



1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 885/1
Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: MR Ross Woodhouse

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 4158 ON PLAN 207771 (Lot No. 4158 GOVERNOR BROOME SCOTT RIVER EAST 6275)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Nannup
Colloquial name: Sussex Loc. 4158

1.4. Application

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

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 Associations 23 & 27: Low woodland; paperbark (<i>Melaleuca</i> sp.); Low woodland; jarrah-banksia (Hopkins et al., 2001; Shepherd et al., 2001)	The proposal involves removing 10 jarrah trees for fence posts on the property.	Degraded: Structure severely disturbed; regeneration to good condition requires intensive management (Keighery 1994)	The description of the clearing application area is based on a site visit conducted by DEC officers on 8 February 2006.
Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Scott (Sd) - Low open forest and low woodland of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> - <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> - <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> with some <i>Eucalyptus patens</i> and <i>Banksia</i> spp. on low dunes to low woodland of <i>Melaleuca preissiana</i> - <i>Banksia littoralis</i> on inter-dune depressions in hyperhumid and perhumid zones (Mattiske Consulting, 1998).	The vegetation under application is Degraded (Keighery, 1994), comprising <i>Agonis flexuosa</i> (peppermint) with scattered <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (jarrah). The understorey lacks native species and is dominated by <i>Solanum nigrum</i> (blackberry nightshade) and annual pasture grasses (DEC Site Visit, 2006).		

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 proposal is for the removal of 10 individual jarrah trees for fence posts.

The application area is located within the Scott Coastal Plain and within a buffer (ESA) protecting a regionally significant vegetation community, the Scott Coastal Plain Ironstones. A defined wetland (Augusta-to-Walpole) traverses the application area. Several large DEC-managed national parks, nature reserves and state forests are located within a 10km radius of the area.

The property has been subject to intensive farming activities, including seven large centre-pivot operations. The area under application comprises a small and isolated patch of remnant peppermint and jarrah in Degraded

condition (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2006); it is considered unlikely the vegetation under application represents a higher biological diversity than other, larger areas of remnant vegetation within the local area.

Therefore, it is unlikely the proposal is at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);
DEC Site Visit (2007);
GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/04/05;
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DOE 30/05/05;
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole - DoE 18/6/03;
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/07/05

(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**
Given the large amount of intact DEC-managed remnants (i.e. national parks, nature reserves and state forests) within a 10 km radius that would be providing a more preferable habitat, the 10 native trees under application are not likely to be providing significant habitat value for local fauna.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS Databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Augusta 1.4m ORTHOMOSAIC - DOLA00

(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**
Over forty occurrences of Declared Rare Flora (DRF) have been recorded within the local area (10km radius).

Most of these records are associated with the Scott River ironstone bands; given the Degraded condition and isolated nature of the area under application, threatened flora are not likely to occur or be impacted by the removal of the 10 individual trees under application (Pers. comm., 2007).

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Pers. comm. (2007);
GIS databases:
- Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03
- Augusta 1.4m Orthomosaic - DOLA 00

(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 over forty known occurrences of the Endangered Scott River Ironstone Association (Threatened Ecological Community) within the local area (10km radius), with the proposed clearing occurring within an ESA buffer protecting these values.

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is located within the same vegetation complex and soil type as the Scott River Ironstone community; however given the isolated and Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation, the removal of 10 individual jarrah trees is unlikely to be considered necessary for the maintenance of any TEC.

Therefore, the proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Keighery (1994);
GIS databases:
- Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 15/7/03;
- Threatened Plant Communities - DEP 06/95;
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas - DOE 30/05/05;
- Augusta 1.4m ORTHOMOSAIC - DOLA 00

(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

Mattiske (1998) defines the original vegetation as the Scott (Sd) complex. This complex has a representation of 52.5% pre-1750 extent remaining, and is described as a low open forest and low woodland of jarrah-marri-peppermint with some tuart and banksia on low dunes.

