

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Ravensthorpe East Geotechnical Investigations		
Region/Directorate:	Great Southern		
Local Government:	Shire of Ravensthorpe		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	South Coast Highway (H008)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 293 – SLK 298		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#365586		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#357996		
EOS Number:	2553		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	May 2025		
Oracle Project No:	21113803	Task Code:	11.03
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#277749	HRA TRIM Number:	D25#358568

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Geotechnical Investigation of South Coast Hwy (H008) SLK 293 – SLK 298 for the Ravensthorpe East Stage 1 road widening and overlay.

The Proposal involves:

- 50 investigation points
- Each investigation point will involve the excavation of 3m³ (2m x 1m x 1.5m) which will be immediately back filled

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

N/A

4. MEASURES TO AVOID, MINIMISE, MITIGATE AND MANAGE PROPOSAL CLEARING IMPACTS

The following alternatives to clearing were considered during the development of the proposal:

- Investigation points have been positioned in specific locations to avoid clearing any trees and upper story vegetation.
- Investigation point 3202 was relocated to avoid priority flora.

5. APPROVED POLICES AND PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.3), Main Roads has also had regard to the following documents.

Environmental Protection Policies:

- Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet - Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2011

Other legislation of relevance for assessment of clearing and planning/other matters:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (WA) (RIWI Act)

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) (AHA)*
- *Town Planning and Development Act (WA) 1928*

Relevant other policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DEC, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, August 2014)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)
- Approved conservation advice under section 266B of the EPBC Act for threatened flora/fauna/vegetation communities
- Approved Recovery Plans for threatened species
- EPBC Act Referral guidelines for the three threatened black cockatoo species
- Strategic advice - EPA

6. CLEARING AREA

Clearing Area (ha):	<0.008ha	No. Trees Cleared:	0
Species Name(s):	N/A		
Easting and Northing:	N/A		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association – 352 Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. Eucalyptus loxophleba, E. salmonophloia. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. E. salubris, E. oleosa. Riverine; rivergum E. camaldulensis.
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	19.61

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	The vegetation proposed to be cleared consists of understory shrubs predominantly within the road reserve. The proposal area has been the subject of biological survey to determine any environmental value which may exist in the area (Craig, 2021). The vegetation within the Proposal Area is in a Degraded condition. Analysis of aerial imagery indicates the Proposal Area is predominantly adjacent to cleared agricultural land to the north and the south. No large trees will be cleared. No Threatened or Priority flora species will be impacted.
Principle (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.	A search of the DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna Database shows no fauna records within the Proposal Area. The closest threatened fauna record to the Proposal Area is approximately 50m south of investigation point 3224 (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> , 2008). A 2021 Fauna Survey (Western Ecological 2021, D22#121780) identified the proposal area to be within potential Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. However, the Proposal involves no clearing of

	large trees or high value foraging species and will therefore have no impact on Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. Due to the small disturbance footprint of the proposal no impacts to significant fauna are anticipated. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	A review of the DBCA TPFL and DBCA WA Herbarium databases identified no Threatened Flora within the proposal area. A 2022 Flora Survey conducted by Gil Craig (D22#590196) did not identify any Threatened Flora within the proposal area. Due to the minimal disturbance involved in the works no impacts to threatened flora are anticipated. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (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.	A search of the DBCA TEC/PEC Boundary database shows no TEC within the Proposal Area. However, the investigation points between SLK 297.8 and 298.3 are directly adjacent to a mapped patch of Proteaceae Dominated Kwongan Shrubland (ID 9150). A desktop review of the DBCA TEC/PEC Boundary database shows that no investigation points intersect with the mapped TEC boundary. Furthermore, a Biological survey conducted by Western Botanical (2022) (D23#5798) reported the DBCA database mapping is inaccurate in the vicinity of the Proposal Area and this TEC does not occur in this location. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (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.	The Environmental screening tool was used to identify the vegetation association of the Proposal Area. The Environmental Screening tool report (D25#367764) identified that the Proposal Area is mapped as occurring within Vegetation Association 352 (Medium woodland; York Gum) mapped for the area (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Vegetation Association 352 has 19.61% of their pre-European extent remaining at the State level, 28.78% at IBRA Region (Esperance Plains) and IBRA subregion (Fitzgerald). The small clearing area of individual geotechnical investigation pits, limited to understory vegetation and not impacting any large trees, is not considered to be significant as a remnant. The vegetation of the project area does not form a significant linkage across the landscape and is therefore not considered to be a significant remnant of Vegetation Association 352. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	A review of the Surface Hydro lines and Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018) databases showed that no watercourses occur within the Proposal Area. The closest watercourse (Cordingup Creek) occurs approximately 130m west of investigation point 3221. Cordingup Creek is a non-perennial minor watercourse. The small scale clearing at investigation point 3221 will not impact any vegetation growing in association with this watercourse. A search of the South Coast Significant Wetlands (DBCA-018), Directory of Important Wetlands in Western Australia (DBCA-

