parkland (degraded to Good condition) area with a small section mapped as Quartz Ridge Wandoo Woodland (excellent condition).

The application area is predominately sparsely vegetated Wandoo Woodland.

(Bradshaw, 2015)

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Comments

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application is to clear 5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 406656, Cranbrook, for the purpose of constructing a regional motorcross facility.

A vegetation and flora survey was undertaken by Wendy Bradshaw to identify and describe the flora and vegetation present. The survey area covers approximately 20 hectares and fully encompasses the application area (Bradshaw, 2015). The survey identified five vegetation units within the survey area. Three vegetation units were found to be in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition and two units ranged in condition from degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015). The application area occurs predominately within the 'Disturbed Wandoo Open Woodland to Parkland' vegetation unit which is in degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition and is sparsely vegetated Wandoo Woodland (Bradshaw, 2015). A small section of the application area, in the south east corner extends into the Quartz Ridge Wandoo Woodland which is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. It is recognised that two survey points occur within this vegetation unit, neither of which occurred within the application area (Bradshaw, 2015).

A total of 61 native species, representing 22 families, were recorded within the survey area (Bradshaw, 2015). No rare or threatened flora or vegetation communities were identified within the survey area. The survey was undertaken outside of the optimal time however the applicant consulted the Department of Parks and Wildlife in relation to this matter. Officer level advice was received outlining satisfaction with the flora survey results (Shire of Cranbrook, 2016).

As assessed under principle (b), the application area may contain trees suitable for black cockatoo nesting.

No environmental impacts were raised during consultation with the Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife, 2017).

The application area is part of Sukey Hill reserve (9520) some of which is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015). The applicant has included a 50 metre buffer between the proposed clearing and vegetation in very good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, to minimise the spread of weeds from the application area (Shire of Cranbrook, 2016). The process of mechanically clearing weeds and damp soil within the application area may spread weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist in minimising this risk.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 9 per cent pre-European vegetation and the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion, within which the application area is located, retains approximately 18 per cent native vegetation, 10 per cent of which is held in conservation estate. Given the condition of the native vegetation under application it is not likely that it is significant in a regional context.

Given the above the vegetation within the application area is unlikely to comprise a high level of biological diversity. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

References:
Bradshaw (2015)
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017)
Shire of Cranbrook (2016)
Keighery (1994)

GIS Database:
SAC Bio datasets – Accessed February 2017

(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

Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

Twelve fauna species listed as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* (WC Act) have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (Department of Parks and Wildlife, 2007-). Of these, the application area may contain suitable habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*),

Baudin's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii* subsp. *naso*).

The application area occurs within the known distribution of Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo which are all listed as 'fauna that is rare or is likely to become extinct' under the WC Act. The application area contains suitable foraging habitat for all three species as well as trees of species known to support nesting, which may either have a suitable nest hollow, or are of a suitable diameter at breast height to develop a nest hollow.

Noting that the application area is sparsely vegetated, as described under principle (a), the main foraging species is scattered Wandoo trees within the application area. And that native vegetation in similar or better condition occurs adjacent to the application area in Sukey Hill Reserve, it is not likely to be significant black cockatoo foraging habitat.

The application area may contain trees suitable for black cockatoo nesting. A fauna management condition will assist to mitigate the environmental risk of this proposal to these species.

The proposed clearing will reduce the size of the reserve by 4.7 per cent however will predominately impact vegetation in degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015) with a small area in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. Noting this it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will fragment or impact on ecological linkages in the local area.

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

Methodology References:
Bradshaw (2015)
Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007-)
Keighery (1994)

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

Comments **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
According to available datasets eight rare flora species have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

A flora and vegetation survey, undertaken by Wendy Bradshaw in January 2015, did not identify any rare or priority flora species (Bradshaw, 2015).

Given the above and the vegetation's condition, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology References:
Bradshaw (2015)

GIS Database:
SAC Bio datasets – Accessed February 2017

(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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius).

A flora and vegetation survey, undertaken by Wendy Bradshaw in January 2015, did not identify any vegetation that is consistent with a TEC (Bradshaw, 2015). Given the distance to the closest TEC (greater than 20 kilometres), the vegetation under application is not considered necessary for the maintenance of any TEC.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database:
SAC Bio datasets – Accessed February 2017

(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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The application area is located within the Avon Wheatbelt Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion and represented by Beard vegetation associations 47 and 697.

The local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 9 per cent pre-European vegetation and the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion retains approximately 18 per cent native vegetation, 10 per cent of which is held in conservation estate. Vegetation within the application area is described as 'Disturbed Wandoo Open Woodland to Parkland' which is in degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition with a small area being described as Quartz Ridge Wandoo Woodland (Bradshaw, 2015).

The application area is part of Sukey Hill reserve (9520) some of which is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015). The application area is sparsely vegetated with Wandoo and is located within the most disturbed areas of Sukey Hill reserve to minimise the potential impacts of clearing native vegetation (Bradshaw, 2015). The process of mechanically clearing weeds and damp soil within the application area may spread weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist in minimising this risk.

