Clearing Desktop Report
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CPS 818

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NWCH (H007) SLK [REDACTED] - Material Pit Area Expansion
North West Coastal Highway (H007) SLK [REDACTED]
Mid-West Gascoyne Region
EOS: 164

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1 PROPOSAL

1.1 Purpose and Justification

Main Roads Western Australia proposes to clear 8.80 hectares (ha) of native vegetation to expand an existing material pit for the extraction of natural road-building materials. The material pit is situated on North West Coastal Highway (H007) at the [REDACTED] Straight Line Kilometre (SLK) mark, approximately 45 km north of Minilya in the Shire of Carnarvon. Expansion of the material pit will provide a source of suitable road building materials to support future road construction and maintenance works in the locality and improve road user safety.

1.1.1 Main Roads Approach to Road Safety and the Environment

Main Roads is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of all of its activities and manages the State road network to achieve balanced economic, social, safety and environmental benefits for the community. Main Roads recognises that Western Australia's environment is significant from a global perspective and the unique conservation values that are contained within its road reserve. Main Roads road network often adjoins natural areas and, in some locations, the reserve itself hosts remnant vegetation with high environmental values. Although the reserves were not established for this purpose, Main Roads recognises that it has a responsibility to conserve the environmental values that occur within the State's road network and minimise the impact its proposals have on the environment. In addition to providing a safe and efficient road network for all people using the roads under its control, Main Roads is also committed to protecting the natural environment.

In accordance with National and State Government road safety policies, Main Roads is also committed to substantially reducing road trauma on the road network through Safe System principles. The Safe System approach acknowledges that more than two thirds of all serious crashes are due to human error rather than deliberate risk taking (e.g. speeding or drink driving) and seeks to improve behaviour through education and enforcement while managing the safety of vehicles, speeds and the road and road infrastructure. It is shown that improving sub-optimal road formation will substantially reduce the likelihood and severity of road crashes. For example, according to the Road Safety Management Guideline, increasing the sealed shoulder from 0.5 m to 2 m will reduce Killed and Seriously Injured numbers by more than 50%.

As the statutory authority responsible for providing and managing a safe and efficient main road network in Western Australia, Main Roads focuses on improving road safety by thoroughly considering all environmental, economic and community benefits and impacts. It operates on a hierarchy of avoiding, minimising, reducing and then, if required, offsetting our environmental impacts. This has been achieved through changes in proposal scope and design. Main Roads regularly reduces its clearing footprint by restricting earthworks limits for proposals, steepening batters, installing barriers, establishing borrow pits in cleared paddocks and avoiding temporary clearing for storage, stockpiles and turn around bays to avoid and minimise its impacts.

Further details on measures to avoid, minimise and reduce are provided in Section 1.5.

1.2 Proposal Scope

Main Roads WA proposes to clear 8.80 ha of native vegetation to expand an existing material pit located on North West Coastal Highway (H007) at the [REDACTED] SLK mark, approximately 45 km north of Minilya in the Shire of Carnarvon. The material pit will provide a source of road building materials for use in future road construction and maintenance works in the region. Test pitting will be undertaken to determine the presence of suitable material to avoid any unnecessary clearing.

1.3 Proposal Location

The clearing area is located on North West Coastal Highway (H007) at the [REDACTED] SLK mark, approximately 45 km north of Minilya in the Shire of Carnarvon. Figure 2 displays the clearing area in reference to the North West Coastal Highway and Figure 3 displays the clearing area in reference to the 20 km Study Area.

The central coordinate of the proposal is:

- Latitude: 23.49276012°S
- Longitude: 114.2844683°E

1.4 Clearing Details

Proposed Clearing to be undertaken using CPS 818:
8.80 ha

Areas of Native Vegetation Clearing:
The areas of native vegetation to be cleared are shown in Figure 1.

