Clearing Desktop Report – CPS 818

We're working for Western Australia.

Victoria Hwy SLK 4.54, 12.89, and 15.08
Victoria Highway H011
Kimberley
3796

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1 PROPOSAL

1.1 Purpose and Justification

Main Roads Western Australia proposes to upgrade three bridges to culverts at SLK 4.54, 12.89, and 15.08. These are located west of Kununurra, before the turn-off to the Great Northern Highway.

A Road Safety Investigation (available at D16#780427) was completed in 2010, which highlights the ongoing costs of maintaining several culverts, current safety of this infrastructure, and the recommended improvements to meet road safety guidelines. This includes the widening of existing culvert infrastructure, and installation of barriers where required given the high (110 km/h) speed limit on Victoria Highway.

The proposed changes will bring culverts on Victoria Highway at Straight Line Kilometre (SLK) 4.54, 12.89, and 15.08 in line with road safety guidelines, and provide a safer road network. This is particularly important given the high volume of tourists and road trains travelling along this narrow route throughout the year and increasing post-wet season. These upgrades will decrease the annual societal and social hazard costs of the infrastructure over the next 20 years and improve the safety of these assets.

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 proposes to upgrade three bridges located at SLK 4.54, 12.89, and 15.08 to box culverts, and add railing as required.

The works required under this scope are:

- Clearing vegetation as required to widen culverts and blend into existing road infrastructure;
- Construct access tracks to the culvert end treatments;
- Remove existing culvert wingwalls and headwalls;
- Prepare foundation for culvert base slab extensions and new aprons;
- Construct new headwalls and wingwalls;
- Downstream rock protection;
- Widen road on approaches to culverts;
- Rock protection to batters as required, and
- Pavement overlay at culverts, sealing.

1.3 Proposal Location

The Project is located on Victoria Highway, west of Kununurra at SLK 4.54, 12.89, and 15.08, within the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley as shown in Figure 1 to Figure 3.

The central coordinate of the proposal is: -15.8361772°S, 128.4535057°E.

1.4 Clearing Details

Proposed Clearing of up to 0.74 ha of remnant native vegetation is to be undertaken using CPS 818.

Areas of Native Vegetation Clearing:
The areas of native vegetation to be cleared are shown in Figure 1 to Figure 3.

Type of Native Vegetation:
The Proposal Area was subject to a Biological Survey by Focused Vision in 2024. Five types of vegetation are present within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area as described in Section 4.

