

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**

All road reserves sited whilst undertaking the site visit were considered to be in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition due to the intensive use of surrounding land for cropping, pasture and livestock. The vegetation within road reserves consisted of scattered trees and shrubs with high disturbance of pasture and weed species.

A survey of roadside conservation value undertaken by the Roadside Conservation Committee indicates that the areas under application have a medium low to medium high conservation value (Roadside Conservation Committee, Nov 2002)

The trees under application are therefore not considered to represent high biological diversity within the Shire.

Methodology Site Visit (2005)
Katanning 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01
Kojonup 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 01
Keighery 1994
Road Side Conservation Committee, November 2002. A Survey of Roadside Conservation Values in The Shire of Broomehill and Roadside Management Guidelines.

(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 application consists of a maximum of 30 large trees and 20 Acacia tree species commonly known as "jam trees", within two road reserves. The Shire has advised that in the event that the removal of a potential habitat tree can not be avoided, the local Conservation and Land Management (CALM) office will be contacted for advice.

Therefore clearing of the trees under application is not likely to have a significant impact on fauna populations in the local area.

Methodology Site Visit (Dec 2005)

(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**

The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of Mature Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and Flat top Yate (*Eucalyptus occidentalis*). Disturbance to understorey and middlestorey species present will be minimal due to the condition of the vegetation.

The closest DRF site to the proposed clearing is approximately 14km north of the most eastern point of Broomehill - Kojonup Road within the shire. This site has no vegetation linkage with the proposed clearing area.

It is therefore unlikely the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the existence of DRF in the local area.

Methodology GIS databases:
- 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**

There are no known Threatened Plant Communities (TPC) or Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the Shire of Broomehill it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant affect on ecological communities within the landscape.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95.

(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

The proposed clearing is located in the Jarrah Forest and Avon Bioregion in the Shire of West Arthur. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 58.3%, 10.3% and 29.8% respectively.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is a component of: Beard Vegetation Association 4 of which there is 23.5% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'Vulnerable' status of biodiversity conservation ; Beard Vegetation Association 967 of which there is 22.3% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'Vulnerable' status of biodiversity conservation and Beard Vegetation Association 1085 of which there is 7.2% of the pre-European extent remaining and therefore of a 'Endangered' status of biodiversity conservation.

Clearing of the proposed 30 mature trees and 20 Acacia species will not impact on the extent of Native Vegetation Complexes represented within the local area.

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

GIS databases:

- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- Local Government Authorities - DLI 8/07/04
- 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

The stretch of road reserve where large trees are proposed to be cleared has five water courses in association with it. They are Gordon River, Waerup Brook, Eltakup Gully and two points cross Wadjekanup Brook. The proposed clearing is for select mature trees within the road reserve it is therefore not likely to have any impact on the watercourses present in the road reserve. There are no known wetlands or lakes in association with the proposed clearing.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04
- Hydrography Linear (hierarchy) - DoE 13/4/05

(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

Clearing mature trees within road reserve will not alter the soil structure of the area and is unlikely to cause land degradation issues such as nutrient loading or water logging.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Salinity Mapping LM 25m - DOLA 00
- Salinity Monitoring LM 50m - DOLA 00
- Salinity Risk LM 25m - DOLA 00.
- Groundwater Salinity, Statewide - 22/02/00

(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

There are six CALM managed land reserves within the Shire of Broomehill the closest is an unnamed conservation reserve approximately 2.5 km north of the proposed area to be cleared. There are no vegetated links to any of the six sites and it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on conservation areas within the Shire.

Methodology GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04

(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 Shire of Broomehill is within four hydrographic catchments of them two are associated with the proposed

clearing area being Nornalup Inlet - Frankland River and Hardy Estuary - Blackwood River. Groundwater salinity within the proposed area is between 14000 to 35000 mg/L. Due to the small scale of clearing proposed it is unlikely to impact on groundwater quality.

Methodology GIS databases:
 - CAWSA Part2A clearing control catchment - DoE 17/11/05
 - Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03

(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**
 Due to the scale and nature of the proposed clearing it is unlikely to exacerbate flooding in the local area.

Methodology GIS databases:
 - Topographic Contours, Statewide - DOLA 12/09/02

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

Comments
 No submission from the public have been received.
 Advice was sent to the Broomehill LCDC in regards to this proposal as yet no response has been received.
 Native Title - All roads including those subject to this application are listed on the State of Construction maps as issued by Main Roads Western Australia as roads being under the total care, control and management of the Shire of Broomehill. Therefore, as all areas proposed to be cleared are vested in the Shire, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the Native Title Act.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	0.5	Grant	North Greenhill Road The proposed clearing is not at variance to any of the ten principles, it is therefore recommended that clearing of 0.5ha for the purpose of road widening is granted
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal			Broomehill Kojonup Road

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.

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, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Road Side Conservation Committee, November 2002. A Survey of Roadside Conservation Values in The Shire of Broomehill and Roadside Management Guidelines.

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)