Type of Native Vegetation:
The Clearing Area covers 8.80 ha and consists of one vegetation type, VT07, which is described as *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Melaleuca cardiophylla* and *Acacia startii* mid open shrubland over *Grevillea variifolia* subsp. *bundera, Halgania cyanea* var. Allambi Stn (B.W. Strong 676), *Scaevola pulchella* low sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus polystachyus, Goodenia tenuiloba* sparse herbland with *Triodia epactia* tussock grassland (See Table 3). Vegetation within the clearing area ranges from Good to Excellent Condition (See Table 7)

[REDACTED

Figure 1: SLK [REDACTED] Material Pit Expansion Clearing Area

[REDACTED

Figure 2. SLK [REDACTED] Material Pit Expansion 20 km Study Area

1.5 Alternatives to Native Vegetation Clearing Considered During Proposal Development

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

- Exploring for material in unvegetated areas, however there are no areas in the vicinity available and entering any new less vegetated areas would require a larger area to establish access tracks and laydown and storage areas and expose adjacent areas to potential edge effects which would result in an overall increase in area of impact.
- Outsourcing material from a commercial provider, which would be uneconomical.
- Main Roads retains frangible vegetation where a clear zone is to be established for road projects. For this project, however, clearing will only be required for extraction of materials, with no clear zone being established. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- Reducing the speed limit to minimise clearing requirements, while still balancing safety (driver fatigue) and freight efficiency. Speed Limits are an essential mechanism to ensure the safe and efficient operation of road networks. The application of appropriate speed limits and other traffic management measures is a key mechanism in managing vehicle speeds to achieve desired safety, mobility, traffic management, local amenity, and road user expectations. There are several factors involved in road safety, including road conditions, driver behaviour and overall road design. Except in special situations, reducing speed limits below national standards on state and national roads is not typically supported as it has the potential to contribute to driver frustration, impatience, tiredness and recklessness. The environmental values protected by reducing the speed limit, do not justify the impacts on freight efficiencies nor road user safety. As this proposal relates to the expansion of an existing material pit, the reduction of speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.

1.6 Measures to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage Proposal Clearing Impacts

The design and management measures implemented to avoid and minimise the potential clearing impacts of the Proposal are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Measures Undertaken to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage the Proposal Clearing Impacts

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Use of existing cleared areas for access tracks, construction storage and stockpiling	• The proposal will utilise existing cleared and disturbed areas where practicable including the use of existing access tracks and previously cleared areas as vehicle/machinery and material storage and laydown areas.
Pre-clearance surveys and avoidance of significant environmental features	• A pre-clearing check for Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi)* will be conducted before ground disturbance activities commence. If located, any mounds will be avoided through the application of a 50m buffer around the mound.
Revise clearing area footprint	• The Clearing Area was revised to avoid potential impacts on environmental sensitivities, resulting in a reduction in clearing by approximately 1.5 ha.

1.7 Approved Policies and Planning Instruments

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the 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, Main Roads has also had regard to the below instruments where relevant.

Other Legislation potentially relevant 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 and D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA).

Environmental Protection Policies:

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

Other relevant policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (Government of WA, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (Government of WA, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, 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.

2 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF CLEARING

Native vegetation will be cleared to accommodate this Proposal. This clearing will be undertaken using the Main Roads Statewide Clearing Permit CPS 818.

To comply with CPS 818, Main Roads must prepare a Clearing Desktop Report (CDR).

The CDR outlines the key activities associated with the Proposal, the existing environment, and an assessment of native vegetation clearing. This assessment provides an evaluation of the vegetation clearing impacts associated with the Proposal using the ten Clearing Principles listed under s51 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and strategies used to manage vegetation clearing.

2.1 Report Terminology and Sources

The following terms are used in this Clearing Report

- **Clearing Area** – The maximum amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the Proposal under CPS818/17. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area will accommodate the designed earthworks and, typically, a nominal buffer to allow for the safe movement of machinery during construction.

- **Survey Area** – The Area covered by the Biological Survey. For this proposal, the survey was undertaken across multiple locations constituting a combined survey area of 930.05 ha.

- **Survey Area 7:** The 12.32 ha area surveyed over the material pit that includes the proposed Clearing Area under this scope of works.

