

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Bridge 0580A - Bridge to Culvert Replacement		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	York		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	M041-York Merredin Road - Bridge 0580		
Proposal Location (SLK):	1.83		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#390571		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D26#391673		
EOS Number:	2950		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	May 2026		
Oracle Project No:	30000673	Task Code:	19301
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#701228	HRA TRIM Number:	D25#1411542

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The existing Bridge is 90 years old and has come to the end of its structural life. It is proposed to be replaced with two 1350mm Reinforced Culvert Pipe culvert units due to the very poor condition of the existing single span timber bridge.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The Proposal involves clearing of vegetation to allow for the replacement works to Bridge 0580.

Clearing is limited to that necessary to achieve functional drainage and road safety. Accordingly, there is limited scope to alter the clearing.

The drainage design component has been narrowed to avoid clearing of remnant trees adjacent to the bridge.

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

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

- The width and length of the bridge upgrade works is adequate to allow for the effective and safe management of traffic along York Merredin Road with no unnecessary impact.
- The vegetation to be removed for the upgrade is the minimum required to make the road safe.
- 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 to ensure a safe earthworks design. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation will be retained where possible.
- 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. Given this proposal relates to bridge upgrade works for safety, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.

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 (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- 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):	0.0045 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	Four (no DBH)
Species Name(s):	1 x <i>Acacia acuminata</i> , 2 x <i>Hakea preissii</i> , 1 x <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>		
Easting and Northing:	-31.902558, 116.787756		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 352 – Medium woodland; York gum.		
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely Degraded		
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	The below table displays the current extent of Vegetation Association 352 remaining on a Statewide and LGA level.		
	Scale	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining
	Statewide	1,724,268	19.6
	LGA (York)	8,583	9.54

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:

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

Justification or Evidence:

According to the GIS database, one Beard Vegetation Association is mapped to occur within the Clearing Area: Vegetation Association (VA) 352: Medium woodland; York gum.

The Clearing Area has been the subject of a previous biological survey:

- GHD (2015) York to Merredin Road Widening SLK 0 – 51 Biological Assessment

GHD (2015) mapped the vegetation proposed to be cleared to be in a Completely Degraded condition. Vegetation was mapped as scattered Eucalyptus and includes two hakeas, one jam wattle and one small York Gum over introduced which have significantly reducing biodiversity of the mid and understory weeds (Plate 01).

GHD (2015) did not map the Clearing Area as TEC/PEC.

According to DBCA Threatened and Priority Flora, and WA Herbarium GIS layers, there were seven records within 5km of the Clearing Area, with the closest three records being:

Flora	Distance from Clearing Area
<i>Xanthoparmelia hypoleiella</i> (P3)	1.6 km and 2.1km north
<i>Allocasuarina fibrosa</i> (T)	redacted

GHD (2015) did not record any EPBC or BC Act listed Threatened or Priority flora during its survey. The post survey Likelihood of Occurrence considered all conservation significant flora listed in the desktop assessment 'Unlikely' to occur near the Clearing Area.

The potential occurrence of conservation significant flora within the Clearing Area is considered unlikely due to the prior survey in the area not detecting conservation significant flora at this location and the Completely Degraded condition of vegetation resulting from prior and ongoing disturbance and edge effects.

According to DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database 19 records occur within 5 km of the Clearing Area, the closest four were:

Fauna	Distance from Clearing Area
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger</i> (south-western brush-tailed phascogale) (CD) in 1974	0.9 km east
<i>Lagorchestes hirsutus subsp</i> (rufous hare-wallaby) (T) in 1899	1.2 km east
<i>Zanda latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo) (EN) in 1999	1.3 km east
<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> (Water rat) (P4) in 2000	2.1 km north-west

According to the DBCA Black Cockatoo Roost and White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site GIS layers, the closest record was 3.2 km north-west, and 35 km north-west of the Clearing Area, respectively.

During three visits to the site over the past 12 months, Environmental Officers have not observed any evidence of Black Cockatoo presence (observations, calls or foraging evidence).