The proposed clearing will reduce the size of the reserve by 4.7 per cent however will predominately impact vegetation in degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015) with a small area in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. Noting this it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will fragment or impact on ecological linkages in the local area.

The local area has been extensively cleared however, give the application area is sparsely vegetated with Wandoo the significance of the vegetation to be cleared, in the context of its location within Sukey Hill reserve, is unlikely to be high.

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

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Extent in Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands (%)	
IBRA Bioregion*					
Avon Wheatbelt Shire*	9,517,109.90	1,763,063.03	18.53	9.74	
Shire of Cranbrook	327,504.80	118,471.12	36.17	37.45	
Beard Vegetation Association in Bioregion*					
47	3,858	1,623	42.06	54.17	
696		2,699	872	32.32	10.26

Methodology References:
Bradshaw (2015)
Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
Shire of Cranbrook (2016)
Government of Western Australia (2015)*
Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:
Imagery
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 **Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**
No mapped watercourses or wetlands intersect the application area.

Vegetation within the application area is predominately 'Disturbed Wandoo Open Woodland to Parkland' with a small area mapped as Quartz Ridge Wandoo Woodland (Bradshaw, 2015) and does not include vegetation types known to be growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

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

Methodology References:
Bradshaw (2015)

GIS Databases:
Geomorphic Wetlands
Hydrography, linear
Hydrography, hierachy

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Comments

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application area is part of the Stirling Range Formation with soils being predominately sandy loam types (Bradshaw, 2015).

Clearing of the vegetation within the application area may result in temporary and localised wind erosion of bare soils given the proportion of sand in the soil profile however this degradation is unlikely to be appreciable.

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

Methodology

References:

Bradshaw (2015)

GIS Databases:

Annual Rainfall, Statewide

Soils, Statewide

Topography

(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

Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

One conservation area has been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius), being the Stirling Range National Park (7.5 kilometres east of the application area).

The application area is part of Sukey Hill reserve (9520) which is managed for conservation by the Shire of Cranbrook, some of which is in excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition (Bradshaw, 2015). The applicant has included a 50 metre buffer between the proposed clearing and vegetation in very good to excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition, to minimise the spread of weeds from the application area (Shire of Cranbrook, 2016). The process of mechanically clearing weeds and damp soil within the application area may spread weeds and dieback into adjacent areas of remnant vegetation. Weed and dieback management measures will assist in minimising this risk.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle, however management measures can mitigate the risk of weeds and dieback spreading into adjacent areas of Sukey Hill Reserve.

Methodology

References:

Bradshaw (2015)

Shire of Cranbrook (2016)

Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:

Parks and Wildlife 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

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

No mapped wetlands or watercourse intersect the application area and no vegetation within the application area is known to grow in, or in association with surface water expression areas. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact surface water quality.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is 14000-35000 milligrams per litre (measured as Total Dissolved Solids). This level of groundwater salinity is considered to be high. Given the condition of the vegetation within the application area and that the proposed clearing is for 5 hectares within the 106 hectare Sukey Hill Reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly contribute to deterioration in the quality of groundwater in the local aquifer.

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

Methodology

GIS Databases:

Hydrography, linear

Hydrography, hierachy

Geomorphic Wetlands

Groundwater salinity

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

Comments

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The soil within the application area is dominated by sand which is highly permeable. Given this and that the

clearing proposed is approximately 4.7 per cent of the Sukey Hill Reserve, the proposed clearing is not likely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Annual Rainfall, Statewide
Soils, Statewide

Planning instruments and other relevant matters.

Comments The application is to clear 5 hectares of native vegetation within Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 406656, Cranbrook, for the purpose of constructing a regional motorcross facility.

Sukey Hill reserve, of which the application area is a part, is a Local Authority Reserve managed by the Shire of Cranbrook primarily for the purpose of Conservation and Natural environments and secondarily for other minimum intervention uses.

The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 30 January 2017 by the Department of Environment Regulation inviting submissions from the public within a 21 day period. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

Methodology References:
Annual Rainfall, Statewide
Soils, Statewide

4. References

- Bradshaw (2015) Flora survey - Portion of Sukey Hill Reserve 9520 - Sukey Hill Road Cranbrook WA - Proposed Motocross Site, report prepared for Shire of Cranbrook by Wendy Bradshaw, January 2015 DER ref A1344216.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Parks and Wildlife. URL: <http://naturemap.dpaw.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed December 2016.
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (2017) Advice provided to the Department of Environment Regulation regarding clearing permit application CPS 7411/1 (DER ref A1379677).
- Government of Western Australia (2015). 2015 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of June 2015. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, 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.
- 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.
- Shire of Cranbrook (2016) CPS 7411/1 Clearing Permit application form and supporting documentation, January 2016 DER ref A1344216.