

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	M038 Narrogin Kondinin Road/ Sprigg Road Intersection - Upgrade Sightline for safe access for school bus.		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Narrogin		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	M038 Narrogin Kondinin Road		
Proposal Location (SLK):	37.76 – 37.72		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D24#513864		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D24#255923		
EOS Number:	3317		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	After approval		
Oracle Project No:	30000921	Task Code:	741.16
LISC TRIM Number:	D24#255958	HRA TRIM No:	D24#256596

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Proposal involves the clearing of 0.025 ha of native vegetation to improve intersection sightline of approaching high speed traffic for road users entering Narrogin Kondinin Rd (M038) from Sprigg Road.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The works are to increase safety of an existing intersection. No modifications to the road network are proposed given only minor clearing is required to achieve desired safety improvement.

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

Vegetation to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to identified locations. This approach will prevent accidental over-clearing. It should be noted that no understorey and ground layer native vegetation is present in the area and consequently, only 0.025ha of vegetation will be impacted during clearing.

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):	0.025ha	No. Trees Cleared:	Two isolated <i>Eucalyptus Wandoo</i> Trees and up to 0.01ha <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> trees.
Species Name(s):	<i>Eucalyptus Wandoo</i> and <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>		
Easting and Northing:	50H 521969 6358964		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation broadly aligns with the Pre-European vegetation association number 1023, Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>), as mapped within the Pre-European Vegetation DPIRD-006 database. Two isolated <i>Eucalyptus Wandoo</i> Trees and up to 0.01ha of <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> trees will be impacted.		
Site Vegetation Condition:	Vegetation to be cleared is located directly adjacent to cleared road maintenance corridor "maintenance zone" and is considered to be in a Completely Degraded condition.		
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):		Levels	% Remaining
		Statewide	10.79
		IBRA Bioregion Avon Wheatbelt	10.84
		IBRA Subregion Katanning	12.32
		Local Government Authority Shire of Narrogin	15.98

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.	A desktop assessment did not identify any Threatened or Priority species in the project area and its vicinity. The vegetation is in a Completely Degraded condition as evidenced by photographs provided in Appendix 1. The desktop assessment also did not identify any significant fauna species in the project area and its vicinity.

	<p>The project area lies within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC mapped buffer. However, the existing vegetation assemblage does not correspond to the TEC as the vegetation is Completely Degraded and contains <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> as a dominant canopy species.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Fauna habitat was assessed in the Proposal Environmental Risk Assessment (PERA), see TRIM D24#419149. Two species may possibly utilise the habitat, Carnaby's cockatoo (<i>Zanda latirostris</i>) and Red-tailed Phascogale, Kenngoor (<i>Phascogale calura</i>); however, the habitat is not significant to the species and impacts are unlikely.</p> <p>The proposal area was determined to contain low to moderate foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (<i>Zanda latirostris</i>) as two Wandoo trees (approximately 0.015ha) will be cleared. Trees were determined to be suitable DBH due to trunk size >500mm; however, each tree contained forks at approximately 3.5m high and were assessed to be too small to provide breeding hollows for Black cockatoos. Furthermore, the two Wandoo trees to be cleared show signs of significant stress, with branches of the crowns of both trees being predominantly dead and unable to form adequate hollows in the future. No impact to breeding habitat will occur from proposed works.</p> <p>Given that two Wandoo trees will be cleared within a Degraded to Completely Degraded area of vegetation with a canopy of eucalypt species <10%, foraging value is considered Low to Moderate. The closest breeding site is located approximately 26km to the south west and the closest known Black Cockatoo roost site is located ~6.4m distant, therefore the proposed clearing is outside the likely feeding area of the roost or breeding site.</p> <p>The clearing of two Wandoo trees (approximately 0.015ha), located on the perimeter of adjoining woodland and a road reserve is not considered to have a significant impact for Carnaby Cockatoo foraging habitat in the immediate area. The adjoining woodland extends over 18 ha area and is in a greater condition of vegetation to be cleared, clearing of two Wandoo trees will impact less than 1% of the woodland adjoining. Within 20km of the Proposal Area, over 5,086 ha of DBCA managed reserves exist and are located within mapped Carnaby's known distribution area (DoEE, 2018).</p> <p>Based on the above assessment, impacts to Carnaby's cockatoo is not considered to be significant, with only negligible impact to foraging habitat likely.</p> <p>Proposed clearing of two Wandoo Trees which contain hollows and up to 0.01ha of <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> trees has the potential to impact nesting hollows and feeding habitat for Red-tailed Phascogale, Kenngoor (<i>Phascogale calura</i>).</p> <p>The closest recorded Red-tailed Phascogale sighting occurs over 8 km away within a 68 ha area of quality bushland habitat associated with Foxes Lair Reserve, west of Narrogin. Based on known records the closest known population is localised to this</p>