According to Australian Black Cockatoo Specialists (2025) *Plants used by Black Cockatoos in the South-West of Western Australia*, reports:

- *Acacia acuminata* and *Hakea preissii* are medium foraging usage for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo,

	• <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> is low usage for nesting and roosting for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The Clearing Area is considered to have low foraging value, due to the absence of primary foraging species, the amount of existing remnant vegetation in the local area, lack of observations and distance to breeding and/or roosting locations. There are no Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) trees within the Clearing Area. Consequently, the proposed clearing will not impact on Carnaby's Cockatoo breeding, roosting or foraging habitat. Based on the above, the Clearing Area is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.										
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.	According to DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database 19 records occur within 5 km of the Clearing Area, with the closest four being were: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Fauna</th><th>Distance from Clearing Area</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger</i> (south-western brush-tailed phascogale) (CD) in 1974</td><td>0.9 km east</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Lagorchestes hirsutus subsp</i> (rufous hare-wallaby) (T) in 1899</td><td>1.2 km east</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Zanda latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo) (EN) in 1999</td><td>1.3 km east</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> (Water rat) (P4) in 2000</td><td>2.1 km north-west</td></tr> </tbody> </table> The above avian species (<i>Zanda latirostris</i>) exhibits a large home range and the vegetation within the Clearing Area does not provide unique or valuable habitat features. It is unlikely that the vegetation within the Clearing Area provides habitat for terrestrial significant fauna species as it comprises scattered and disconnected roadside vegetation devoid of a native understorey. According to the DBCA Black Cockatoo Roost and White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site GIS layers, the closest record was 3.2 km north-west, and 35 km north-west of the Clearing Area, respectively. During three visits to the site over the past 12 months, Environmental Officers have not observed any evidence of Black Cockatoo presence (observations, calls or foraging evidence). According to Australian Black Cockatoo Specialists (2025) <i>Plants used by Black Cockatoos in the South-West of Western Australia</i>, reports: • <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Hakea preissii</i> are medium foraging usage for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, • <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> is low usage for nesting and roosting for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The Clearing Area is considered to have low foraging value, due to the absence of primary foraging species, the amount of existing remnant vegetation in the local area, lack of observations and distance to breeding and/or roosting locations. There are no Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) trees within the Clearing Area. Consequently, the proposed clearing will not impact on Carnaby's Cockatoo breeding, roosting or foraging habitat. The small quantity (0.0045 ha) of native vegetation proposed to be cleared from the roadside is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for any fauna species. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.	Fauna	Distance from Clearing Area	<i>Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger</i> (south-western brush-tailed phascogale) (CD) in 1974	0.9 km east	<i>Lagorchestes hirsutus subsp</i> (rufous hare-wallaby) (T) in 1899	1.2 km east	<i>Zanda latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo) (EN) in 1999	1.3 km east	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> (Water rat) (P4) in 2000	2.1 km north-west
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Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	According to DBCA Threatened and Priority Flora, and WA Herbarium GIS layers, there were seven records within 5km of the Clearing Area, with the closest three records being: <table border="1" data-bbox="512 226 1390 353"> <thead> <tr> <th>Flora</th><th>Distance from Clearing Area</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Xanthoparmelia hypoleiella</i> (P3)</td><td>1.6 km and 2.1km north</td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Allocasuarina fibrosa</i> (T)</td><td>redacted</td></tr> </tbody> </table> GHD (2015) did not record any EPBC or BC Act listed Threatened flora during the survey. The post survey Likelihood of Occurrence considered all conservation significant flora listed in the desktop assessment 'Unlikely' to occur near the Clearing Area. Although the survey was conducted some time ago, the high level of weed dominance to the exclusion of native species within the Clearing Area makes it unlikely that a Threatened species would occur. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.	Flora	Distance from Clearing Area	<i>Xanthoparmelia hypoleiella</i> (P3)	1.6 km and 2.1km north	<i>Allocasuarina fibrosa</i> (T)	redacted
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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.	GHD (2015) did not map the Clearing area as TEC. As works will occur within previously cleared or heavily degraded land, the condition of vegetation would not meet the criteria to be TEC under the Wheatbelt Woodlands Factsheet (D19#584174). 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.	According to GIS databases, one Beard Vegetation Association (VA) is mapped to occur within the Clearing Area: VA 352: Medium woodland; York gum. GHD (2015) reported that pre-European VA 352 mapped within the wider survey area has less than 30% of its pre-European extent remaining at the IBRA region and subregion level. GHD (2015) mapped the vegetation proposed to be cleared to be in a Completely Degraded condition. Vegetation was mapped as scattered Eucalyptus, with the Clearing Area containing two hakeas, one jam wattle and one small York Gum over introduced weeds (refer photo). This habitat is unlikely to support significant fauna species. Due to the minor amount of proposed clearing (0.0045 ha), its Completely degraded condition, largely absent vegetation structure and native species diversity, the vegetation poorly represents pre-European Association 352. The proposed clearing of 0.0045 ha represents less than <0.0002% of the mapped remnant vegetation (3,215 ha) within the 10km study area and <0.00006% of this mapped Vegetation Association at a LGA (Shire of York) level. The Clearing Area does not form part of an ecological linkage and is not required to maintain ecosystem services such as maintaining hydrological processes. This minor linear corridor of clearing (max width ~4m) of Completely Degraded vegetation fringing an existing road next provides minimal ecosystem value to fauna in the region. There are much larger areas of native vegetation to the south and west of the Clearing Area which provide greater habitat value to fauna species. The area of vegetation to be cleared is 0.0045ha which represents less than 0.00002% of the current extent of the Vegetation Association at sub-region level. Further, as discussed under Principles (a) and (b), it does not comprise a high level of biodiversity or significant habitat for native fauna. A review of historic aerial imagery suggests that the majority of the Clearing Area may have been previously cleared, with a few remnant individuals. Main Roads has conservatively classified the vegetation as native; however, it is likely the majority is regrowth and therefore not significant as a remnant.						

