



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 743/1  
Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: West Australian Rifle Association Inc.

### 1.3. Property details

Property: PLANTAGENET LOCATION 2840 (MOUNT BARKER 6324)  
Local Government Area: Shire Of Plantagenet  
Colloquial name: Mount Barker-Porongurup Road - Plantagenet Location 2840

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.9		Mechanical Removal	Recreation

## 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 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri (Hopkins et al., 2001; Shepherd et al., 2001).	The area comprises of mainly scattered jarrah-marri trees with Dryandra sp and Hakea sp. There is sparse understorey present in some of the areas between paths and rubbish.	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994).	The area under application has been disturbed in the past and has regrown. The site has been left in a degraded condition with weed infestations amongst dumped rubbish. The vegetation along either side of the proposed area to be cleared is in better condition and will be retained.

## 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 area to be cleared is small, well-represented and has been affected by historic clearing. A site visit indicated that the vegetation displayed a low-medium level of biodiversity when compared with the local area and region.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198

### (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**  
A few large trees in the area proposed to be cleared may provide habitat for fauna. However, given the small area concerned (0.9ha) and the reasonable extent of vegetation surrounding the area as well as the degraded nature of the site (DoE site inspection) it is unlikely that the clearing will significantly impact on fauna in the local area.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198

### (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**  
There are no records of Declared Rare or priority Flora in the area under application. The nearest recorded Declared Rare Flora is 3.5km to the west of the area proposed to be cleared (*Caladenia christineae*). This species is known to exist in the margins of winter-wet flats, swamps, & freshwater lakes (FloraBase), conditions that are not present at this site (DoE site inspection). Although a flora survey has not been undertaken for this area, the degraded weedy nature of this site combined with the lack of the species habitat conditions it is considered unlikely that this proposal is at variance with this Clearing Principle.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198  
CALM FloraBase (2005)  
GIS Database:  
-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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The closest recorded Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) to the site is 18km to the east (Knights-East). The area under application is not likely to be a TEC.

**Methodology** GIS Databases:  
-Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/07/05  
-DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198

**(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**  
There has been a moderate level of clearing carried out in the Bioregion (58.7% remaining), which is considered to be of least concern for biodiversity conservation, while in the local government area only 47.8% remains which is considered depleted for biodiversity conservation (AGPS, 2001 and Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002). Beard vegetation association 3 is well-represented with 72.1% remaining (Hopkins et al., 2001; Shepherd et al., 2001), which is considered to be of least concern for biodiversity conservation (AGPS, 2001 and Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002). Only 10.1% of Beard vegetation type 3 is protected in secure tenure. The benchmark of 15% representation in conservation reserves (JANIS, 1997) has not been met for this vegetation complex. However, given the large area of this association remaining (2.1 million hectares) this is not considered to be a significant issue.

**Methodology** Shepherd et al. (2001), Hopkins et al. (2001), Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002), JANIS (1997), AGPS (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 proposal is not at variance with this Principle as the vegetation is not closely associated with any wetlands or watercourses. The nearest watercourse is a minor drain, which runs through the rifle range reserve approximately 580m south of the area under application.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
-Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04  
-DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198

**(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 area is not prone to erosion by wind or water and there is unlikely to be any change in acidity. Salinity risk in the area is moderate, with the Land Monitor data set showing that low-lying areas in the locality are at risk of becoming saline. The applicant has noted that the drainage line going through the property is slightly saline and has offered to replant an area on the reserve to offset the removal of the native vegetation. This will ensure that the hydrological function of the vegetation being removed is replaced, which will reduce the risk of salinisation in watercourses downstream.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198  
GIS Database:  
-Salinity Risk Land Monitor 25m - DOLA 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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The nearest conservation area is on the southern boundary of the property. There are three un-named Nature Reserves (Reserve numbers 3739, 3772 and 7838) which have a purpose of 'preservation and conservation of flora and fauna'. The proposal for the clearing is on the northern boundary of the rifle range and is not associated with the Nature Reserves and is unlikely to reduce connectivity in any significant way.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
-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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**  
The area under application is not associated with a proclaimed, gazetted or declared catchment or water source. Removal of the native vegetation is unlikely to contribute to sedimentation, erosion, turbidity or eutrophication due to the small area involved and the fact that vegetation will be retained around the area proposed to be cleared.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198  
GIS database:  
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 09/08/05  
- Hydrographic catchments- subcatchments- 23/03/2005

**(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 site is not prone to flooding as it is relatively high in the landscape and only a small area is proposed to be cleared.

**Methodology** DoE site inspection TRIM ref AD198

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

**Comments**  
It is the Department's view that the granting of Lease 89/1990 of Reserve 16447 to the Department of Defence had the effect of extinguishing native title rights and interests over the area of the Lease. Alternatively, the grant of a clearing permit is merely a secondary approval that removes the EP Act's prohibition on the applicant exercising a right to clear native vegetation that arises under its periodical sublease from the Department of Defence. The proposal is not at variance with any other known planning instrument or decision.

**Methodology**

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Recreation	Mechanical Removal	0.9	Grant	It is recommended that the application to clear 0.9ha of native vegetation for the purpose of recreation be granted as the proposal is not at variance with Clearing Principles (e), (f), and (j); not likely to be at variance with Clearing Principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (g), (h), (i) . To minimise the risk of salinisation and to assist in the maintenance of biodiversity values, the applicant has offered to replant an area of 3.5ha to native species. It is recommended that this be made a condition of the permit .

**5. References**

AGPS (2001) The national objective and targets for biodiversity conservation 2001-2005. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.

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.

FloraBase (2005) Descriptions by the Western Australian Herbarium, CALM. Text used with permission (<http://florabase.calm.wa.gov.au/help/copyright>). Accessed on Wednesday, 21 December 2005.

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.

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.

## 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)