Figure 1. SLK 4.54 Native Vegetation Clearing Area

Figure 2. SLK 12.89 Native Vegetation Clearing Area

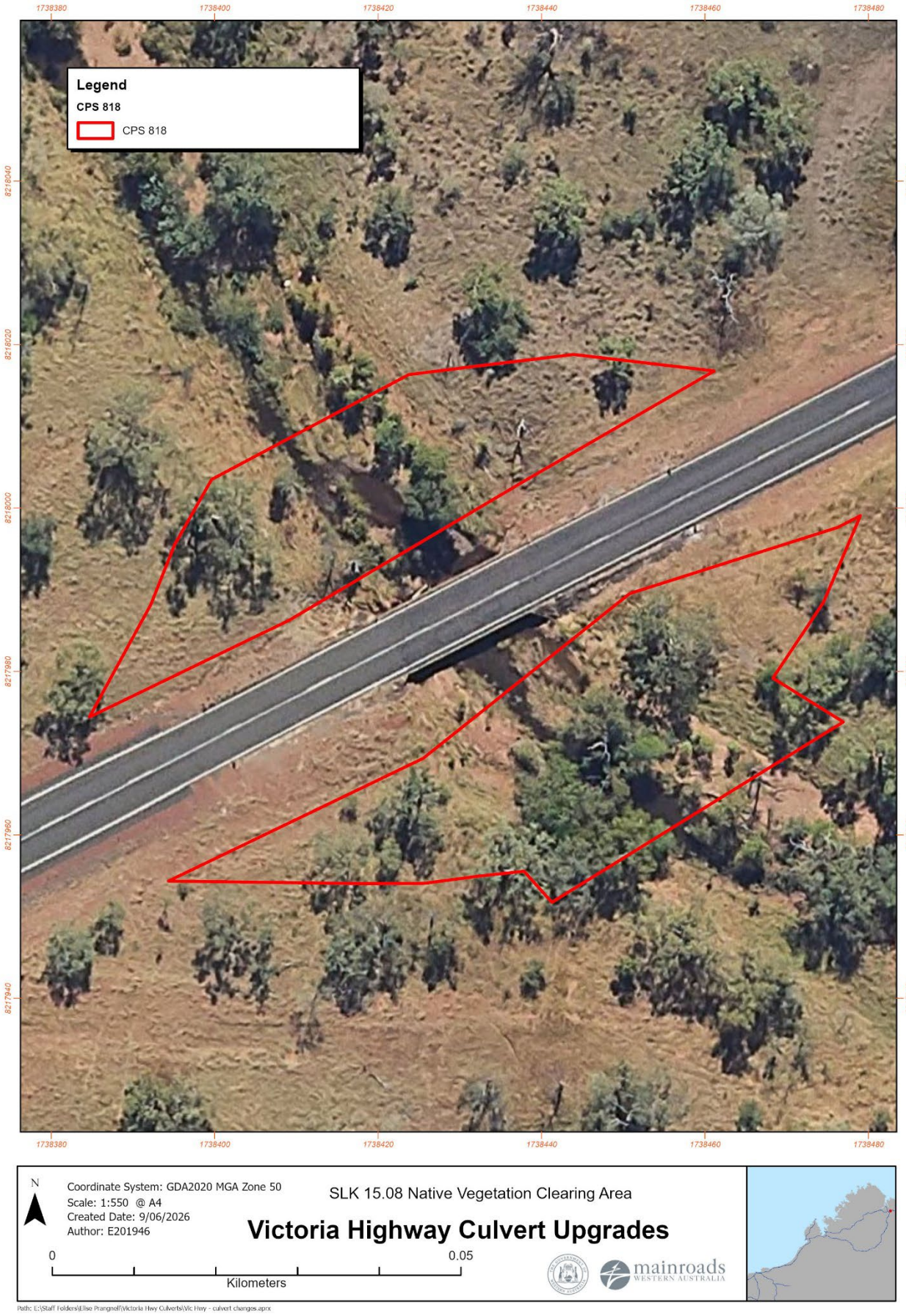

Figure 3. SLK 15.08 Native Vegetation Clearing Area

1.5 Alternatives to Native Vegetation Clearing Considered During Proposal Development

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

- Relocating the alignment in cleared pastural areas over the existing road reserve, however, this would be considered cost-prohibitive, e.g., due to the cost of resumption of farmland and construction of a completely new road in addition to a new crossing, rather than widening the existing crossing and premature redundancy of State road asset, lack of adequate funding, stakeholder engagement, resource requirements. Under this option, additional clearing would also still be required, making it impractical by all measures.
- Upgrading other alternative routes that are less vegetated and environmentally constrained, these are not suitable due to longer travel times, sensitive local receptors (such as residences) or other planning issues.
- Do not upgrade the road, this will result in a poorer safety outcome and may result in future fatalities or serious injuries and further degradation of the State road asset, with additional costs.
- 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 the road formation, 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. Accordingly, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.
- Different engineering solutions were considered, including upgrading to a slab culvert (bridge), pipe culverts, and box culverts; however, box culverts were the most cost-effective solution with a reasonably small disturbance footprint required.

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 material pits and water sources for construction.	Fill and basecourse material shall be sourced from the existing Rob Hill pit. Water will be sourced from existing Main Roads water bore GNH SLK 3130.6.
Use of existing cleared areas for turnaround areas, construction storage and stockpiling	The plant required for the culvert extensions will be small enough to turn around on the highway. Large plant can turn around at Cockburn Intersection, driveways (e.g. SLK 3.95 TRHS) or at existing turnarounds close to the culvert sites. Sealing aggregate may either be stored at the Kimberley Quarries pit at SLK 4 (TRHS) or Main Roads Kununurra depot.
Use of existing site offices and accommodation	Because the proposal is in close proximity to Kununurra, there is no requirement for site offices or accommodation in the Proposal area.
Fauna and Flora management	To reduce the potential impacts on Gouldian Finches and other tree-burrow breeding species, any trees with potential burrows will be flagged with blue tape and retained where possible. Pre-clearing surveys will be completed two weeks prior to clearing. All boab trees within the NVCA will be flagged and retained where possible or otherwise relocated if these cannot be avoided.

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:

- **Native Vegetation Clearing Area (NVCA)** – The maximum amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the Proposal that will accommodate the designed earthworks and a nominal buffer to allow for the safe movement of machinery during construction. The NVCA for this proposal is 0.74 ha).

- **Study Area** – Area covered by the Desktop Assessment. The Study Area for the Proposal is confined to a local area of a 40 km radius.

- **Survey Area** – Area covered by the Biological Survey, which is larger than the Proposal Area. The Survey Area for this project encompasses 105.23 ha.

2.2 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of the NVCA was undertaken by viewing internal datasets and other government agency-managed databases, and consulting with relevant stakeholders where necessary.

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.

2.3 Surveys and Assessments

One Detailed and Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey was undertaken by Focused Vision (2024) to inform this CDR. This is outlined in Table 2 and a summary of the findings in these reports are presented in Section 3.1.

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

Consultant and Survey Name	Survey Details
Focused Vision (2024) Middle Creek Bridge Main Roads Western Australia November 2024	**Survey Area:** Survey area comprised approximately 105.23 ha across four separate Survey Area envelopes between Kununurra and the Cockburn Intersection Rest Area. **Type:** Detailed vegetation and targeted flora survey, and a Basic fauna survey. **Timing:** The flora component was undertaken by a Botanist/Ecologist, and a Graduate Botanist between 8 and 13 March 2024, consisting of a total survey effort of three person-days. The fauna component was conducted by a Zoologist between 8 and 13 March 2024, with a total assessment effort of 1.5 days. **Survey Results Shapefile TRIM Ref:** D24#1018371 **Document TRIM Ref:** D24#1018405

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Summary and Analysis of Flora and Vegetation Surveys

Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) commissioned Focused Vision Consulting Pty Ltd (FVC) to undertake and report on a biological assessment, including a desktop assessment and field assessment for the Middle Creek Bridge (MCB) (Survey Area), which is situated approximately 25 kilometres (km) west of the town of Kununurra on Victoria Highway. The biological assessment required an assessment of key values, including flora, vegetation, terrestrial vertebrate fauna, and fauna habitat.

FVC undertook a comprehensive biological assessment of the Survey Area (which covers 105.23 hectares (ha)), comprising of a desktop assessment for flora, vegetation, ecological communities, fauna and significant fauna habitat, a detailed flora and vegetation field assessment, a targeted survey for Threatened and Priority flora and ecological communities, and a basic fauna field assessment. Field assessments were conducted during March 2024 and were led by experienced ecologists. All assessments and reporting have been conducted suitably qualified and experienced personnel, in accordance with relevant technical guidance and conservation advice.