	The vegetation recorded within the Clearing Area is: • minor in area (0.0045ha); • poorly represents the structure of pre-European Association 352; • linear in nature and adjacent to a roadway; • highly degraded providing negligible fauna habitat and value to significant fauna species; • comprised mainly of regrowth vegetation; • not part of an ecological linkage; and • not required to maintain ecosystem services. Accordingly, it is unlikely to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared and is there for not likely 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.	According to the Surface_HydroLines_Regional GIS layer, no mapped watercourses or wetlands intersect the Clearing Area, with the closest mapped watercourse being approximately 30 metres away. The vegetation in the Clearing Area is not growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland. 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.	DPIRD (NRInfo) mapping indicates that the Clearing Area has: • 3-10% of map unit has a very high to extreme water erosion hazard, • 10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion hazard, • 10-30% of map unit has very poor to poor site drainage potential, and • 10-30% of map unit has a moderate salinity hazard. The CSIRO ASRIS Acid Sulphate Soils layer indicates that the area is classified as “<i>Low Probability of Occurrence</i>”. The proposed small amount of clearing (0.0045 ha) in a Completely Degraded condition adjacent to the roadside, is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation. 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.	According to DBCA Lands and Waters layer, the closest DBCA reserve is located 6.8 km east of the Clearing Area. There are no mapped Bush Forever sites within the 10km study area. 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.	The Clearing Area is not located within any Public Drinking Water Source Area or Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RIWI Act) or catchment proclaimed under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> (CAWS Act). It is located in a Surface Water Area proclaimed under the RIWI Act; however, as the Proposal will not extract groundwater, or significantly alter natural drainage or surface runoff patterns, impacts on groundwater are unlikely. According to the Surface_HydroLines_Regional GIS layer, no mapped watercourses intersect the Clearing Area, with the closest mapped watercourse is approximately 30 metres away. The proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater. 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,	DPIRD (NRInfo) mapping indicates that the Clearing Area has: • >70% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood hazard, and • >70% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging and inundation risk.

or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	A review of ArcGIS shapefiles indicates that the proposed clearing will not disturb or interrupt any natural drainage or surface run-off patterns. Clearing of 0.0045 ha of native vegetation in Completely Degraded condition adjacent to the roadside, is unlikely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Methodology Used and References:	Australian Black Cockatoo Specialists (2025) Plants used by Black Cockatoos in the South-West of Western Australia DPIRD mapping (Natural Resource Information (WA)) DSEWPAC (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species GHD (2015) York to Merredin Road Widening SLK 0 – 51 Biological Assessment Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. Main Roads GIS Shapefiles Main Roads Site Observations Photographs of the vegetation: Appendix 1 (Plate 01)

9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS

Offset Proposal:	No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in a significant residual impact on 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, or not likely to be 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, - works have potential for uninfested areas to be impacted.	No	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1) and Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669) 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.	NA	No further action required.
Completed By:		
Name	redacted	
Signature	redacted	
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer	
Date	27 March 2026	

Once all sections are completed, send the form to CRSP for review and endorsement.

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	redacted
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	1/04/2026

Appendix 1



Figure 1: Clearing Area



Plate 01: View of Clearing Area