- **Study Area** – Area covered by the Desktop Assessment. The Study Area for the Proposal is confined to a local area of a 20km radius.

2.2 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of the Clearing Area was undertaken by viewing internal datasets and other government agency managed databases, and consulting with relevant stakeholders where necessary. Results from searches can be found in Appendix 1.

GIS layer viewing and mapping is done using ArcMap and/or Main Roads corporate mapping system known as iMaps. Referencing of the GIS layers accessed is done under the relevant methodology section of each clearing principle. Government managed databases were searched to locate additional information, which are found under References in Section 9 **Error! Reference source not found.**.

2.3 Surveys and Assessments

The following surveys/assessments (presented within the same report) were undertaken to inform this CDR:

- Detailed flora and vegetation and Targeted Flora surveys - (GHD, 2022); and
- Basic fauna survey - (GHD, 2022).

Biological and targeted surveys conducted for the proposal are outlined in Table 2 and a summary of the findings in these reports are presented in Sections 3.1 to 3.2.

Table 2. Summary of Biological and Targeted Surveys Relevant to the Proposal

Consultant and Survey Name	Survey Details
GHD (2022) Minilya-Exmouth Road Biological Survey Technical Report.	**Survey Area:** The Survey Area comprised approximately 930.05 hectares (ha). This included sections of the Minilya – Exmouth Road, and five potential basic raw material extraction areas with associated tracks and bore locations. One of the material Pit locations included the proposed material pit extension on NWCH (H007) SLK [REDACTED]. **Type:** Three main assessments were carried out: 1. Desktop assessment; 2. Flora and Vegetation surveys – This included a combination of Detailed, Targeted, and Opportunistic sampling techniques. Including the assessment of vegetation types, vegetation condition and a significant ecological communities assessment. Assessments were undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Guidelines (2016). 3. Basic Fauna Survey – This included Opportunistic fauna searches and fauna habitat assessment documenting the type, value and connectivity. Mapping was produced based upon vegetation units in accordance with EPA guidance (2020) **Timing:** The field work component for both the Flora and Vegetation and Basic Fauna Surveys was conducted from 23 – 30 May and 27 – 29 July 2022. **Survey Results Shapefile TRIM Ref:** D22#1323152

Consultant and Survey Name	Survey Details
	Document TRIM Ref: D22#1323156

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Summary and Analysis of Flora and Vegetation Surveys

The Biological Survey was undertaken by GHD (2022) between 23 to 30 May and 27 to 29 July 2022. The Biological Survey covered multiple locations which constitute a combined survey area of 930.05 ha.

Survey Areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 consisted of a linear strip either side of the Minilya-Exmouth Road to several proposed material pits that extended from Exmouth to ~67 km southeast of Coral Bay.

The Material Pit on NWCH (H007) [REDACTED] SLK represents Survey Area 7,. comprising a total area of 12.32 ha.

The key findings of the Biological field survey for the Survey Area, and specifically Survey Area 7 (containing the Clearing Area) are detailed below:

- Nine vegetation types were identified within the Survey Area, with only one vegetation type identified within Survey Area 7:
  - VT07: *Acacia* spp. and *Melaleuca* spp. low open shrubland.

- Vegetation condition of the Survey Area ranged from Excellent to Completely Degraded (Completely Degraded areas representing Historically Cleared areas).
  - Vegetation within Survey Area 7 is in Very Good (6.86 ha) and Good (3.33 ha) condition. The remaining area was mapped as Road or Historically Cleared areas (2.13 ha).

- No Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act or Priority Ecological Communities listed by DBCA were identified within the Survey Area during the field survey;

- No Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance are located within the Survey Area.

- Two hundred and one flora taxa (including subspecies and varieties) representing 45 families and 119 genera were recorded from the Survey Area during the field survey. This total is comprised of 192 native taxa and nine introduced flora taxa.