The key findings and conclusions arising from the biological assessment within the Survey Area are as follows:

- No Threatened flora listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* or under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act)* were recorded.
- Two Priority flora species, *Fimbristylis subaristata* (Priority (P) 1) and *Goodenia byrnesii* (P3) were recorded within five vegetation units (Ag, Cg, CpEb, LcCg and TpTc).
- One Declared Pest (DP) plant, **Calotropis procera* was recorded within the Survey Area.
- Ten vegetation units were defined within the Survey Area, consisting of one *Adansonia* Woodland, three *Corymbia* Woodlands, two *Eucalyptus* Woodlands, two *Lysiphyllum* Woodlands, and two *Terminalia* Shrublands.
- The majority of the project area (70.35 ha, 66.86%) is in 'Excellent' condition, with areas of 'Good' or poorer vegetation associated with drainage and current areas of disturbance.
- No State or EBPC-listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), or State-listed Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) occur within the Survey Area.

- Although there was no Threatened flora, TECs or PECs recorded in the Survey Area, it has been determined that further impact assessment consideration may be warranted for all of the vegetation units, as they may be of regional significance, due to:
    - supporting populations of Priority flora
    - potentially supporting Priority flora (that were determined 'likely to occur', but were not recorded, possibly due to survey limitations resulting from inundation at the time of survey
    - occurring within a vegetation association that is limited in its regional distribution and somewhat its regional extent.
- Two fauna species of conservation significance were recorded during the field assessment; Gouldian Finch (*Erythruria gouldiae*) (Endangered; EPBC Act, Priority 4; Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)) and Australian Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus dubius*) (Priority 4; DBCA).
- Three additional significant fauna species are 'likely to occur' or utilise the Survey Area as 'Regular visitors'; Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (Endangered), Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (Vulnerable) and Northern Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) (Vulnerable).
- Three introduced fauna species were recorded within the Survey Area: The European Cow (**Bos taurus*), Cane Toad (**Rhinella marinus*) and Dog/Dingo (**Canis familiaris*).
- Three DP fauna species were recorded; (Cane Toad, Dog/Dingo and Agile Wallaby (*Macropus agilis*)).
- Eleven fauna habitats were recorded, described and mapped within the Survey Area.

Further discussion on Focused Vision's 2024 Biological Survey will be made in assessment against the Ten Clearing Principles (Section 4).

4 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT OF VEGETATION

4.1 Desktop Vegetation Description

Table 3 and Table 4 provide details of the vegetation types within the NVCA and the remaining extents of these associations.

For a full description of the existing vegetation, refer to the Biological Report found at D24#1018405.

Table 3. Summary of Vegetation Types within Native Vegetation Clearing Area.

Vegetation Type	Mapping Unit	Extent within NVCA (ha)	Total Extent Mapped (ha)*	Maximum % Impact of Survey Area
CpEb	*Corymbia? polycarpa* and *Eucalyptus bigalerita* low open woodland over *Grevillea pyramidalis subsp. leucadendron* and *Melaleuca viridiflora* tall sparse shrubland over *Sorghum bulbosum*, *Triodia bitextura* and *Pteris platyzomopsis* closed hummock grassland.	0.25	54.25	0.46%
EtCg	*Eucalyptus tectifica, Corymbia grandiflora subsp. lamprocardia* and *Corymbia sp.* open woodland over *Sorghum stipoideum* and *Triodia bitextura hummock* grassland.	0.06	80.98	0.07%
LcCg	*Lysiphyllum cunninghamii, Corymbia grandiflora subsp. lamprocardia* and *Adansonia gregorii* low open woodland over *Ficus aculeata* tall, *isolated* shrubs over *Sorghum bulbosum* closed grassland.	0.33	11.19	2.95%
LcTcAh	*Lysiphyllum cunninghamii, Acacia? holosericea* and *Terminalia canescens* low open woodland over *Grewia savannicola* isolated shrubland over *Aristidea holathera var holathera* grassland.	0.05	59.77	0.08%
TpTc	*Eucalyptus spp., Terminalia platyptera* and *Terminalia canescens* low open woodland over *Chrysopogon fallax, Themeda triandra* and *Sehima nervosum* grassland.	0.05	87.17	0.06%
	Total	0.74 ha	293.36 ha	**0.25%**

* Mapped Vegetation in both the Survey and Contextual Areas in Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey.

Table 4. Pre-European Vegetation Representation

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre–European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Current Extent in DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European Extent)
Veg Assoc No. 835	**Statewide** Western Australia	74,618.33	74,480.88	99.82	2.64
	IBRA Bioregion Victoria Bonaparte	6,771.80	6771.80	100.00	28.99
	IBRA Sub-region Victoria Bonaparte VB1	6,771.80	6,771.80	100.00	28.99
	Local Government Authority Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	6,771.80	6,771.80	100.00	2.64

4.2 Fauna Habitat Description

Table 5 below provides details of the fauna habitat types and their condition within the NVCA.

For a full description of the Fauna Habitats, refer to the Biological Report found at D24#1018405.

Table 5. Summary of Fauna Habitats within Native Vegetation Clearing Area.

