



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 875/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Paul Lance

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 10 ON PLAN 6389 (House No. 2151 OLD COAST BOUVARD 6210)
Local Government Area: City Of Mandurah
Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1	6	Mechanical Removal	Hazard reduction or fire control

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 - 6: Medium woodland; tuart & jarrah.	The proposal includes the pruning of limbs and the removal of one expired <i>E. gomphocephala</i> which overhangs structures and camping areas of the existing caravan park within Lot 10 Old Coast Road, Bouvard.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	Vegetation description obtained from site inspection on 8 November 2005.
Heddle vegetation complex: - Karrakatta Complex - Central and South: Predominantly open forest of <i>E. gomphocephala</i> - <i>E. marginata</i> - <i>E. calophylla</i> and woodland of <i>E. marginata</i> - Banksia species.	Vegetation species from which limbs are to be removed have been identified as <i>E. gomphocephala</i> , <i>E. calophylla</i> and <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> .		

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**
Vegetation within Lot 10 Old Coast Road has been extensively altered through past management practises. Vegetation under application is limited to *E. gomphocephala*, *E. calophylla* and *Agonis flexuosa*, with an understorey consisting of introduced grasses. Based on the completely degraded condition of the vegetation, and the limited impacted associated with the selected pruning of limbs, it is not considered that the approval of this application would result in an impact on biological diversity in the area.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)

(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 vegetation under application consists of *E. gomphocephala*, *E. calophylla* and *Agonis flexuosa* located within a completely degraded, developed area. The proposed selective pruning of these large trees is intended to remove dangerous dead limbs from vegetation within the public areas of the caravan park. No tree hollows were observed on site, with the pruning primarily consisting of younger thin limbs. It is therefore not considered that the clearing of vegetation from within the proposed area will impact on the availability of habitat which is not well represented within surrounding vegetated areas.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)

(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

A search of the Department of Conservation and Land Management's Declared Rare and Priority Flora List identified 18 populations of eight different significant flora species within the local area surrounding the application, defined as a five kilometre radius around the property. These species are *Conostylis pauciflora* subsp. *Pauciflora*, *Lasiopetalum membranaceum*, *Diuris drummondii*, *Astroloma microcalyx*, *Platysace ramosissima*, *Caladenia huegelii*, *Diuris purdiei*, and *Blennospora dolliformis*.

Other than the two known examples of *Conostylis pauciflora* located approximately 200 metres to north-west, all known populations of Declare Rare and Priority Flora are associated with different Heddl vegetation complexes than that under application. Based on the highly modified environment under application and the selectively pruning of *E. gomphocephala*, *E. calophylla* and *Agonis flexuosa*, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)
GIS Databases:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 01/07/2005
- Heddl Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95

(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 Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) database identified one TEC within the local area (defined as a 5 kilometre radius) surrounding Lot 10 Old Coast Road, Bouvard. This TEC is located at an approximate distance of 3.4 kilometres to the south-west of the area under application, and is considered likely to represent the thrombolite community associated with the Lake Clifton system.

Given that the clearing application is for the selective pruning of vegetation from an area that is already developed and is considered completely degraded, there is a low probability of the proposed clearing to be at variance with this Principle.

Methodology GIS Database - Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03
Site inspection (8/11/2005)

(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 vegetation proposed to be cleared is defined as Beard vegetation association 6 (Hopkins et al. 2001) and Heddl vegetation complex 'Karrakatta Complex' (Heddl et al. 1980), both of which have a vegetation representation below 30%.

The State Government is committed to the National Objective Targets for Biodiversity Conservation, which includes targets that prevent the clearing of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002; EPA 2000). Beyond this value, species extinction is believed to occur at an exponential rate and any further clearing map have irreversible consequences for the conservation of biodiversity and is, therefore, not supported.

While these Complexes is under the recommended 30% retention amount, it is not considered that the approval of this application would significantly impact on the representation of the vegetation complex, as the area has been highly modified from its original condition, and considered to be within a completely degraded condition.

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining %	Conservation status***	% in reserves/CALM-managed land
IBRA Bioregion	1,529,235	657,450	41.8%*	Depleted	
City of Mandurah	18,611	8,933	43%*	Depleted	
Beard vegetation association - 6	79,001	18,398	23.3%*	Vulnerable	14.5%*
Heddl vegetation complex - Karrakatta Complex - Central and South	49,912	14,729	29.5%**	Vulnerable	2.5%**

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)

** (EPA, 2003)

*** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002)

Methodology Hopkins et al. (2001)
Heddle et al. (1980)
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002)
EPA (2000)
EPA (2003)
Shepherd et al. (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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Lot 10 Old Coast Road is situated directly adjacent to the Peel Harvey Estuary, a recognised Conservation Category Wetland, ANCA wetland and RAMSAR listed wetland. Vegetation within Lot 10 consists primarily of *E. gomphocephala* and *Agonis flexuosa*, with understorey species limited to areas directly abutting the estuaries edge. As this application relates to pruning of dead limbs and the removal of one expired tree from areas within the existing caravan park, it is not considered likely that approval of this application will impact on the Peel Harvey Estuary.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)
GIS Databases:
- Geomorphic Wetlands - Swan Coastal Plain - DOE 15/09/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 14/02/03

(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 vegetation proposed for clearing under this application consists of one dead tree, and the selective pruning of overhanging branches. Given the small area under application and the limited impact through the select removal of limbs, this proposal is considered unlikely to result in appreciable land degradation.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)

(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 area under application is in within 100 metres to the Peel Harvey Estuary that is a RAMSAR wetland and less than 200m from the Yalgorup National Park. Although the area under application is in close proximity to these two conservation areas the limited extent of pruning and clearing proposed of this completely degraded vegetation, it is considered unlikely that impacts to the environmental values of these areas is likely to occur.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)
GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/08/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 14/02/03

(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 vegetation to be removed under application consists of one dead tree, and pruning of overhanging branches from within Lot 10 Old Coast Road. Although the area under application is located relatively close to the Peel Harvey Estuary and thus the groundwater table, it is considered that the limited impact of the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause a deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)

(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 likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area under application is located within 100 metres of the Peel Harvey estuary. The vegetation to be removed consists of one dead tree while the living vegetation would only be pruned of dangerous branches. Given the small area under application and the limited impact on selected vegetation, this proposal is considered unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.

Methodology Site inspection (8/11/2005)

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

Comments

No other approvals from the Department of Environmental are required for this proposal.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Hazard reduction or fire control	Mechanical Removal	1 6	Grant	The assessable criteria have been addressed, and no objections were raised. The assessing officer therefore recommends that the permit be granted.

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.
- EPA (2003) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors -level of assessment of proposals affecting natural areas within the System 6 region and Swan Coastal Plain portion of the System 1 Region. Report by the EPA under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. No 10 WA.
- Hedde, E. M., Loneragan, O. W., and Havel, J. J. (1980) Vegetation Complexes of the Darling System, Western Australia. In Department of Conservation and Environment, Atlas of Natural Resources, Darling System, Western Australia.
- 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.
- 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)