- Nine introduced flora taxa were recorded in the Survey Area. One is listed as a Declared Pest under the *Biosecurity and Management Act* 2007, **Prosopis pallida* (Mesquite) (Plate 11). No Weeds of National Significance WoNS) were recorded during the survey. The remaining eight introduced flora have been recorded in the Study Area before.
  - No species listed as a Declared Pest or WoNS were identified within Survey Area 7.

- No EPBC Act or BC Act listed Threatened flora were recorded within the Survey Area. Seven DBCA Priority listed flora species were identified within the Survey Area during the field survey.
  - No listed DBCA Priority species were recorded within Survey Area 7.

3.2 Summary and Analysis of Fauna Surveys

- Nine broad fauna habitat types (including cleared and disturbed areas) were identified during field investigations in the Survey Area,
  - One fauna habitat occurs within Survey Area 7 (Mixed Open Shrubland Over Triodia Hummock or Tussock Grasslands on Sandplains – VT07).

- One hundred and twenty-three fauna species, including 75 birds, 33 reptiles, 12 mammals and three frogs were recorded in the Survey Area. Of these, four species are introduced: dingo/dog, cow, cat and rabbit. The species recorded during the survey are typical for the habitats they were found in and are generally well represented in the region.

- Five significant fauna listed under the EPBC Act and/or BC Act or Priority fauna listed by the DBCA were recorded within the Survey Area.
  - One species was recorded within Survey Area 7:
    - Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*) listed Priority 4 by DBCA - burrow was identified within Survey Area 7. The burrow was freshly dug with prints present and appeared active.

4 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT OF VEGETATION

4.1 Desktop Vegetation Description

One Beard (1979) vegetation association (VA 95) occurs within the Clearing Area (DBCA, 2019). The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation recognise that it is important that ecological communities are maintained above the threshold level of 30% of pre-European extent for each community and therefore ecological communities with levels below 30% should be fully retained (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). VA 95 exceed the 30% retention threshold at State, Regional and Local contexts.

Table 3 and Table 4 provide details of the vegetation type and condition within the Clearing Area and the remaining extent of the association.

Table 3. Summary of Vegetation Type within Clearing Area

Vegetation Type	Extent within Clearing Area (ha)	Total Extent Mapped (ha) within Survey Area
VT07 - *Acacia spp*. and *Melaleuca spp*. low open shrubland.	8.80 ha	16.33 ha

Table 4. Pre-European Vegetation Representation

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre–European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA Reserves
Veg Assoc No. 95 Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; acacia & grevillea over *Triodia basedowii*	**Statewide**	~1,224,626	~1,223,593	99.92	4.03
	IBRA Bioregion *Carnavon*	~390, 084	~389, 947	~99.96	1.19
	IBRA Sub-region *Cape Range*	~57, 807	~57, 807	100	0
	Local Government Authority *Shire of Carnavon*	~385, 399	~384, 366	99.75	1.35

5 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE TEN CLEARING PRINCIPLES

In assessing whether the Proposal's proposed clearing is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the Proposal was assessed against the ten Clearing Principles (EP Act, Schedule 5).

Each principle has been assessed in accordance with the former Department of Environment Regulation (now Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) '*A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation*' (Department of Environment Regulation, 2014) and other relevant clearing permit application decision reports prepared by DWER.

The proposed clearing is not at or not likely to be at variance with the ten Clearing Principles.

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

According to GHD (2022), the Clearing Area consists of one vegetation type (VT07) (Table 5).

Table 5: Vegetation Type, Description and extent in hectares and percentage cover (GHD, 2022)

Vegetation Type	Description	Clearing Area (ha) and (%)
VT07	*Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Melaleuca cardiophylla* and *Acacia startii* mid open shrubland over *Grevillea variifolia* subsp. *bundera, Halgania cyanea* var. Allambi Stn (B.W. Strong 676), *Scaevola pulchella* low sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus polystachyus, Goodenia tenuiloba* sparse herbland with *Triodia epactia* tussock grassland	8.80 ha (100%)

The Desktop study by GHD (2022) has categorised the Vegetation Association (VA) in the Clearing Area as VA 95: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; acacia & grevillea over *Triodia basedowii*. (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)-006). This vegetation association remains well represented, with over 99% of its pre-European extent remaining at the state and LGA levels (Shire of Exmouth) (Table 6). The proposed clearing of 8.80 ha from the Clearing Area will not significantly reduce the extent of VA 95 at either local or regional levels.