Fauna Habitat	Extent within NVCA (ha)	Total Extent Mapped (ha)	Maximum % Impact of Survey Area
Drainage Minor 1; Scattered Corymbia over Scattered Shrubs	0.19	0.95	20.00%
Drainage Minor 2; Scattered Eucalyptus/Corymbia over Tussock Grassland	0.19	2.74	6.93%
Floodplain 2; Scattered Corymbia Woodland	0.05	19.80	0.25%
Floodplain 3; Scattered Corymbia/Eucalyptus Woodland over Hummock Grassland	0.20	9.64	2.07%
Sandy/Stony Plains 2; Scattered Eucalyptus/Corymbia Woodland	0.06	3.63	1.65%
Sandy/Stony Plains 3; Scattered Shrubland	0.05	3.08	1.62%
Total	0.74	39.84	1.86%

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 likely to be at variance with the majority of the ten Clearing Principles. Due to intersection with vegetation associated with drainage features, the proposed clearing is at variance to Principle f).

(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.

Assessment

The NVCA does not occur in any of the eight Biodiversity Hotspots located in Western Australia. The nearest Biodiversity Hotspot is the Northern Kimberley IBRA region, located over 36 km northwest of the NVCA. Current guidance on the assessment of biological diversity, described in DER (2014), includes the following five metrics as indicators of high diversity:

1. **Flora and Fauna species diversity;**
2. **Priority and other Significant Flora;**
3. **Fauna Habitat & Priority Fauna;**
4. **Significant Ecological Communities;**
5. **Vegetation Condition.**

1. Flora and Fauna species diversity

Flora

A total of 208 flora species, from 121 genera and 52 families were recorded during Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey. Ten of these (4.81%) are introduced (weed) species. No Threatened flora taxa, range extension taxa, undescribed taxa, or potentially conservation-significant flora were recorded in the NVCA.

Two priority flora species, *Fimbristylis subaristata* (P1), and *Goodenia Byrnesii* (P3), were observed in the Survey Area; however, did not occur in the NVCA.

Two other conservation significant flora species were considered likely to occur, and six more may occur (FVC 2024) within the Survey Area. However, none of these species were located in the NVCA.

The proposed clearing will have a maximum potential impact of 2.95% of the mapped extent of any intact vegetation type in the Survey Area (0.33 ha of LcCg). The proposed clearing will impact less than 0.25% (0.74 ha) of the vegetation mapped from Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey. Vegetation types in the Proposal Area are likely to be common and widespread at a regional scale based on the remaining extent of pre-European vegetation as outlined in Table 4. Furthermore, impacts from the proposed works are likely to be insignificant on a local, and

regional scale given impacts will represent a maximum reduction by 0.25% of vegetation types mapped by Focused Vision (2024).

Floristic diversity within the NVCA is unlikely to be high in comparison to surrounding uncleared areas, both locally and regionally, given the absence of vegetation types that are well represented beyond the NVCA.

Fauna

A total of 91 terrestrial vertebrate fauna species were observed or positively identified from field evidence within the Survey Area during the Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey. Two significant species were recorded during the survey, the Australian Bittern (listed as P4 by DBCA), and the Gouldian Finch (listed as P4 by DBCA, EN under EPBC Act). No significant species were recorded in the NVCA.

Three species were listed as 'Regular Visitor' within the Survey Area by Focused Vision (2024):

- Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act);
- Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (EN under BC Act and EPBC Act); and
- Northern Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act).

A further 28 species may occur as an 'Irregular visitor' or a 'Vagrant' to the Survey Area. There were no habitat features present that were unique to the NVCA.

The relatively low abundance and low diversity of fauna recorded during the field assessment can be attributed to the proximity to major roads and human disturbance, the small, linear nature of the project area and the low intensity of the assessment (Basic level) (Focused Vision 2024).

Whilst some suitable habitat may be present for Resident and Regular Visitor species, the proposed works will occur within the dry season when the NVCA is unlikely to represent critical habitat for Irregular Visitor and Vagrant species. Resident and Regular Visitor species are discussed further in Principle (b).

2. Priority and other Significant Flora

A desktop search of DBCA TPFL and WA Herbarium records identified 90 species of conservation-significant flora within 40 km of the NVCA. No undescribed taxa or flora, considered to potentially represent conservation-significant taxa, were recorded during Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey.

None of the conservation-significant species assessed by Focused Vision (2024) were recorded within the proposed NVCA. These ten species have varying likelihood of occurring within the NVCA, with vegetation types identified being congruent with those in the surrounding area. It is likely that further occurrences of these species occur throughout the project area and adjacent areas (Focused Vision 2024). As such, no significant impact on these species is anticipated.

However, *Goodenia byrnesii*, and *Fimbristylis subaristata* were observed within 7m and 356m of the NVCA. Given these proximities, the potential impacts on *Goodenia byrnesii* and *Fimbristylis subaristata* are discussed further below.

***Goodenia byrnesii* (DBCA Priority 3)**

G. byrnesii is known to occur on sandy soils in proximity to water courses. This species is known from 28 records typically distributed within the Dampierland, Northern Kimberley and Victoria Boneparte IBRA regions, with the closest previously documented record of this species found 300 metres north of the Survey Area, and over 2,800 metres northeast of the NVCA. Given this distribution, it is likely that further occurrences of this species occur throughout the project area and adjacent areas (Focused Vision 2024).

Five populations consisting of eight GPS records were recorded in the Survey Area (Focused Vision 2024). These records were spread across five vegetation units (Ag, TpTc, LcCg, Cg and CpEb). The proposal is adjacent to one population at **[REDACTED]**, occurring within 7 meters of the NVCA. Whilst the proposed CPS 818/17 clearing does not extend to this population, it is possible for more individuals to be located in the local area after potential wet-season growth.

Given there are five populations of the species in the Survey Area, wide availability of suitable vegetation types, and a wide availability of suitable habitat in good or better condition in both the adjacent and regional areas, no significant impact on the species is anticipated.