	<p>area. The Proposal Area is outside the home range of any recorded Red-tailed phascogale based on records within the current DBCA database (DBCA-037), no habitat corridors that may provide linkages from known occurrences to the Proposal Area exist. Given this, it is unlikely for the species to occur within the Proposal Area.</p> <p>Proposed works will be undertaken to minimise the threat to Red-tailed phascogale that may occur within the clearing area. Measures will involve ensuring all Wandoo tree hollows (>100mm) are inspected prior to clearing and all fauna sightings are reported to Regional Environment Officer. If individuals are identified a qualified wildlife handler will be engaged to relocate individuals to bushland with similar or better habitat prior to commencing tree clearing works. Potential impact to this species is not considered to be significant.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	<p>A desktop review of known priority and threatened flora locations (DBCA-036 & WA Herbarium database) did not identify any flora species within 4km of the Proposal Area. The closest recorded species (<i>Acacia deflexa</i> – Priority 3 and <i>Verticordia fimbriilepis</i> subsp. <i>fimbriilepis</i> – Threatened) occur over 4km south of the Proposal Area. No protected flora species are known to occur within the Proposal Area, the Proposal Area is directly adjacent to cleared roadside and in a highly degraded condition with no lower story native vegetation. No priority flora occurs within remnant vegetation adjoining the Proposal Area, no impact to priority/threatened flora are likely from proposed works.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>A desktop assessment of mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) within the Study Area identified the presence of TEC - Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Woodlands) 'Critically Endangered'.</p> <p>Vegetation is within a mapped (TEC), based on the Threatened Ecological Communities database (DBCA-038); however, based on the Highly Degraded vegetation condition (see Appendix 1), lack of understory vegetation and <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> being present as a dominant canopy layer species, vegetation is not considered representative of TEC (see Technical Guidance Threatened Ecological Community Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Factsheet 2021).</p> <p>Proposal activities will not directly or indirectly impact nationally threatened ecological communities.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>The proposal area is mapped as occurring within Vegetation Association 1023 (Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>)) mapped for the area (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p> <p>Vegetation Association 1023 has less than 30% of their pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA bioregion, IBRA subregion and Shire of Narrogin levels. However, there is no medium woodland within the proposal area and the vegetation</p>

	<p>consists only of isolated trees in a Completely Degraded condition. 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 1023.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>The proposal area does not intersect any watercourses. The nearest one, which is minor and non-perennial is located over 1.5km to the North. Native vegetation is not associated with any watercourse or wetland.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	<p>It is unlikely that this proposal will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the works and the fact that native vegetation is located in an area already in highly disturbed condition.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>There are no reserves or conservation areas located within and in the vicinity of the proposal area.</p> <p>The nearest area located 10 km from the proposal area. Given the distance to the site, it is unlikely that this project will significantly impact any reserves or conservation areas.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>No ground water or surface water abstraction is proposed to occur as part of these works. In addition, no dewatering or drainage modifications are required, hence no change to surface or groundwater level or quality will occur. Impacts to surface/ground water will not occur from proposed works.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	<p>Based on the presence of clayey sand soils and small area of native vegetation to be removed, it is unlikely that this project will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The proposal area does not occur within floodplain area (DWER-020 database).</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Methodology Used and References:	<p>M038 Narrogin Kondinin Road Sprigg Road Intersection PERA; TRIM D24#419149</p> <p>M038 Narrogin Kondinin Road Sprigg Road Intersection - BC Hollow assessment (Kirkby,2023); TRIM D24#442918</p> <p>Shapefile of clearing area/trees; TRIM D24#255923</p> <p>DBCA/DWER database review</p>
9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS	
Offset Proposal:	<p>No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.</p>
Revegetation and Rehabilitation:	<p>No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities.</p>