	045), and Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010) showed no wetlands occurring within the Proposal Area. The closest wetland occurs over 26km east of the Proposal Area. No clearing of vegetation associated with wetlands will occur. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The removal of small shrubs from roadside is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, noting the vegetation is already in a Degraded condition. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (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.	There is an ESA adjacent to three investigation pits. The clearing requirements of these pits totals to less than 0.001ha. None of the clearing will occur within the ESA. To prevent the spread of dieback and weeds All vehicles and machinery will adhere to the Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (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.	RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034) database was reviewed and identified that the Proposal Area is located within or immediately adjacent to the Kondinin-Ravensthorpe (UFI 16) Groundwater area. The Proposal Area does not occur within any identified Surface Water Areas (DWER-037). The closest surface water area occurs approximately 2km south of the Proposal Area. No ground or surface water is proposed to be extracted for the proposed works, and no surface drainage features will be impacted during the works. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	The Proposal Area is located on shallow loamy Duplex soils which are consistent with moderate to high flood risk (D25#367764). However, the small area of native vegetation clearing is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The Proposal Area does not occur within a floodplain area (DWER-020)

Methodology Used and References:

Craig, G. *Targeted Priority Flora Survey South Coast Highway (H008) SLK 293 298 Ravensthorpe East Section (Stage 1) Memorandum Report*. Unpublished report prepared for Main Roads Western Australia December 2021

Government of Western Australia (2019) – Statewide Vegetation Statistics - <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Western Botanical (2022) Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment, South Coast Highway, Ravensthorpe, December 2022

Western Ecological 2021, *South Coast Highway SLK 278.4 – 280 SLK 293 – 311 Terrestrial Fauna Survey Final Report* Prepared for Main Roads Western Australia December 2021

Environmental Screening Tool Report: D25#367764

Main Roads Site map: Appendix 1

Photographs: Appendix 1.

Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D25#357996

[Western Australia Change in average annual rainfall 2000 – 2019](#)

GIS Datasets:

- Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites - Buffered (DBCA-063)
- Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - Buffered (DBCA-064)
- Carnabys Cockatoo Confirmed Roost Sites (DBCA-050)
- Clearing Regulations – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- DBCA – Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Restricted WA Herbarium Flora
- DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Fauna
- DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Flora
- DBCA Restricted Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites
- DBCA Restricted White Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations
- DBCA Restricted Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976 – 1991 (DBCA-029)
- FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020)
- Hydrography Linear (DWER-031)
- Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 7 (Regions and Subregions)
- Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)

	- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018) - Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005) - Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006) - Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010) - Threatened Ecological Communities (DBCA-038)
--	--

9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS

Offset Proposal:	No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.
Revegetation and Rehabilitation:	No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH CPS818

The clearing associated with the proposal is not at variance with the Clearing Principles. Additional management actions under CPS 818 are detailed below.

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. Proposal is within a Region that: • has rainfall greater than 400mm; and, • is South of the 26th parallel; and, • works are necessary in 'Other than dry conditions'; and,	Yes	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669) and Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551) will be applied
2. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	No	No further action required.
3. Main Roads has been notified by DWER or an environmental specialist that the area to be cleared is susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback.	No	No further action required.
4. Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	No	No further action required.

