Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Bridges 0753 & 0754 replacement, and M032 Northam-Pithara Road re-alignment		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt Region		
Local Government:	Shite of Northam		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Replacement of Bridge 0753 by new Bridge 0753A over Mortlock River North; Replacement of Bridge 0754 by new culvert 0754A over Mallabine Creek; and Re-alignment of M032 Northam-Pithara Road between SLKs 4.46 and 5.85, including the upgrade of the M032 / Southern Brook Road intersection.		
Proposal Location (SLK):	Re-alignment of M032 Northam-Pithara Road between SLKs 4.46 and 5.85, including the upgrade of the M032 / Southern Brook Road intersection. Approx. 5km North of Northam		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#107946		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D26#98626		
EOS Number:	2122		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	Contractor Possession of Site date, expected around April or May 2026		
Oracle Project No:	30004523	**Task Code:**	19301
LISC TRIM Number:	D26#59076	**HRA TRIM Number:**	D25#1456415

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Additional clearing to facilitate the Bridges 753/754 replacement and realignment of Northam Pithara Rd project.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

Design measures to avoid clearing were considered; however, due to limitations of infrastructure placement, and issues with obtaining landowner consent, this location was chosen to minimise impacts.

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

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

- 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 accommodate a laydown area to facilitate the construction of Bridge 753/754. A no clear zone is proposed to be established to reduce clearing. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- Options for locations of laydown areas are limited due to access limitations to freehold land. Locations have been chosen to minimise impacts as far as practicable.

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):	0.084 ha	**No. Trees Cleared:**	27
Species Name(s):	The clearing comprises 13 *Acacia acuminata*, four *Allocasuarina spp*., two *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, one *Eucalyptus rudis*, , four *Hakea preissii*, and one unknown *Acacia* species.		
Easting and Northing:	GDA 2020 MGA Zone50 470720.00mE 6502813.95mN		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Cleared – Paddock with scattered trees/ shrubs
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	N/A

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 Clearing Area consists of *E. loxophleba* (York Gum), *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum), *Allocasuarina spp*., *Acacia acuminata* (jam Wattle), , four *Hakea preissii* (needle tree), and one unknow *Acacia* species. Ecoscape (2020) did not identify any threatened flora during their targeted flora search. None of the five species to be cleared are conservation significant flora species; as confirmed by Ecoscape (2020) the vegetation does not form part of a Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community. The Clearing Area is in the mapped distribution area for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo but not Baudin's Black Cockatoo or Forest Red-tail Cockatoo.

	The Clearing Area is not within, or providing connectivity to, a conservation area, nor is it growing in association with a watercourse or wetland. The vegetation proposed for clearing is not representative of a high level of biological diversity. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not 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.	The proposed clearing does not provide a significant habitat for fauna. Species are common and do not provide unique values. <u>Impacts to Carnaby' Black Cockatoo Foraging habitat</u> The two *Eucalyptus spp.* to be cleared are not considered foraging species for Carnaby's (ABCS, 2025). The clearing of two juvenile York Gums and one Flooded gum will have no impact on foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. *Allocasuarina spp*., *Acacia acuminata,* and *Hakia preissii* are listed as a medium quality foraging species for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Within a 10km radius of the Proposal Area there is 2,646.04 ha of remnant vegetation. A total of 0.025 ha of *Acacia acuminata* is proposed to be cleared, 0.006 ha of *Allocasuarina spp.* is proposed to be cleared, and 0.0141 ha of H. preissii is proposed to be cleared, totalling 0.0451 ha of moderate quality forging habitat to be cleared. Clearing of 0.0451 ha of constitutes 0.0017% of remnant vegetation within a 10km radius of the Proposal Area. Removing 0.0017% of remnant vegetation (none of which comprises primary foraging species) within a 10km radius is not going to have a significant impact on the availability of Black Cockatoo foraging habitat. <u>Impacts to Carnaby's Black Cockatoo Roosting and Breeding Habitat</u> *Acacia acuminata*, *Allocasuarina spp*., and *H. preissii* provide no roosting or nesting value to Carnaby's cockatoo. So the clearing of 13 *A. acuminata*, four *Allocasuarina spp*., and four *H. preissii* will have no impact on the availability of roosting and nesting habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The two *Eucalyptus spp.* to be cleared are considered Low quality nesting and roosting habitat. The two *Eucalyptus loxophleba* trees are juveniles and are not a suitable DBH to be capable of producing hollows. The Clearing Area is unlikely to be significant habitat for any fauna species, given the Degraded quality of the vegetation and proximity to extensively cleared farmland
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	The proposal is to clear *E. loxophleba, E. rudis*, *Allocasuarina spp*., *A. acuminata*, and one unknow *Acacia* species. No threatened flora species were identified during the biological survey (Ecoscape, 2020). The nearest threatened flora (***REDACTED***) record occurs approximately 4 km southwest of the Clearing Area. 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	Based on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) restricted access Threatened Ecological