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has rainfall greater than 400mm; and, is South of the 26th parallel; 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	Senior Environment Officer
Date	04/03/2024

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	18/04/2024

APPENDIX 1 - Proposal Area Clearing

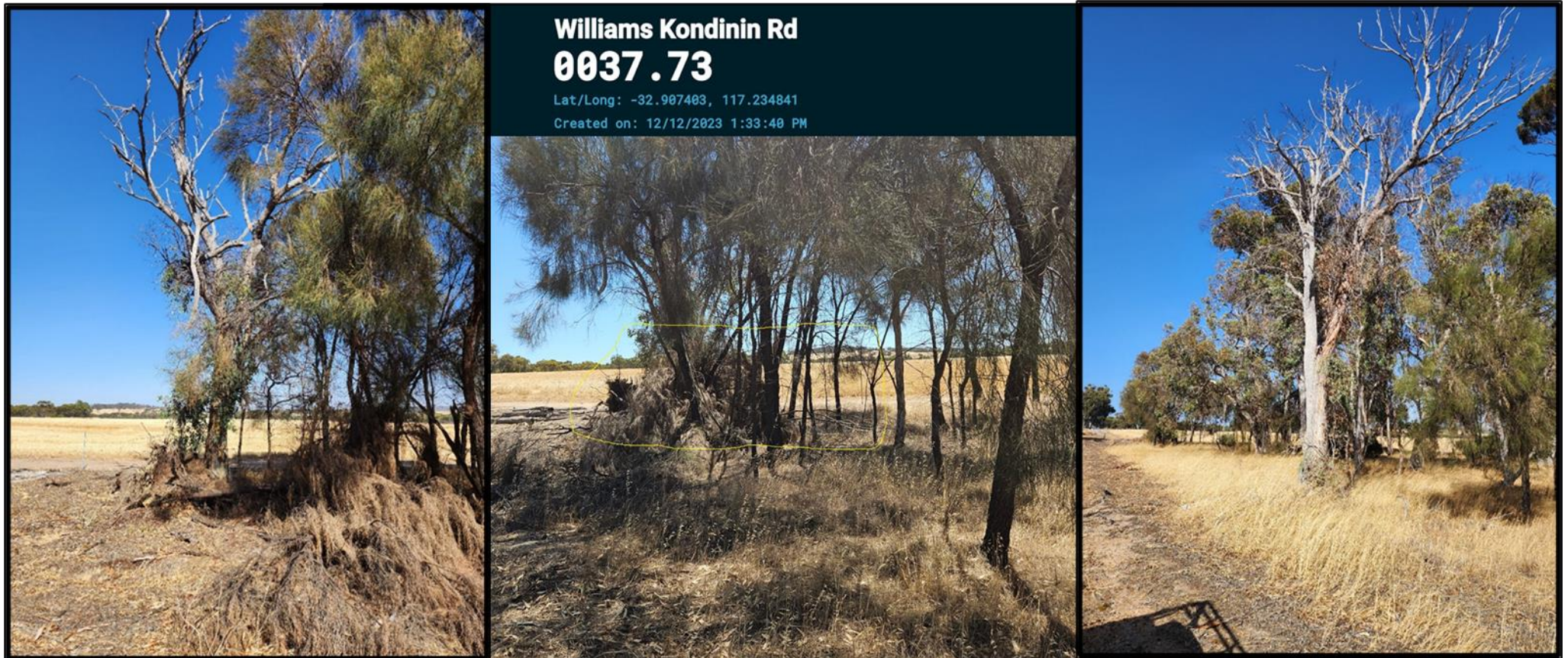


Plate 1 Photographs of trees to be cleared



Figure 1. Map of Areas to be cleared