Table 6: Pre-European Vegetation Association and extents in hectares and percentage cover

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Remaining in State (ha)	Remaining in State (%)	Remaining in the LGA (ha)	Remaining in the LGA (%)
Veg Assoc No.95 Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; acacia & grevillea over *Triodia basedowii*	~1,224,626	~1,223,593	99.92	~384,366	99.73

The condition of vegetation within the Clearing Area ranges from Very Good to Good condition. Full details are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Vegetation Condition and extents in hectares and percentage cover (GHD, 2022)

Vegetation Condition	Clearing Area (ha) and (%)
Very Good	5.47 ha (50%)
Good	3.33 ha (31%)
Total Clearing Area	**8.80 ha (100%)**

Based on a search of DBCA spatial data (DBCA-036) and the Western Australian Herbarium (WAHerb), one conservation significant flora species (*Acacia startii* – Priority 3) was identified within the 20 km Desktop Study Area (1983). No species were listed in the EPBC Act Protected Matters (PMST) Report (Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), 2026)

GHD (2022) conducted a Detailed and Targeted Flora Survey of the Clearing Area, and no conservation significant species were recorded.

The DBCA spatial data (DBCA-038) and the EPBC Act PMST Report (DCCEEW, 2026) indicates no listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) occur within 20 km of the Clearing Area.

According to GHD (2022), there are no Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) listed by Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) occurring within the 20 km Study Area and this was further confirmed with no occurrences of significant ecological communities recorded during the field survey (GHD, 2022).

GHD (2022) conducted a Basic Fauna Survey of the Clearing Area, which consists of a single fauna habitat (Table 8).

Table 8: Fauna Habitat Type, Description and extent within the DE (GHD, 2022)

Fauna Habitat	Information	Clearing Area (ha) and (%)
Mixed Open Shrubland Over Triodia Hummock or Tussock Grasslands on Sandplains	Sandplains of mixed low open shrubs over dominant Triodia hummock grassland with scattered areas of Buffel tussock grasslands. Soils comprise primarily of deep sands with areas of silty clays and sand. Litter and woody debris were common and associated to areas of shrublands. In areas where the shrubland is denser, this vegetation would provide suitable habitat for a variety of fauna species, in particular foraging opportunities, breeding habitat and refugia for bush birds and small mammals. Litter build up was present and would provide habitat to fossorial species. Dominant Triodia areas would support small mammals and abundance of reptiles.	8.80 ha (100%)

Based on the DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna spatial data (DBCA-037), three conservation significant fauna species were identified within the 20 km Desktop Study Area.

Following the Basic Fauna Survey, GHD (2022) conducted a post-survey Likelihood of Occurrence (LOO) assessment and concluded twenty conservation significant fauna species are considered likely or known to occur within the Survey Area.

Sixteen of the twenty species identified in the LOO assessment are birds. Given these species can easily fly over the terrain and egress away from disturbance areas, they are unlikely to be impacted by the clearing works undertaken within the Clearing Area. The remaining four species are addressed in Table 9

Of the remaining four species the Ningaloo Worm Lizard, Cape Range Stone Geko and Western Pebble Mouse, are unlikely to occur based on the clearing area not representing the species preferred habitat type.

The Brush-tailed Mulgara was recorded via an active burrow in an area adjacent to the proposed Clearing Area. To avoid potential impacts on this species, Main Roads will undertake a pre-clearing check for fauna and apply a 50 m exclusion zone around any active burrows. The proposed clearing will therefore not likely impact this species also given the extensive availability of habitat remaining at both local and regional levels.

Error! Reference source not found. Table 9 in Principle (b) provides further information to support fauna species that may occur in the Clearing Area will not be significantly impacted.
Based on the above, the Clearing Area does not comprise a high level of biological diversity.