***Fimbristylis subaristata* (DBCA Priority 1)**

F. subaristata is a tufted annual grass-like herb that grows from 0.1-0.2 meters in height and produces green and white flowers from February to May (ALA 2024). Records of species are found in Northern WA, the Northern Territory, and into Queensland (ALA 2024). The species was recorded from one location in the Survey Area (Focused Vision 2024) within the vegetation unit, TpTc. The nearest historical record of the species to the Survey Area (20 km east) was listed by the University of New England in 1999 (Focused Vision 2024, ALA 2024).

The nearest observation from the Survey Area (Focused Vision 2024) is over 356 metres southwest of the NVCA. Given the wide distribution of the species, it is likely that further occurrences of this species occur throughout the Survey Area and adjacent areas (Focused Vision 2024). Furthermore, the maximum impact on TpTc (where the species was observed) from the proposed NVCA clearing is 0.06% (0.05 ha) of the mapped distribution in the Survey Area.

Given the minimal impact on suitable habitat in the Survey Area, the interstate distribution of the species, and the wide availability of habitat in the local area, no significant impact on the species is anticipated from the proposed clearing.

3. Fauna Habitat & Priority Fauna

Fauna Habitat and Priority Fauna are discussed in detail in Principle (b).

4. Significant Ecological Communities

None of the vegetation units recorded in the project area are representative of any PEC listed by DBCA or TEC of State or Commonwealth significance, listed under the BC Act or EPBC Act (and none are known in the region), therefore, none are of significance due to this factor (Focused Vision 2024).

5. Vegetation Condition

Vegetation condition within the project area was found to range from 'Degraded' to 'Excellent', with the majority (70.35 ha, 66.86 %) in 'Excellent' condition.

Vegetation within the NVCA ranges from 'Good- Very Good' to 'Excellent', so considering the maximum impact of clearing is a small footprint of 0.74 ha in 'Good-Very Good' to 'Excellent', and this high-quality vegetation extends into the Survey Area and likely across the Region, no significant impact on the availability of quality vegetation is anticipated.

Table 6. Summary of Vegetation Condition in the Survey Area

Vegetation Condition	Survey Area (ha)	NVCA (ha)	Survey Area (%)
Excellent	70.35	0.25	66.86
Very Good - Excellent	5.49	0.11	5.22
Very Good	14.14	0.32	13.44
Good-Very Good	0.81	0.06	0.77
Good	1.00	N/A	0.95
Degraded	0.6	N/A	0.57
Cleared	12.83	N/A	12.19
Total	**105.23**	**0.38**	**100.00**

Summary

The NVCA does not contain any Significant Ecological Communities, Threatened or Priority Flora, nor does it support significant habitat features such as caves and watercourses associated with Riparian vegetation. No significant impacts of clearing are anticipated to Significant Flora due to the wide distribution of *Goodenia byrnesii* and *Fimbristylis subaristata* species**,** and the wide availability of habitat in the local area. Significant fauna is discussed in Principle (b). The proposed clearing affects a small extent of vegetation from 'Good to Very-Good' to 'Excellent' condition, and available habitat for conservation significant fauna remains abundant across the broader landscape. Given the absence of key indicators of high biodiversity value and the limited scale of impact, the NVCA is unlikely to comprise a high level of biodiversity.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- BoM Website (Accessed February 2026)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority Ecological Community database search (Accessed February 2026)
  - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (Accessed February 2026)
- Natural Resource Management SLIP Soil Systems (Accessed February 2026)
- Statewide Vegetation Statistics (Government of Western Australia 2018)

(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 may be at variance to this Principle.

1. Fauna Habitat

Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey mapped six fauna habitats, as summarised in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Summary of Fauna Habitats within Native Vegetation Clearing Area.

Fauna Habitat	Extent within Native Vegetation Clearing Area (ha)	Total Extent Mapped (ha)	Maximum % Impact of Survey Area
Drainage Minor 1; Scattered Corymbia over Scattered Shrubs	0.19	0.95	20.00%
Drainage Minor 2; Scattered Eucalyptus/Corymbia over Tussock Grassland	0.19	2.74	6.93%
Floodplain 2; Scattered Corymbia Woodland	0.05	19.8	0.25%
Floodplain 3; Scattered Corymbia/Eucalyptus Woodland over Hummock Grassland	0.2	9.64	2.07%
Sandy/Stony Plains 2; Scattered Eucalyptus/Corymbia Woodland	0.06	3.63	1.65%
Sandy/Stony Plains 3; Scattered Shrubland	0.05	3.08	1.62%
Total	**0.74**	**39.84**	**1.86%**

The Survey Area was found to support eleven fauna habitats; however, only six out of these eleven were recorded in the NVCA and include five Scattered Eucalypt or Corymbia Woodlands over Hummock and/or Tussock Grassland, and one Scattered Shrubland. These fauna habitats occur on Drainages, Floodplains, and Stony/Sandy Plains. 74% of the Floodplain habitat types (2 & 3) make up the 39.84 ha mapped fauna habitat types with a small maximum clearing impact of 2.32%. This habitat extends beyond the local area and across the region.

The highest proportional clearing impact is within the Drainage Minor 1 fauna habitat, with up to 20% of the mapped extent of this habitat in the Survey Area proposed to be cleared. While this habitat is considered potential habitat for conservation-significant species, including the Gouldian Finch (P4), Australian Little Bittern (P4), Grey Falcon (VU) and Northern Brushtail Possum (VU), Drainage Minor 1 is not restricted to the NVCA and is represented more broadly within the local area and region. Similar adjacent fauna habitats are also present and are expected to continue to provide habitat for these species. On this basis, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on these species or their habitat.

