



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 80/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Mr Mathew Malloch, Edaggee Pastoral Company**
Postal address: Carnarvon WA 6701
Contacts: Phone: 99425951

1.3. Property details

Property: Gascoyne Location 406 (Wooramel 6701)
Lot 37 on Plan 138664 (Lot No. 37 Boor Wooramel 6701)

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
15		Mechanical Removal	Grazing & Pasture

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 344: Mosaic: Shrublands; bowgada scrub and associated spp. / Shrublands; Acacia sclerosperma, bowgada & A. victoriae scrub.	The area under notice is on the Yalbalgo Plain between the Wooramel and Gascoyne Rivers. It is a flat plain covered with sandy ridges and is dominated by open Acacia shrubland. Drainage is disorganised and the soil on the flats is heavy with poor infiltration and drainage.	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	The majority of the area (16.8ha) to be cleared is unaltered except for the effects of grazing. This has resulted in the selected removal of understorey species and grasses and damage to the lower sections of the larger shrubs. There were only a few annuals present as the area was dry; after rains a range of ephemeral species would be present.
Beard 346: Mosaic: Shrublands; Acacia sclerosperma, A. victoriae & snakewood scrub / Shrublands; patches of low mixed scrub	The vegetation under application is open Acacia shrubland dominated by Acacia sclerosperma with A. xiphophylla, Hakea preissii, Eremophila pterocarpa interspersed (Beard 1976). The understorey is sparse and consists of Stylobasium spathulatum, Ptilotus obovatus and numerous grasses and annuals.		The proposal includes clearing of 2.6ha of regrowth that was mechanically cleared ~10 years ago.

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 at variance to this Principle**

No information was provided to enable an assessment against this principle (CALM 2004).

Methodology

(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 at variance to this Principle**

Minimal impact based on limited data available (CALM 2004).

Methodology Desktop survey done with CALM Threatened and Priority Fauna Database.

[The comprehensiveness of the database is dependant on the amount of survey carried out in the area and does not necessarily represent a comprehensive listing (CALM 2004)].

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

Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle

There appears to be a low probability of the proposed clearing to be in variance with Principle (c) (CALM 2004).

Methodology CALM Threatened Flora Data Management System
[The comprehensiveness of the database is dependant on the amount of survey carried out in the area and does not necessarily represent a comprehensive listing. The determination of the presence of rare or priority flora can only be made through appropriate flora survey].
CALM Herbarium Specimen Collection Database.
GIS datasets.

(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 at variance to this Principle

There appears to be a low probability of proposed clearing to be in variance with this Principle (CALM 2004).

Methodology CALM Threatened Ecological Community 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 not at variance to this Principle

Bioregion is predominantly uncleared, though degraded through the effects of overgrazing. 100% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation remains, of which 0% is in conservation reserves (Shepherd et al. 2001).

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %*	Conservation status**	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion - Carnarvon Shire - Carnarvon	8,523,963	8,523,963	~100	Least concern	
Beard veg type - 344	224,161	224,161	~100	Least concern	0.0
Beard veg type - 346	61,551	61,551	~100	Least concern	0.7

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)

Methodology Shepherd et al. (2001) [Reference is not up to date and it is probable that the vegetation type is represented on a nearby station recently purchased by CALM].

(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

No watercourses or wetlands present with the exception of artificial ponds from artesian well discharge.

Methodology GIS databases.

(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 soil has a slight to moderate susceptibility to erosion and potentially poor infiltration rates in some areas. The latter have the potential for the accumulation of salts in the soil which may impact on the proposed development (Department of Agriculture 2004).

Methodology Department of Agriculture (2004).

(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 at variance to this Principle

No conservation areas have been identified near the proposal.

No information available to enable an assessment against this Principle (CALM 2004). Representation information is not available.

Methodology GIS databases.

(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

Proposed clearing is not expected to impact on groundwater tables. Area is not in a water catchment area.

Methodology GIS databases.

(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

Flooding impacts unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Grazing & Pasture	Mechanical Removal	15	Grant	<p>The assessable criteria have been addressed and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted.</p> <p>The Department of Agriculture Land Degradation Assessment Report raises significant questions about the viability of the proposed usage and the suitability of the site, nevertheless the Office of the Commissioner of the Soil and Land Conservation concludes that no appreciable land degradation will occur.</p> <p>The applicant will be required to obtain a diversification permit (DPI), amend his Groundwater Licence (DoE), liaise with the Dept of Indigenous Affairs, and possibly address native title interests.</p>

5. References

Beard, J.S. (1976). *Murchison. Explanatory Notes to Sheet 6. 1:1 000 000 Vegetation Series. Vegetation Survey of Western Australia.* University of WA Press.

Department of Conservation and Land Management (2004) Application for Clearing Permit CPS 80/1 (Previously Notice of Intention to Clear Land Registered No 150/03) Gascoyne Location 37, Edaggee Pastoral Station. Unpublished Report. Department of Environment Reference: TRIM HD17945.

Department of Agriculture (2004) Application for Clearing Permit CPS 80/1 (Previously Notice of Intention to Clear Land Registered No 150/03) Gascoyne Location 371 Lot 37 on Deposited Plan 138664, Gascoyne Location 406, Edaggee Pastoral Lease (3114/460). Unpublished Report. Department of Environment Reference: TRIM HD 17984.

Department of Agriculture (2004) Edaggee Station NOI 150/03. Unpublished Report. Department of Environment Reference: TRIM CN979.

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.

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.