Completed By:

Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Graduate Environment Officer
Date	10/04/2025

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	15/04/2025

Appendix 1: Site Map and Photographs

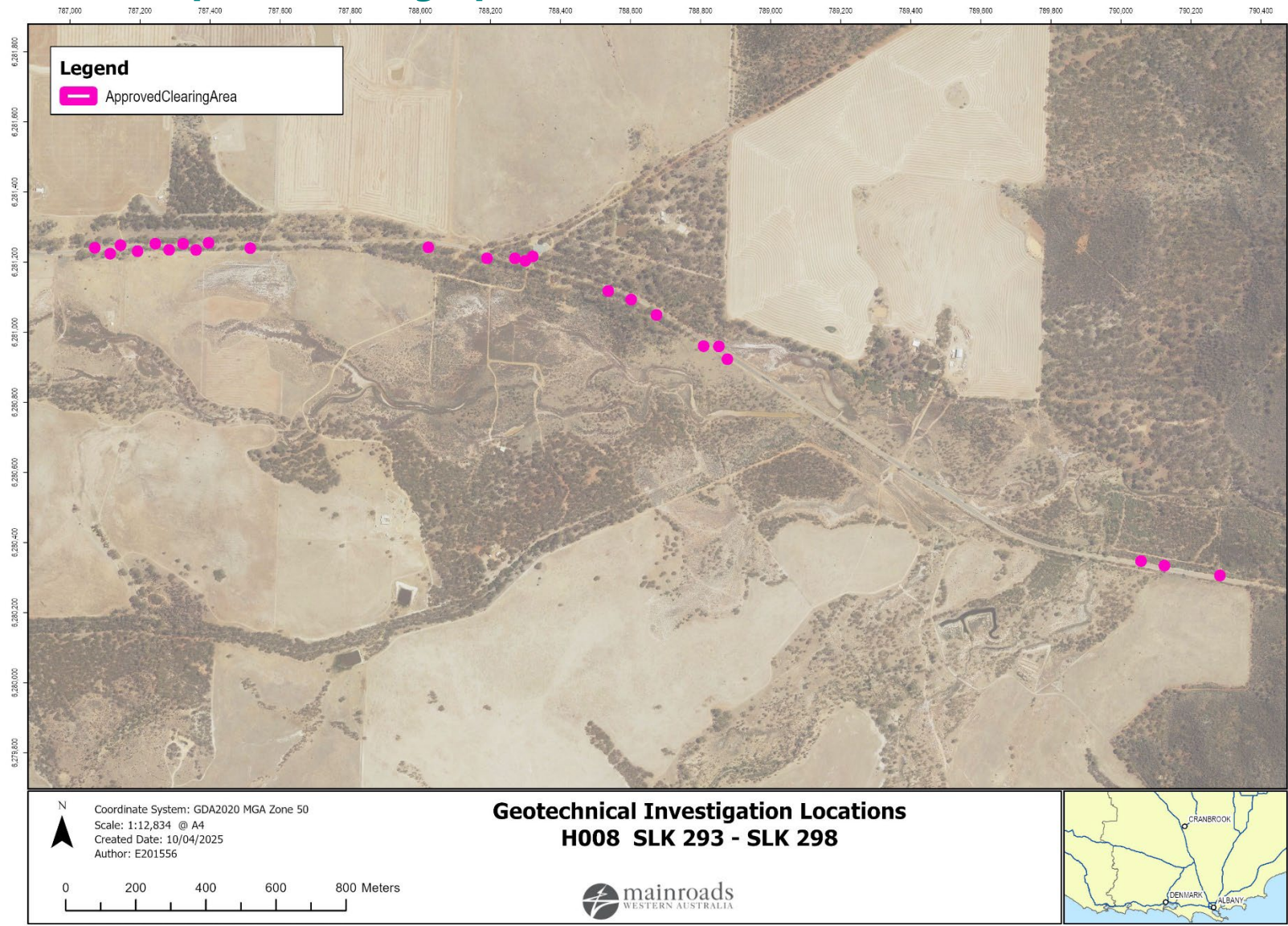


Figure 1: Proposal area Locality map



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0294.69

Lat/Long: -33.569981, 120.092439
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:08:42 PM



Investigation Pit 3183



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0294.75

Lat/Long: -33.569988, 120.092944
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:13:45 PM



Investigation Pit 3184



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0294.80

Lat/Long: -33.569805, 120.093270
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:22:44 PM



Investigation Pit 3185



South Coast Hwy
0294.82

Lat/Long: -33.569869, 128.093882
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:31:22 PM



Investigation Pit 3186



South Coast Hwy
0294.86

Lat/Long: -33.569886, 128.094361
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:41:58 PM