2. Significant Fauna

A total of 91 terrestrial vertebrate fauna species were observed or positively identified from field evidence within the Survey Area during the Focused Vision's (2024) Biological Survey. Two conservation-significant species were recorded during the survey, the Australian Bittern (P4 under DBCA), and the Gouldian Finch (P4 under DBCA, EN under EPBC Act). No significant fauna were located in the NVCA.

A further 28 species may occur as an 'Irregular visitor' or a 'Vagrant'. Whilst some suitable habitat may be present for Resident (2) or Regular Visitors (3), the proposed works will occur within the dry season when the NVCA is unlikely to represent critical habitat for Irregular Visitor (13) and Vagrant species (15). The relatively low abundance and low diversity of fauna recorded during the field assessment can be attributed to the proximity to major roads and human disturbance, the small, linear nature of the project area and the low intensity of the assessment (Basic level) (Focused Vision, 2024). Five significant species characterised as 'Resident' and 'Regular Visitor' are discussed below:

Resident (2)

- Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*) (P4 under DBCA, EN under EPBC Act)
- Australian Bittern (*Ixobrychus dubius*) (P4 under DBCA)

Regular Visitor (3)

- Grey Falcon (Falco hypoleucos) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act);
- Northern Quoll (Dasyurus hallucatus) (EN under BC Act and EPBC Act); and
- Northern Brushtail Possum (Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act).

Gouldian Finch (*Erythrura gouldiae*) (P4 under DBCA, EN under EPBC Act)

The Gouldian Finch is distributed throughout northern Australia, occurring within the Kimberley region of Western Australia from as far west as Derby. This species utilises small patches of open woodland areas during their breeding period (April-July), nesting in hollow bearing trees and congregates around nearby waterholes and springs (Focused Vision 2024). These open woodland areas often are dominated by Eucalypt species such as *Eucalyptus brevifolia* and *E. tintinnans* over grasslands of *Sorghum spp., Schizachyrium spp*. and *Triodia spp*. (Focused Vision 2024). The Gouldian Finch almost exclusively feeds on of grass seeds from a small number of species with species of Sorghum being important during the dry season and wet season resources are dominated by *Chrysopogon fallax* being import during the wet season (Dostine and Franklin 2002). Outside of the breeding period this species often flocks to follow grass seed resources across the region.

One observation of Gouldian Finch exhibiting nesting behaviour was recorded during the field assessment, indicating this species is 'Resident' within the Survey Area, with suitable habitat for breeding present, extending into the contextual area and surrounds. Based on observations and interpretation of fauna habitats recorded within the Survey Area, the species occurs as a 'Resident' within the Sandy/Stony Plains 1 habitat, with six other habitats considered suitable due to supporting scattered trees (which may be utilised by the Gouldian finch for breeding); these being Drainage Minor 1, Drainage Minor 2, Floodplain 2, Floodplain 3 and Sandy/Stony Plains 2 (Focused Vision 2024). The maximum impact of clearing to this species' habitat within the Survey Area is 1.86% (includes the total mapped fauna habitat extent within the Survey Area); however, the abundance of available foraging and breeding habitat for Gouldian Finches extend widely beyond the NVCA.

The proposed works will occur in July, at the end of breeding season for the Gouldian Finch. Trees with hollows are unlikely to be impacted, as the proposed clearing will avoid large trees where practicable. Where large trees cannot be avoided, these will be inspected prior to clearing by a Main Roads Environmental Officer to identify hollows and utilisation by Gouldian Finches. No trees will be cleared where nest hollows are determined to be occupied. The proposed clearing will result in a maximum potential impact of 0.74 ha on habitat which represents foraging and potentially suitable breeding habitat for the species, which is widely distributed across the Survey Area and

greater Kimberley region. Given the abundance of available foraging and breeding habitat for Gouldian Finches beyond the proposed clearing area, combined with the proposed mitigation measures outlined above, the NVCA is unlikely to constitute significant habitat for this species.

Australian Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus dubius*) (P4 under DBCA)
The Australian Little Bittern is distributed around Australia, typically found in the south-west, east coast of Australia and north-west between Broome, WA and Nhulunbuy, NT, with some records reported in Papua New Guinea (Birdlife Australia 2026). This species mainly occurs in areas inundated by at least 30 cm of water including freshwater wetlands, where they inhabit dense emergent vegetation of reeds and sedges, and inundated shrub thickets (ALA 2024). As solitary species they are, typically active during dusk or at night (ALA 2024). Their diet consists of aquatic invertebrates such as crustaceans and dragonfly larvae, and sometimes small vertebrates
such as fish and frogs found at the water's edge (ALA 2024). During their breeding season (spring and early summer), Australian Little Bitterns nest in single pairs, or occasionally in loose colonies with nests dispersed 15 to 30 m apart in dense wetland vegetation (ALA 2024). The bittern's nest is always situated over water (ALA 2024).

Based on observations and interpretation of fauna habitats recorded within the project area, this species utilised the Floodplain 2 habitat with four other inundated areas considered suitable habitat for this species, Sandy/Stony Plains 1 and Minor Drainage Lines (Drainage Minor 1, 2 and 3). The clearing of native vegetation in the Australian Bittern's preferred habitat will have a maximum impact of 0.43 ha out of 23.49 ha (1.83) of habitat utilised by the Bittern. All suitable fauna habitats extend into the contextual area and are not considered to be limited to occur within the Project Area. Considering that clearing is to occur in dry conditions and outside of breeding season, and the nocturnal nature of the species, the 1.83% maximum impact of clearing is an insignificant risk to the habitat for this species.

Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act)
The Grey Falcon is distributed throughout Australia, occurring within the Kimberley region of Western Australia from as far west as Broome. This species is mainly found in arid and semi-arid Australia where annual rainfall is less than 500 mm, except when wet years are followed by drought, species may become marginally more widespread (DCCEEW 2026). This species utilises timbered lowland plains, particularly Acacia shrublands that are crossed by tree-lined water courses and has been observed hunting in treeless areas (DCCEEW 2026). This species frequents tussock grasslands and open woodlands especially in winter (DCCEEW 2026). The Grey Falcon was not observed during the field assessment; however, suitable habitat is present within the contextual and project area. Based on interpretation of fauna habitats recorded within the project area, this species is likely to occur as a regular visitor within all the fauna habitats in the project area.

There are no drainage line habitats within the NVCA that would offer tall trees for potential breeding habitat. The species is likely to occur within the Project Area for foraging; however, foraging habitat is widely available beyond the NVCA, therefore clearing will not impact habitat critical for the Grey Falcon.

Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) (EN under BC Act and EPBC Act)
The Northern Quoll is distributed along the coastline of the northern portion of Australia, occurring within the Kimberley region of Western Australia from as far west as Derby. This species is mainly found in savanna landscapes containing rocky escarpments, open forest and open

woodland (DCCEEW 2026). This species is a solitary carnivorous marsupial that makes its dens in rock crevices, tree holes or occasionally termite mounds (Focused Vision 2024). The Northern Quoll breeds once in the middle of the year during the dry season (DCCEEW 2026) The Northern Quoll was not observed during the field assessment; however, suitable habitat may present within the contextual and Survey Area (Focused Vision 2024). Based on interpretation of fauna habitats recorded within the Survey Area, the species may occur as a visitor within suitable habitat supported in the Low Hills and Slopes, and Sandy/Stony Plains 1 fauna habitats. However, these fauna habitats are not present within the NVCA, therefore clearing will not impact habitat for the Northern Quoll.

Northern Brushtail Possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis*) (VU under BC Act and EPBC Act)

The Northern Brushtail Possum is distributed in the northern part of Australia mainly in the Northern territory but also occurs in the Kimberley region as far west as Broome. This species is mainly found in tall Eucalypt open forests with large hollow-bearing trees, particularly where the understory includes shrubs that contain fleshy fruits, this species does not have a distinct breeding season (DCCEEW 2024). Brushtail Possum was not observed during the field assessment; however, suitable habitat may be present within the contextual and Survey Area. Based on interpretation of fauna habitats recorded within the Survey Area, the species may occur as a visitor within suitable habitat supported in the Floodplains and Drainage fauna habitats. Floodplain (1 and 3) and Drainage (Major, Minor 1 and Minor 3) fauna habitats support isolated trees of Eucalyptus sp., which if a hollow bearing species, may be utilised by the Northern Brushtail Possum for breeding and as a food source (Focused Vision 2024). Within the NVCA, a clearing may have an impact on potential habitat; however, any large trees with hollows recorded in the NVCA will be retained where possible. Therefore, clearing is an insignificant risk to the Northern Brushtail Possum.

Summary:

The fauna habitat types mapped in the NVCA are widespread at a local and regional scale, and don't include important features such as caves , which are often associated with breeding and roosting habitat for Conservation Significant Species. The removal of 0.74 ha high-quality condition of the mapped extent of fauna habitat from Focused Vision's 2024 Biological Survey is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of habitat, or the species that utilise it. Any potential large trees will be inspected and flagged to be retained prior to construction commencement, in the case that suitable breeding hollows for Gouldian Finches occur as anomalies during the end of breeding season.

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

Methodology

- ALA (2026)
- Biodiversity Information Office /DBCA Species and Communities Branch request (Accessed February 2026)
- Birdlife Australia (2026)
- Focused Vision (2024)
- DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report
- DCCEEW (2024, 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:

  - DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database search (Accessed February 2026)
- Species specific conservation listing advice and recovery plans

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

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

The Desktop Database Searches (Main Roads ArcGIS files and PMST report) identified no known records of Threatened flora listed under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* from the NVCA.

The Biological Survey undertaken by Focused Vision (2024) identified no Threatened Flora within the NVCA.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Florabase (Accessed February 2026)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened flora database search (Accessed February 2026)
- Biodiversity Information Office/DBCA Species and Communities Branch request (Accessed February 2026)
- Species specific conservation listing advice and recovery plans

(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.

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified in the Desktop Database Searches (Main Roads ArcGIS files and PMST report) or Biological Survey conducted by Focused Vision (2024)

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Community specific conservation listing advice and recovery plans
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - DBCA Threatened Ecological Community database search (Accessed February 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.

As evident from Table 4, the current extent of pre-European remnant vegetation is significantly greater than 30% of the "National Threshold Level" at all levels (State IBRA Bioregion, IBRA Subregion, LGA). All of the vegetation associations have greater than 99% of their pre-European extent remaining intact. As such, the project is not located in an area of regionally significant remnant vegetation. Given that the vegetation associations are widespread throughout the area and are well represented, the proposed clearing will not impact native vegetation that is significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.

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

Methodology

- Aerial photography
- Focused Vision (2024)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - Pre-European vegetation (Accessed February 2026)
  - Vegetation complexes (Accessed February 2026)
- Statewide Vegetation Statistics (Government of Western Australia 2018)
- EPA (2016)

(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 at variance to this Principle.

