Department of Environment
Government of Western Australia

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 302/1
Permit type: Purpose Permit

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **Shire of Capel**

1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE (BOYANUP 6237)
ROAD RESERVE (BOYANUP 6237)
Local Government Area: Shire Of Capel
Colloquial name: Boyanup West Road widening

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
	6	Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

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
Medium woodland; jarrah, marri & wandoo	No understory will be cleared only six large mature trees. Species include Eucalyptus Marginata (Jarrah), Corymbia Calophylla (Marri) and a flowering gum species that could not be identified	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Road Side Vegetation with open paddocks on both sides.

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
The clearing under application will not have an adverse affect on the biological diversity of the roadside vegetation.

Methodology EPA (2000).

(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
There was no request for assessment by CALM. The site visit undertaken indicates that the trees were not habbitat trees.

Methodology DoE Site Visit (2005).

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

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle
Drakaea elastica (Declared Rare Flora) occurs approximately 6.1km east of the site. There are 4 other species and 6 other populations in the local area (10km radius).

The trees under application are not Declared Rare or priority listed it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on significant flora.

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 significant ecological community.

Comments

Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

There is one occurs approximately 7km north north west of the site.

The trees under application are not part of the ecological community it is therefore unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on significant ecological communities.

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 application is located in the Swan Coastal Plain Bioregion in the Shire of Capel. The extent of native vegetation in these areas is 41.8% and 35.9% respectively (Shepherd et al. 2001).

reserves/CALM	Pre-European	Current extent	Remaining	Conservation**	% In
	(ha)*	(ha)*	(%)*	status	managed land
IBRA Bioregion					
- Swan Coastal Plain***	1 498 297	626 512	41.8	Depleted	
Shire of Capel	55 869	20 059	35.9	Depleted	
Vegetation type:					
Beard: Unit 968	200 651	78 150	38.9	Depleted	38.9
Heddle Complex:					
Guildford	92 497	4 662	5	Endangered	

* (Shepherd et al. 2001)
** (Department of Natural Resources and Environment 2002)
*** Within the Intensive Landuse Zone

The State Government is committed to the National Objectives Targets for Biodiversity Conservation which includes a target that prevents clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of that present pre-1750 (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002; EPA, 2000).

Methodology

Hopkins et al. (2001); Havel (2002); Shepherd et al. (2001).
GIS databases:
- Heddle Vegetation Complexes - DEP 21/06/95
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia - EM 18/10/00
- 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 at variance to this Principle

Proposed clearing is 2.7km east of the Preston River, 1.87km north north west of an area subject to inundation, 2.6km north north west of a perennial lake, 2.68km north west of an EPP Lake, 2.7km East of a conservation catograry wetland, 2.2km north of a resource enhancement wetland and within a multiple use wetland.

The proposed clearing is not considered to impact on the water courses and wetlands within the local area.

Methodology

GIS databases: Hydrography Linear - DoE 1/2/04

(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

There is a low risk of shallow ASS or PASS less than 3m below ground level and a moderate to high risk of ASS or PASS.no information for Acid Sulphate Soils on the property. Groundwater salinity is mapped at 500 - 1000 mg/L. Salinity is mapped at a low risk area.

It is not likely that the proposed clearing is a variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, SCP - DoE 01/02/04
- 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**
The Boyanup State Forest is approximately 3.9km north and south of the proposed clearing. The proposed clearing is not linked to these areas via vegetation.

The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.

Methodology GIS database:
- CALM Managed Lands and Waters - CALM 1/06/04
- Register of National Estate - EA 28/01/03
- System 6 Conservation Reserves - DEP 06/95.
- Bunbury 1m Orthomosaic - DLI 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 proposed clearing is not within a gazetted public drinking water supply area and is not likely to degrade water quality.

Methodology GIS databases:
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSAs) - DOE 29/11/04

(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 are unlikely to occur as a result of the proposed clearing due to its size.

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

Planning instrument or other matter.

Comments **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**
No planning issues or other issues have been raised.

Methodology

4. Assessor's recommendations

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction o maintenance	Mechanical Removal	6	**Grant**	This application was not at variance to any principal.

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.

Heddle, 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, 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.