is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	Community (TEC) dataset, the Clearing Area does not intersect a mapped patch of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed as Critically Endangered under the *EPBC Act*. Structure of vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent descriptions of a TEC. The Proposal Area was surveyed by Ecoscape in 2020. The survey classified the majority of the vegetation within the Proposal Area as cleared land of which 0.90 ha is cleared paddock and 0.22 ha as cleared Rail corridor. However, closer examination revels that within the area marked as cleared exists 2 x Eucalypts (York Gum and Flooded Gum) and scattered individuals of Sheoak and jam wattle. The structure, condition and co-dominance of species exclude this vegetation from comprising TEC. The remaining 0.06 ha was mapped as ElHpOF (*Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* and *Hakea preissii* mid open forest low grassland/tussock grassland). Ecoscape (2020) determined that the patches of ElHpOF meet the structural criteria of being a Eucalypt woodland dominated by a listed species. However, the patches didn't meet the condition threshold to be considered representative, because the vegetation is in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition and the patch sizes were too small. 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 Clearing Area is broadly mapped as occurring within Beard Vegetation Association 352; Medium woodland; York Gum (DPIRD-006). Vegetation Association 352 has less than 30% of its pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (17.27%), IBRA Katanning subregion (10.74%) and Shire of Northam levels (11.41%) (Government of Western Australia, 2019). However, the proposed clearing consists of *A. acuminata* (Jam Wattle), *E. loxophleba* (York Gum), *Allocasuarina spp., E. rudis,* and one unknown *Acacia species* growing in the Completely Degraded rail maintenance corridor and is therefore no longer representative of the broad scale Beard Vegetation Association. The Clearing Area does not form a significant linkage across the landscape and is not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is 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 desktop GIS datasets and analysis of aerial imagery, the Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped watercourses or wetlands. The nearest watercourse (Mortlock River North) is approximately 70m west of the Proposal Area. The vegetation proposed for clearing is not associated with any 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.	It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the clearing and the Completely Degraded condition of the area. 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 are no conservation areas within, or in close proximity to, the Clearing Area. The nearest conservation area is located approximately 14 km Northeast. Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas. 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 located within the Avon River Catchment Area, a proclaimed Surface Water Area under the *RIWI Act*. According to desktop GIS datasets and analysis of aerial and Streetview imagery, the Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped watercourses or wetlands. The Clearing Area is not located within a proclaimed Groundwater Area, Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) or Clearing Control Catchment under the CAWS Act (GIS Databases). The clearing 0.084ha of mostly regrowth unlikely to have an appreciable impact on surface water quality in such an extensively cleared landscape.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Based on the small area (0.084 ha) of native vegetation to be removed, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The Proposal Area does not include any mapped watercourses or wetlands and does not occur within a mapped floodplain area (DWER-020)

Methodology Used and References:	Australian Black Cockatoo Specialists (2025) Unpublished report prepared for Main Roads Western Australia. July 2025. DAWE (2022) - Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - DCCEEW Ecoscape (Australia) Pty Ltd (2020) Northam Pithara Road Bridges 0753 and 0754 Replacement Biological Survey, prepared for Main Roads Western Australia. Government of Western Australia (2019) – Statewide Vegetation Statistics - https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics Main Roads Site map: Appendix 1. Photographs: Appendix 1. Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D26#98626 Bureau of Meteorology – Northam Annual Rainfall 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)

	TEC_PEC Actual Boundary

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'	**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	02/02/2026

Completed By:	
Name	REDACTED
Signature	REDACTED
Job Title	Graduate Environment Officer
Date	31/03/2026

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	**REDACTED**
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	4/02/2026

DECISION ON REVISED CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	**REDACTED**
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	31/03/2026

Appendix 1. Plates and Figures

Plate 1. *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) – DBH with no hollows

Plate 2. Four *Acacia acuminata* (Jam Wattles)

Plate 3. Four *Acacia acuminata* (Jam Wattles)

Plate 4. Four *Acacia acuminata* (Jam Wattles) and one

Plate 5. One *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York Gum) and one *Casuarina* sp.

