Department of Environment and Conservation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 3017/1

Permit type: Area Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Todd William East

1.3. Property details

Property: LOT 12032 ON PLAN 205765 (Lot No. 12032 PERUP DINGUP 6258)

Local Government Area: Shire Of Manjimup

Colloquial name:

1.4. Application

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

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: 3 - Medium forest; jarrah-marri. Mattiske Vegetation Complex: Pemberton - Open forest of Corymbia calophylla-Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata on slopes and open forest of Eucalyptus patens-Corymbia calophylla on lower slopes in the humid zone.	The application is to clear 14 native trees within a cleared paddock.	Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery 1994)	The vegetation condition was determined from DEC Site Visit (2009).

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

The application is for the clearing of 14 paddock trees for the establishment of an orchard. The vegetation is in completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition with no native groundcover (DEC 2009).

Whilst 8 rare and 3 priority fauna species have been recorded within the local area, the large areas of continuous vegetation in the local area, and the completely degraded (Keighery 1994) condition of the vegetation under application reduce the significance of the vegetation as fauna habitat.

One rare and 1 priority flora species have been mapped within the local area, however as the proposed clearing is for 14 trees within a cleared paddock, the area is not likely to support these species.

The Beard Vegetation Association and Mattiske Vegetation Complex of which the applied vegetation is part of are both well represented within the Jarrah Forest bioregion. The Shire of Manjimup still retains 85% of its pre-European extent of native vegetation.

As the clearing is for 14 trees within a cleared paddock, and given the local area is well vegetated, water and land degradation is unlikely to occur. Additionally, the clearing is not proposed to occur within the buffer of any watercourses.

The application area is surrounded nearby Tone State Forest and a miscellaneous reserve (122m east), but the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate weed and dieback invasion into this conservation areas or

interfere with ecological linkages as it is limited to paddock trees.

The area proposed to be cleared is within Zone B of the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (CAWS Act), and as such, 10% of native vegetation must be retained on the original land holdings.

The Department of Water (DoW) administer this legislation and have advised that the clearing which will result in less than 10% of the native vegetation remaining on the property. Clearing to less than 10% can only be cleared in exceptional circumstances in Zone B of the CAWS Act. The DoW has advised that that they would consider the proposal as acceptable only with the establishment of a planting offset of twice the clearing area of any degraded stands (DoW 2009).

The Department of Water have indicated that the vegetation proposed to be cleared is viable to service a water resources function and concludes that there would be likely effects such as deteriorating water quality. The Warren River catchment area, of which this property is a part, has been under management in an effort to reduce salinity levels. The salinisation of water resources through the clearing of native vegetation is widely known and the clearing of native vegetation in the absence of adequate management plans is likely to increase salinisation in the local area.

The clearing as proposed will have an adverse impact on water quality in the local area and therefore, the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle (i).

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to the remaining principles.

Methodology DEC 2009
DoW 2009
Keighery 1994

GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 01/06/05
- SAC Biodatasets - accessed 11 March 09
- Mattiske Vegetation (01/03/1998)
- Pre European Vegetation - DA 01/01
- Clearing Regulations, Environmentally Sensitive Areas 30 May 2005
- NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation 20 Jan 2001
- Hydrography linear - DOW 13/7/06
- Hydrography linear (hierarchy) - DoW 13/7/06
- Soils, Statewide DA 11/99

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

Comments

The application falls within CAWS zone B of the Warren River catchment, where there is a high salinity risk. There appears to be only approximately 7% native vegetation remaining on the holding, and is therefore below the CAWS Act requirement for retention of at least 10% (DoW 2009).

The proponents have not responded to requests to propose revegetation of twice the area to mitigate these impacts.

Methodology DoW 2009

4. Assessor's comments

Comment

The application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s51O of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and the proposed clearing may be at variance to Principle I, and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing Principles.

5. References

DEC (2009) Site Inspection Report for Clearing Permit Application CPS 3017/1, Lot 12032 on Plan 205765, Dingup. Site inspection undertaken 11/3/2008. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia (TRIM Ref. DOC78715).

Department of Water (2009). Country Area Water Supply Advice. DEC TRIM Ref: DOC79429.

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, E.M. and Havel, J.J. (1998) Vegetation Complexes of the South-west Forest Region of Western Australia. Maps and report prepared as part of the Regional Forest Agreement, Western Australia for the Department of Conservation and Land Management and Environment Australia.

Shepherd, D.P. (2007). Adapted from: Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R., and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001), Native Vegetation in Western Australia. Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture Western Australia, South Perth. Includes

subsequent updates for 2006 from Vegetation Extent dataset ANZWA1050000124.

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)