



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 760/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Brian Maurice Poultney

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 15 ON DIAGRAM 77894
LOT 16 ON DIAGRAM 77894
Local Government Area: Shire Of Corrigin
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

| Clearing Area (ha) | No. Trees | Method of Clearing | For the purpose of: |
|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | | Mechanical Removal | Cropping |

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 949: Low woodland; banksia 1023: Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (Eucalyptus salmonophloia) (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001). | The area under application comprises approximately 1ha of parkland cleared native vegetation in patches scattered throughout the 1000ha property that has been substantially cleared. The vegetation is made up primarily of isolated trees or small clusters of trees consisting of Banksia, York gum, Wandoo and Salmon gums scattered throughout the property. | Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994) | Vegetation description of the area to be cleared was taken from aerial photographs (GIS Databases: Corrigin North 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01) |

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 under application consists of isolated individual and small clumps of trees that have been parkland cleared and scattered throughout a property of 1000ha that has been substantially cleared. Given this description it is unlikely that the areas under application have maintained a high level of biodiversity. Further, the area proposed to be cleared represents collectively less than one hectare, made up of more than a dozen individual small sites. Therefore, the clearing as proposed is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS database:
Corrigin North 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01

(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**
The property subject of this application has been substantially cleared for agricultural purposes. Various parcels of native vegetation (30ha, 5.2ha, 3.2ha and 2ha) remain and are located within 500 metres to the areas under application. These parcels of native vegetation in addition to the area under application have been subject to long term grazing. Collectively this has led to a severe reduction in habitat for indigenous fauna. Clearing as proposed, therefore, is not significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Methodology GIS databases:
Corrigin North 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01
Clearing Instruments

(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

No declared rare flora (DRF) have been identified or mapped in any of the areas under application or within the wider area that constitutes the applicants parcel of land. *Grevillia scapigera*, a (DRF) has been identified 2.5km from the southern most stand of native vegetation proposed to be cleared. However, it is associated within a different vegetation complex than that identified on the property subject of this application. Therefore the clearing as proposed is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03.
Clearing Regulations Environmentally Sensitive Areas DOE 8/03/05

(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

No Threatened Ecological Communities exist within the area under application or the wider area that constitutes the applicants parcel of land. Therefore the proposal is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
Threatened Ecological Communities CALM 15/7/03

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which outlines a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-European settlement (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002, EPA 2000). There are two Beard vegetation associations represented within the areas under application: both below this 30% minimum (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001). Beard vegetation associations 949 which has 148.241ha (8.1%) remaining and 1023 has 99188.256 (9.1%) remaining. (Shepherd et al 2001, Hopkins et al 2001). The property subject of this application has been extensively cleared for agricultural purposes. The areas under application are located within this area, are parkland cleared and are not representative of the vegetation associations mapped for the area. The proposed clearing, therefore, is unlikely to be at variance with this principle.

Methodology Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
Shepherd et al (2001)
Hopkins et al (2001)

GIS databases:
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 likely to be at variance to this Principle

There are no wetlands or water courses located in any of the areas under application. The proposed clearing therefore is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
EPP, Lakes - DEP 28/07/03.
Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04
Clearing Regulations Environmentally Sensitive Areas DOE 8/03/05

(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 under application is comprised of several free standing trees or small clusters of native vegetation that collectively make up 1ha of native vegetation. The soil is described as broad flat valleys with small clay pans and salt-lake remnants in some localities: chief soils are hard alkaline yellow soils underlain by acid lateritic clays below depths of from 2 to 4 ft. The vegetation under assessment is scattered throughout an area of approximately 1000ha, which has been substantially cleared. Given these circumstances, it is unlikely that the small amount of clearing as proposed will cause any appreciable land degradation.

Methodology GIS database:
Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

(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**
There are no conservation areas that lie within the area under proposal or within the land parcel that constitutes the property. The nearest conservation area is a Nature Reserve located approximately 3 km from the most southern area applied to be cleared. Given this distance and the small area applied to be cleared it is unlikely that the clearing as proposed is at variance with this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/08/04
Bushforever MSP 07/01
Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03

(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 does not interact with any surface or groundwater sources. The salinity of the groundwater is recorded at >35,000mg/L. Given that the proposed clearing is only 1ha, over an area of 1000ha, it is unlikely that it will have any impact on the surrounding groundwater. Therefore the clearing as proposed is unlikely to cause any deterioration to any groundwater or surface water sources.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Hydrology, linear DOE 01/02/04
Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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 area under application consists of 1ha of small clusters or single trees spread out over 1000ha that constitutes the applicants parcel of land. The surrounding area is drained by small non perennial creeklines that are able to disperse any significant flooding event. Given the small, scattered effect that the clearing may cause, it is unlikely that the clearing as proposed will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Methodology GIS Databases:
Hydrography, linear - DOE 01/02/04

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

Comments
There is a native title claim by the Ballardong people but the proposed clearing is on freehold land, therefore the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the Native Title Act.

There is no other RIWI Act Licence, Works Approval or EP Act Licence that will need to be considered in relation to this clearing

Methodology GIS database: Native Title Claims- DLI 19/12/04

4. Assessor's recommendations

| Purpose | Method | Applied area (ha)/ trees | Decision | Comment / recommendation |
|----------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Cropping | Mechanical Removal | 1 | Grant | The application has been assessed, it has been determined that the proposal is unlikely to be at variance with any of the clearing principles. The assessing officer recommends that permission be granted to clear the land as requested in the application. |

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.
- EPA (2000) Environmental protection of native vegetation in Western Australia. Clearing of native vegetation, with particular reference to the agricultural area. Position Statement No. 2. December 2000. Environmental Protection Authority.

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.

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) |