Plate 6. One *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York Gum)

Plate 7. One *Casuarina obesa*

Plate 8. One *Acacia acuminata*

Plate 9. One *Allocasuarina* sp.

Plate 10. One *Allocasuarina* sp.

Figure 1. Proposal Area and Clearing Area

Figure 2. Vegetation Types within the Clearing Area

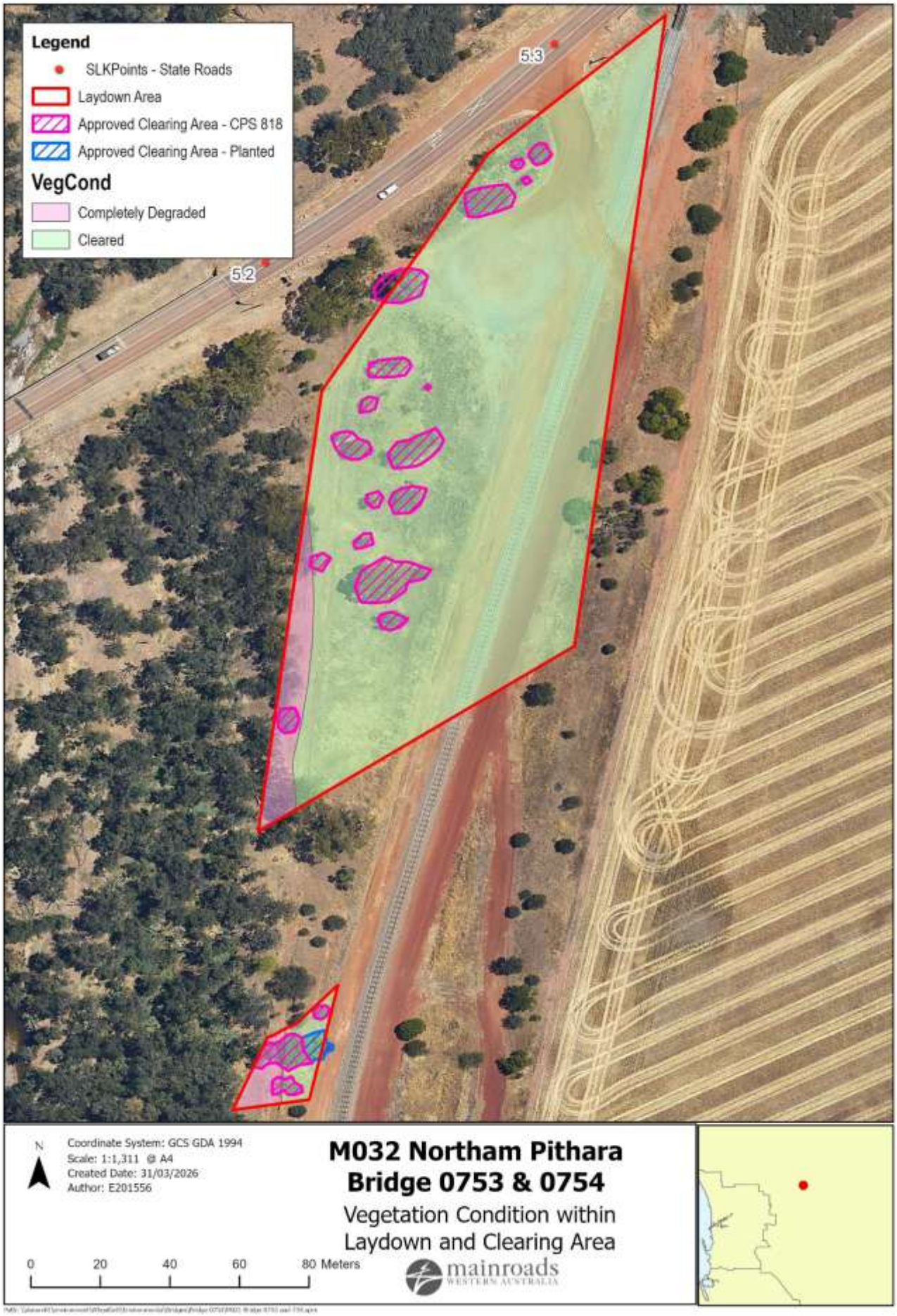

Figure 3. Vegetation Condition within the Clearing Area