Investigation Pit 3187

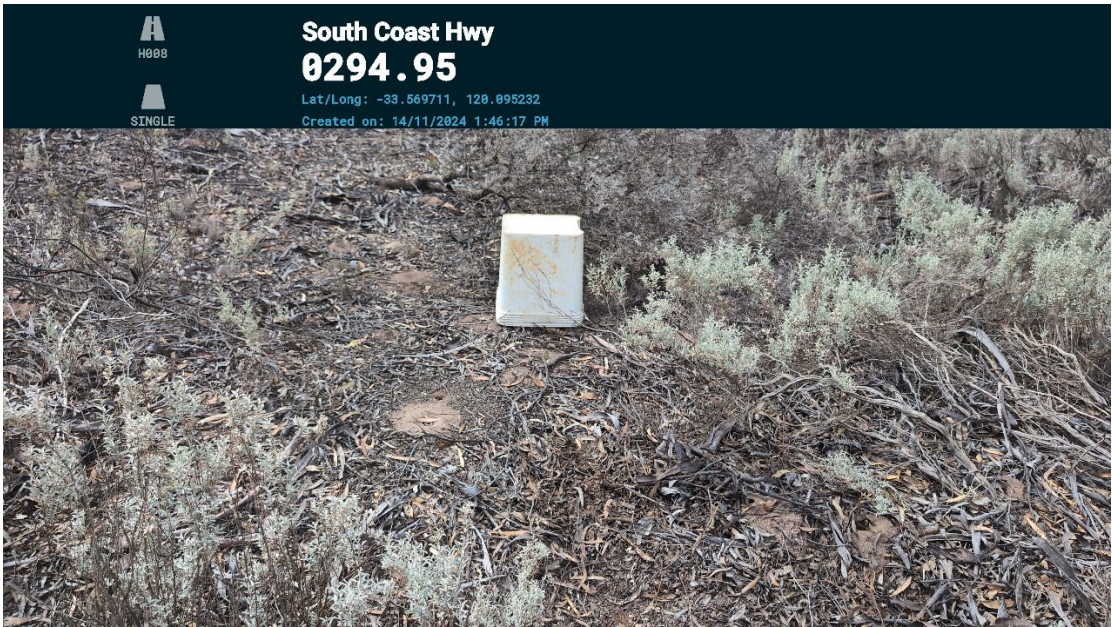


South Coast Hwy
0294.91

Lat/Long: -33.569889, 128.094788
Created on: 14/11/2024 1:43:58 PM



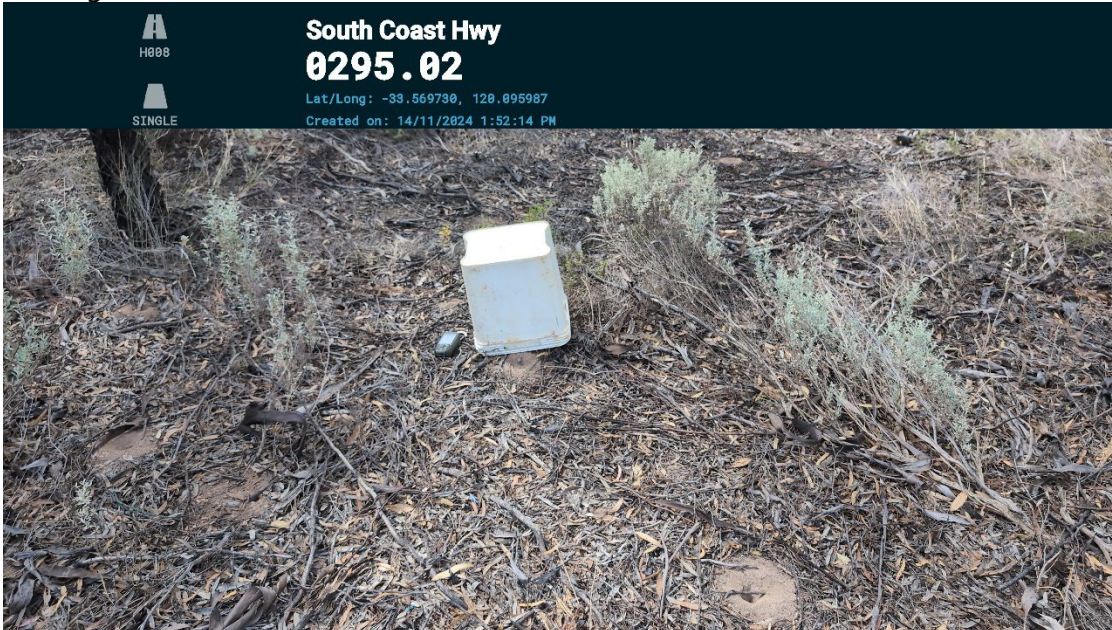
Investigation Pit 3188



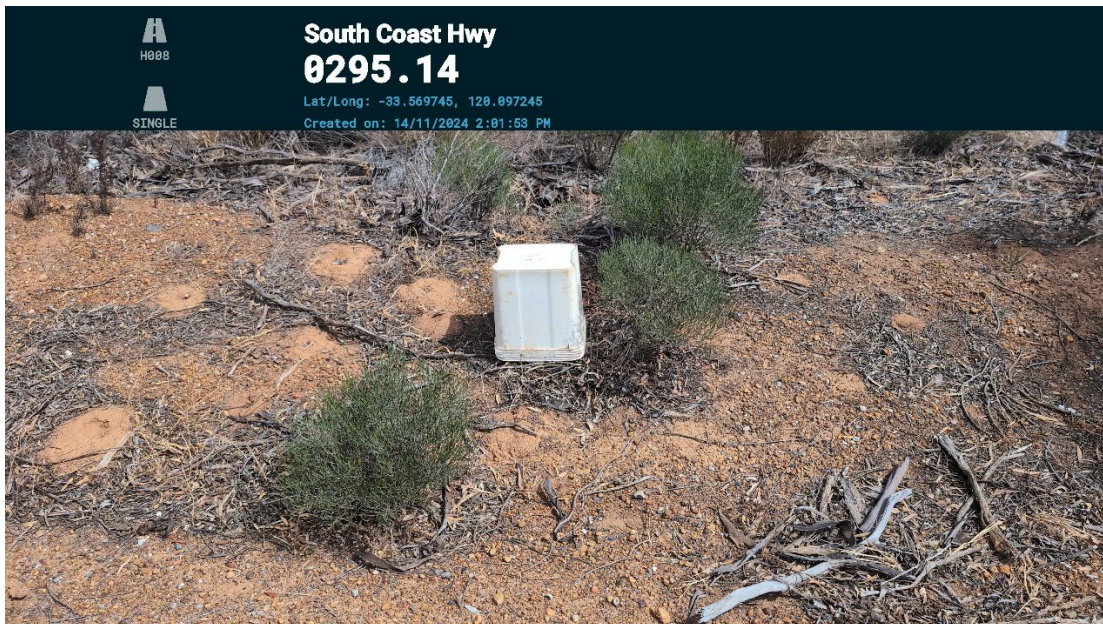
Investigation Pit 3189



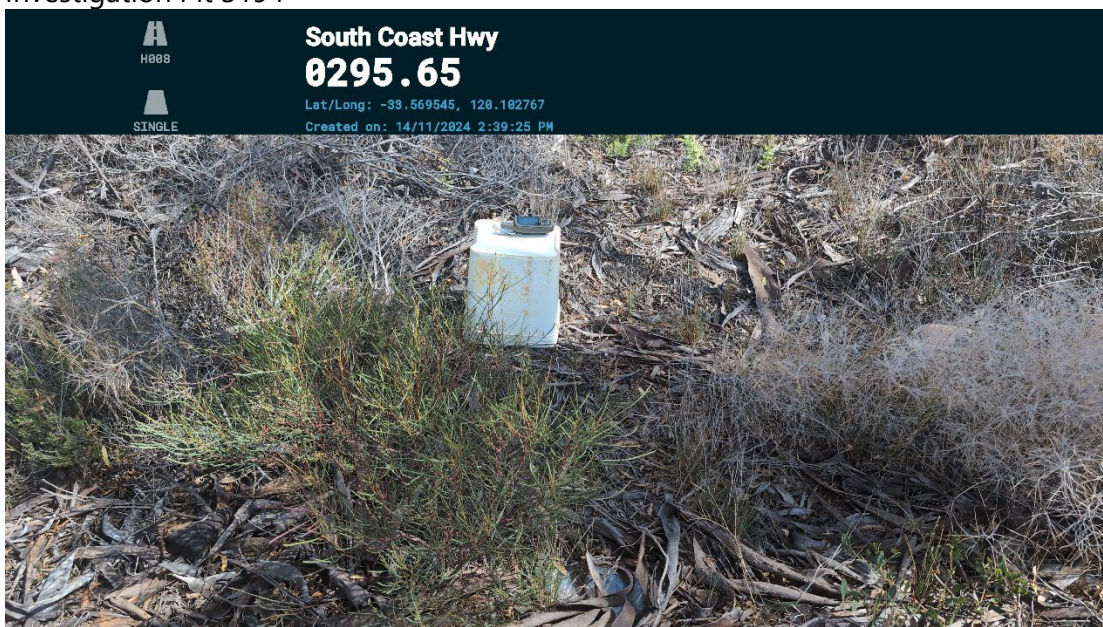
Investigation Pit 3190



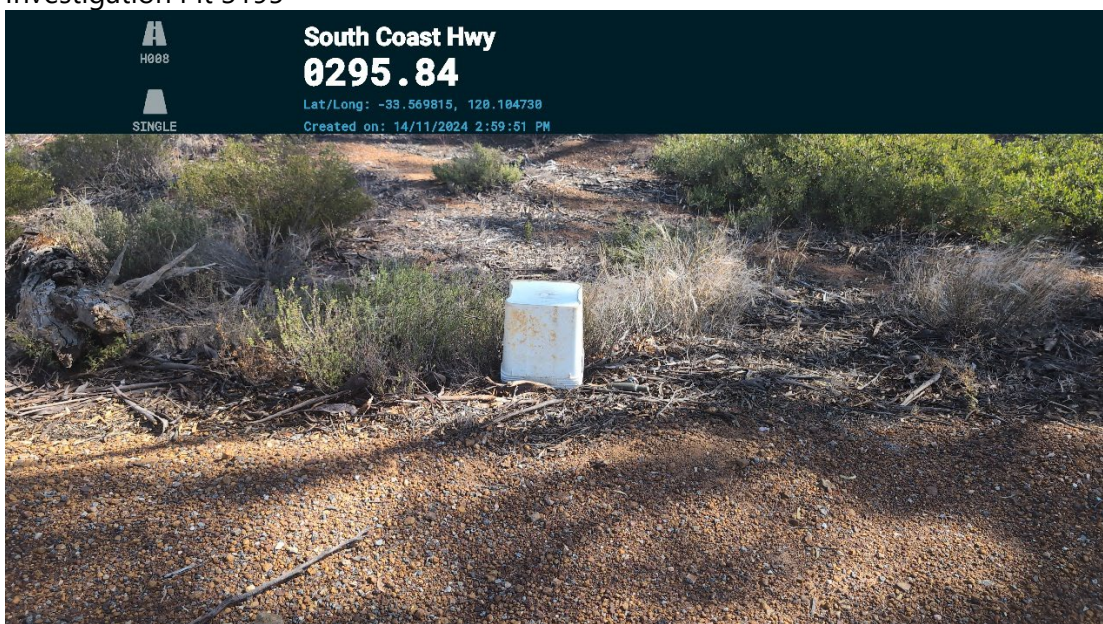
Investigation Pit 3191



Investigation Pit 3194



Investigation Pit 3195



Investigation Pit 3199



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0295.90

Lat/Long: -33.569889, 120.105385
Created on: 14/11/2024 3:10:42 PM



Investigation Pit 3201