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

Methodology

- A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia (Wilson & Swan, 2017)
- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- Statewide Vegetation Statistics (DBCA, 2019)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report (DCCEEW, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (DBCA-036, Accessed: January 2026)
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database search (DBCA-037, Accessed: January 2026
  - DBCA TEC and PEC database search (DBCA-038, Accessed: January 2026)
  - DPIRD Pre-European Vegetation spatial data (DPIRD-006, Accessed: January 2026
  - DPIRD Rangelands spatial data (DPIRD-063, Accessed: January 2026)
- The mammals of Australia (van Dyck & Strahan, 2008)
- A complete guide to Reptiles of Australia (Wilson & Swan, 2017)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

GHD (2022) conducted a Basic Fauna Survey of the Clearing Area, in which a single fauna habitat was mapped (Table 8).

Based on the DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna spatial data (DBCA-037), three conservation significant fauna species were identified within the 20 km Desktop Study Area.

Following the Basic Fauna Survey, GHD (2022) conducted a post-survey Likelihood of Occurrence (LOO) assessment and concluded twenty conservation significant fauna species are considered likely or known to occur within the Survey Area.

Sixteen of the twenty species identified in the Likelihood-of-Occurrence assessment are birds. Given these species can easily fly over the terrain and egress from disturbance area, it is unlikely they would be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Table 9: Clearing impact on species that may occur in the Clearing Area.

Fauna Species	Information
Ningaloo Worm Lizard (*Aprasia rostrata*) (P3)	This species is a pale brown reptile growing approximately 9.5 cm in length. The species preferred habitat is a variety of sandy habitats including white coastal dunes and red dunes vegetated with Triodia from Northwest Cape to Yardie Creek and Learmonth and inland to Bullara Station (Wilson & Swan, 2017). This habitat type is widespread throughout the Exmouth range extension. The species was not recorded in the Clearing Area during the survey (GHD, 2022), and DBCA records show the species is not present in the 20 km Study Area *Aprasia rostrata* was not recorded during the Basic Fauna Survey and no records exist in the vicinity of the Clearing Area based on DBCA records. If this species were to be present, it is unlikely the species would be significantly impacted given the availability of habitat beyond the Clearing Area.
Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*) (P4)	The Brush-tailed Mulgara is primarily a nocturnal species which shelters in burrows and feeds on insects, other arthropods, and small vertebrates. This species inhabits spinifex grasslands and, in central Australia, lives in burrows that it digs on the flats between low sand dunes (van Dyck & Strahan, 2008). This habitat type is quite widespread throughout the region, According to Atlas of Living Australia (2025) the species is widely distributed, having been observed during different expeditions in the north-western, central, and south-western areas of the arid zone of Australia. During the survey, evidence of the species was present with an active burrow recorded adjacent to the Clearing Area (GHD, 2022)The application of a 50 m buffer around the burrow and Main Roads commitment to undertake a pre-clearing fauna check prior to the commencement of clearing will avoid potential direct impacts on Brush-tailed Mulgara. The clearing of 8.80 ha from the Clearing Area will not significantly reduce habitat available for this species given it is widespread at both local and regional levels.
Cape Range Stone Gecko (*Diplodactylus capensis*) (P2)	The Cape Range Stone Gecko is restricted to the rocky northern end of Northwest Cape (Wilson & Swan, 2017). This terrestrial species is found under debris, logs and rocks on limestone hills with spinifex and low shrubs and trees (Cogger, 2014). The species was not recorded within the Clearing Area during the Basic Fauna Survey (GHD, 2022) and DBCA records show the species are not present in the 20 km Study Area

	The Clearing Area does not represent the preferred habitat of this species and therefore, is unlikely to support its ongoing presence. The proposed clearing will not impact this species or reduce habitat available in the local area.
Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani)* (P4)	The Western Pebble-mound Mouse is restricted to the Pilbara region, with a preferred habitat consisting of stony hillsides with hummocky grasslands and little or no soil (van Dyck & Strahan, 2008). Start (2000) states that the status of the Western Pebble-mound Mouse is unclear on Cape Range. Numerous reports have documented their presence, fossil records (Baynes and Jones 1993) and potentially active and old mounds (Muir Environmental 1995). Prior to GHD's survey this species was presumed locally extinct. The Clearing Area is not representative of preferred habitat for the species and no individuals were recorded during the Basic Fauna Survey. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact this species or reduce habitat available in the local area.