Given the proposal is for the removal of 10 jarrah trees within an isolated and Degraded (Keighery 1994) remnant, the proposed clearing is considered to be not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Mattiske (1998);
Keighery (1994);
GIS databases:
- Mattiske Vegetation - CALM 24/3/98
- 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

A minor perennial watercourse flows through part of the area proposed to be cleared and a defined wetland (Augusta-to-Walpole) traverses the area under application. Both are considered to be in Degraded condition (Keighery, 1994; DEC Site Visit, 2006).

It is unlikely the removal of 10 individual trees will significantly impact on local watercourses and wetlands.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DEC Site Visit (2006);
Keighery (1994);
GIS databases:
- ANCA, Wetlands - CALM 08/01
- EPP Areas - DEP 06/95
- EPP Lakes - DEP 28/07/03
- Geomorphic Wetlands, Augusta to Walpole - DoE 18/6/03
- Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04
- RAMSAR, Wetlands - CALM 21/10/02

(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 proposed to be cleared has a ground water salinity level of <500 mg/L, a high salinity risk and no known risk of Acid Sulphate Soils.

The Soil and Land Commissioner (DAFWA, 2007) advises an ATR protecting the area under application has been appended to allow removal of the trees.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology DAFWA (2007);
GIS databases:
- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04;
- 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

Several conservation areas are located within a 10km radius of the proposed clearing, including several DEC-managed lands: the Scott National Park*, the Gingailup Swamps, Pagett and Chester Nature Reserves, and the South Blackwood State Forest.

*The Scott National Park is also registered on the Register of National Estate as the Donnybrook Sunklands

Area.

Given the proposal is on private land and for the removal of 10 individual jarrah trees; it is considered unlikely to impact on any of the known values of the surrounding conservation reserves.

Therefore, the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04;
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03;
- System 1-5 and 7-12 Areas - DEP 06/95;
- Augusta 1.4m ORTHOMOSAIC - DOLA 00

(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 proposed to be cleared is located within the southern part of the Hardy Estuary - Blackwood River Hydrographic Catchment Area and the Blackwood RIWI ground water area.

The removal of 10 individual trees is unlikely to impact on the quality of surface or ground water; therefore the proposal is unlikely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Hydrographic Catchments, Catchments - DoE 3/4/03
- RIWI Act Groundwater Areas WRC 13/06/00

(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**
Due to the scale of the proposed clearing, flooding impacts are unlikely to occur.

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

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

Comments
The area under application is protected by an Agreement to Reserve (ATR). The Soil and Land Commissioner (DAFWA, 2007) advises that the ATR has been appended to allow the removal of 10 individual trees, providing the remaining areas are maintained.

The area proposed to be cleared is zoned Rural under the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River TPS No.1.

There are two Ground Water Licences (GWL) on the property held by the proponent. No ground water is required in relation to the proposed clearing.

Methodology No submissions have been received for this proposal.
DAFWA (2007);
GIS databases:
- Town Planning Scheme Zones - MFP 8/98
- WRL, Properties, Ground Water Licences - WRC (Current)

4. Assessor's comments

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Comment
Miscellaneous	Mechanical Removal	10	Assessable criteria have been addressed and the assessment of the vegetation under application revealed the proposal is not likely to be at variance to Principles (a), (b), (d), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j); and not at variance to Principles (c) and (d).

5. References

DAFWA (2007). Department of Agriculture and Food, Advice from Soil and Land Commissioner: ATR, CPS885/1. TRIM Ref: DOC26661.
DEC Site Visit (2006). Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia. TRIM Ref: SWO29056
Havel, J.J. and Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2002) Review of management options for poorly represented vegetation

- complexes, Conservation Commission.
- 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.
- Mattiske Consulting (1998) Mapping of vegetation complexes in the South West forest region of Western Australia, CALM.
- Pers. comm. (2007). DEC Regional Botanist, South West Region, Department of Environment and Conservation, 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
BCS	Biodiversity Coordination Section of DEC
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now BCS)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DEC)
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 DEC)