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0296.18

Lat/Long: -33.570500, 120.100319
Created on: 14/11/2024 3:42:52 PM



Investigation Pit 3208



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy
0296.25

Lat/Long: -33.570799, 120.100045
Created on: 14/11/2024 3:48:31 PM



Investigation Pit 3210



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0296.34

Lat/Long: -33.571144, 120.109868
Created on: 14/11/2024 3:56:07 PM



Investigation Pit 3212



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0296.50

Lat/Long: -33.571906, 120.111319
Created on: 14/11/2024 4:07:42 PM



Investigation Pit 3216



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0296.54

Lat/Long: -33.571967, 120.111776
Created on: 14/11/2024 4:10:03 PM



Investigation Pit 3217



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0296.58

Lat/Long: -33.572227, 120.112067

Created on: 14/11/2024 4:12:46 PM



Investigation Pit 3218



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0297.91

Lat/Long: -33.577176, 120.124871

Created on: 14/11/2024 4:53:35 PM



Investigation Pit 3221



H008



SINGLE

South Coast Hwy 0297.98

Lat/Long: -33.577300, 120.125635

Created on: 14/11/2024 4:57:37 PM



Investigation Pit 3223



South Coast Hwy

0298.13

Lat/Long: -33.577491, 120.127311

Created on: 14/11/2024 5:06:00 PM



Investigation Pit 3227



Investigation Pit 3229