Based on the above, the Clearing Area does not comprise the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna.

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

Methodology

- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report (DCCEEW, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database search (DBCA-037, Accessed: January 2026)

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

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Based on the DBCA Threatened and Priority Flora spatial data (DBCA-036) and the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (DCCEEW, 2026), no Threatened flora taxa occur within a 20 km radius of the Clearing Area.

No Threatened Flora species were recorded within the Clearing Area during the Biological Survey (GHD, 2022).

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report (DCCEEW, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (DBCA-036, Accessed: January 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Desktop searches identified there are no Threatened Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* that occur within the 20 km Study Area.

According to GHD (2022), no occurrences of Threatened Ecological Communities were recorded during the field survey.

Based on the above, the Clearing Area does not comprise the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of a Threatened Ecological Community.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report (DCCEEW, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority Ecological Community database search (DBCA-038, Accessed: January 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation recognise that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is necessary if Australia's biological diversity is to be protected (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The Clearing Area is representative of one vegetation association, VA 95 (DPIRD-006).This vegetation association retains greater than 99% of its pre-European extent at all scales and therefore, exceeds the 30% retention national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Table 6)

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area and is contained within a broad landscape of relatively undisturbed vegetation within the IBRA region. The proposed clearing of 8.80 ha of vegetation from the Clearing Area will not significantly reduce the availability of vegetation remaining at a local or regional level.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- National Objective Tagets for Biodiversity Conservation (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001)
- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - DPIRD Pre-European Vegetation spatial data (DPIRD-006, Accessed: October 2026)
- Statewide Vegetation Statistics (DBCA, 2019)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

GHD (2022) identified one vegetation type (VT07) within the Clearing Area. Based on the vegetation type description (Table 5), VT07 is not representative of riparian species.

The Clearing Area is not located within and does not intersect:

- a Geomorphic Wetland (DBCA 013-016);
- an Internationally Important Wetland (RAMSAR) (DBCA-010);
- a Nationally Important Wetland (DBCA-045);
- any minor or major watercourse areas (DWER-031);
- Rivers (DWER-036); or
- Surface HydroLines (Region) (Geoscience Australia.dataset).

The vegetation proposed for clearing is not growing in or in association with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (GHD, 2022)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - Geomorphic Wetlands (DBCA 013-016, Accessed January 2026)
  - Ramsar Wetlands (DBCA 013-016, Accessed January 2026)
  - Important Wetlands (DBCA-045, Accessed January 2026)
  - Hydrography Linear (Hierachy) (DWER-031, Accessed January 2026)
  - RIWI Act Rivers (DWER-036, Accessed January 2026)
  - Surface HydroLines (Region) (Geoscience Australia.dataset) (Accessed January 2026)

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Based on the DPIRD Soil landscape spatial data (DPIRD-017), the Clearing Area is located within Zone 236 (Wandagee -Byro Plains and Hills Zone). The area is described as Stony hills and plains.

The land zone has been further classified as the Giralia System (236Gi), described as Sandy plains with linear dunes and broad sandy swales supporting hummock grasslands of hard and soft spinifex with scattered acacia shrubs (DPIRD-064).

DPIRD (2026) mapping indicates the land degradation risk in the Clearing Area to be extremely low (Table 10).

Table 10: Soil Landscape System Description (DPIRD, 2024)

Risk Percentage	Information
1 %	Very poor to poor drainage potential
1 %	Very high to extreme water erosion hazard
1 %	High to extreme wind erosion hazard
1 %	Moderate salinity hazard
0 %	Has pHCa <4.5 surface acidity
1 %	Moderate to very high waterlogging risk
1 %	Moderate to high flood hazard

The CSIRO Australian Soil Resource System (ASRIS) has been used to determine the Clearing Area is in an area of 'extremely low probability of occurrence' of Acid Sulfate Soil (ASS) occurring.

The proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation with surrounding areas remaining intact across the broader landscape.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - Acid Sulphate Soil Risk Map (Accessed: January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013, Accessed: January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016) (Accessed: January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality – Salinity Risk (DPIRD-009) (Accessed: January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015) (Accessed: January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007) (Accessed: January 2026)
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Natural Resource Management System maps (DPIRD, 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Based on the DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters spatial data (DBCA-011) and the EPBC Act Protected Matters Report (DCCEEW, 2026), no Nature Reserves, Conservation Areas or Bush Forever Areas are located within 20 km of the Clearing Area. The proposed clearing will not impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report (DCCEEW, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters & Lands of Interest (Accessed January, 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

The DWER spatial data indicates the Clearing Area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area (DWER-034), and the Pilbara Surface Water Area (DWER-037), both proclaimed under the RIWI Act.

The Clearing Area is not located within and does not intersect any watercourses or wetlands. The proposed clearing of 8.80 ha of vegetation from the Clearing Area is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water when vegetation in areas surrounding the Clearing Area will remain intact.

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

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004; Accessed 12/11/2024)
  - RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037; Accessed January, 2026)
  - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034; Accessed January, 2026)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM, 2026) the average annual rainfall in Mia Mia, located approximately 32 km east of the Clearing Area is 260 mm. The topography for the land system area (236Gi) is described as Sandy plains with linear dunes and broad sandy swales supporting hummock grasslands of hard and soft spinifex with scattered acacia shrubs (DPIRD-064).

Given the low rainfall rate and the low flood potential, the minor clearing proposed is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.

The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- BoM Website (Accessed January 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - Soil Mapping (Accessed January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality - Waterlogging Risk (Accessed January 2026)
  - Soil landscape land quality - Flood Risk (Accessed January 2026)

6 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Main Roads will avoid clearing native vegetation where possible. Where clearing cannot be avoided then this clearing is kept to a minimum.

7 REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS

7.1 Revegetation and Rehabilitation

No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities and therefore no revegetation or rehabilitation will be conducted under CPS 818.

8 COMPLIANCE WITH CPS 818

The clearing associated with the proposal is not at or not likely to be at variance with the Clearing Principles. Additional management actions under CPS 818 are detailed in Table 1114.

Table 11. Summary of Additional Management Actions Required by CPS 818

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. The CAR indicates that the clearing is 'At Variance' or 'May be at Variance' with one or more of the Clearing Principles.	**No**	No further action required.
2. Clearing is at variance or may be at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality **or** (j) the incidence of flooding.	**No**	No further action required. .
3. Clearing is at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality **and** (j) the incidence of flooding.	**No**	No further action required.
4. The Proposal involves clearing for temporary works (as defined by CPS 818).	**No**	No further action required.
5a. 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, • works have potential for **uninfested** areas to be impacted	**No**	Standard Vehicle and Plant management actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), Hygiene Checklists *(D17#859669)* and Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Register Template *(D23#179551)* will be applied *(which include relevant sections of Condition 10)*..
5b. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	**No**	No further action required.
6. Main Roads has been notified by DWER or an environmental specialist that the area to be	**No**	No further action required.

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
cleared is susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback.		
7. 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.
8. Did an environmental specialist conduct the survey or field assessment?	**Yes**	The Environmental Specialist undertaking the biological assessments was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.
9. Did an environmental specialist prepare the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation including the VMP, Dieback Management Plan or Offset Proposal?	**Yes**	The Environmental Specialist preparing the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation including the VMP, Dieback Management Plan or Offset Proposal was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.

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10 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: DBCA Threatened Flora and Fauna Database Searches

[REDACTED

Figure 3: SLK [REDACTED] Conservation Significant Species