The Project Area is located within the Ord River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and intersects three watercourses. None of these watercourses are mapped under DWER-031. Two of the watercourses, at SLK 12.89 and SLK 15.08, are mapped by Geoscience Australia as minor, non-perennial watercourses.

Focused Vision (2024) mapped riparian vegetation associated with nearby watercourses, of which 0.38 ha occurs within the proposal's NVCA.

Clearing and construction activities will be managed in accordance with the Interfering with Bed and Banks Environmental Work Instruction (D26#15670) and the Project Delivery Environmental Work Instruction (D26#640775). In addition, any potential habitat for conservation-significant fauna, including trees with potential Gouldian Finch nesting hollows, will be subject to pre-clearing inspection two weeks prior to clearing to avoid impacts to the species.

On this basis, the proposed clearing is likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
  - Ramsar Wetlands (Accessed April 2026)
  - Important Wetlands (Accessed April 2026)
  - Watercourses (Accessed April 2026)
  - RIWI Act Rivers (Accessed April 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.

The project is in an area prone to severe rainfall events, which could contribute to land degradation via flooding and heavy runoff. The proposed clearing is a small area of 0.74 ha, limiting the size of cleared areas and reducing the likelihood of land degradation. Material pit locations and laydown areas are based around areas of existing pits, therefore will not add to the disturbance footprint of the Project.

To minimise the potential for land degradation to occur, the clearing of native vegetation will be restricted to occurring in dry conditions.

The proposed clearing is within a region where more than 99% of pre-European extent remains at all levels and is located within an area mapped as cq(p4) - Extremely Low Probability of Occurrence of Acid Sulfate Soils (CSIRO 2014).

Clearing will be undertaken within the following two Land Systems:

- Angallari system: Gently sloping alluvial plains with grey box-bloodwood woodlands over Tippera tall grasses or upland tall grasses.
- Frayne system: Undulating plains, slopes and low hills of basalt with predominantly red soils supporting bloodwood-southern box or silver box sparse low woodlands over Tippera tall grasses.

Angallari system is considered to have a low susceptibility to erosion, according to rangeland surveys carried out by the then Department of Agriculture and Food WA (Shocknecht and Payne 2011), owing to the occurrence of extensive areas of

The Frayne System has most parts with low susceptibility to erosion except for part of the system which has moderate susceptibility when degraded (Unit 4). This system supports pastures which are preferred by cattle, so stock must be controlled. The general drainage of this system is characterised as moderately intense angular or rectangular drainage on the benches and mostly moderately intense dendritic on the inland and coastal plains. While 54.68% of the clearing is in the Frayne Land System, the maximum impact of moderate susceptibility to erosion is 0.02 ha of the total 0.74 ha of NVCA.

These systems have soil types which are less susceptible to erosion and as such, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map
  - (Accessed February 2026)
  - Soil Landscape Mapping Systems (Accessed April 2026)
- Schoknecht and Payne, (2011)

(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.

The Ngamoowalem Conservation Park is located immediately north of the road reserve, within 100 metres of the Proposal Area. However, upgrades to culvert infrastructure will not require any works to be near the conservation park and will not obstruct the continued flow past road infrastructure. No significant impact on the Ngamoowalem Conservation Park is anticipated.

The nearest conservation significant wetland area is the Ord River Plain over 12.5km away from the Project area. The small clearing footprint of 0.74 ha will not cause any impacts to the conservation area.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Environmental Offsets Register
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters & Lands of Interest (Accessed February 2026)
  - DBCA Lands of Interest (Accessed February 2026)
  - Geomorphic Wetlands (conservation category wetlands only) (Accessed February 2026)
  - Ramsar Wetlands (Accessed February 2026)
  - Important Wetlands (Accessed February 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 Project is located within the Ord River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, both proclaimed under the RIWI Act; however, it is not located within or near any Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA). The low-impact proposed clearing of 0.74 ha, spaced over 10km of road, is unlikely to result in deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water given clearing will be undertaken during the dry season and the vast extent of native vegetation remaining within and beyond the NVCA.

The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) risk mapping indicates that the NVCA is classified as Extremely Low Probability of Occurrence (Cq(p4)). The proposed clearing is unlikely to expose Acid Sulfate Soils.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (Accessed February 2026)
  - CSIRO ASRIS Acid Sulfate Soils (Accessed April 2026)
  - RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (Accessed April 2026)
  - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (Accessed April 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.

Assessment

The project area occurs on the Bonaparte Basin, which has a subtropical climate where most of the rainfall occurs between November and March, characterised by dry hot tropical, and semi-arid summer rainfall. Rainfall from two stations; Kununurra Aero (002056) approximately 20 km away and Kingston Rest (002060) 26km away, record an average annual rainfall of 846.7 mm and 828.3 mm, respectively (BoM, 2026). Extreme weather events are a significant component of the Kimberley climate. Tropical cyclones and tropical storms can bring heavy and sustained rainfall, particularly in the months leading up to and during the wet season. It is common for a large proportion of the region's rainfall to be recorded in one single event, leading to extensive flooding of rivers, creeks and roadways.

The proposed clearing will take place outside of the wet season to reduce the potential escalation of flooding, waterlogging or erosion. No changes to the existing levels of natural flooding are anticipated given the minor extent of clearing proposed. As noted above, climatic conditions are the main factor influencing flooding and the small amount of proposed clearing will have no measurable influence on flood regimes in the area.

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

Methodology

- Focused Vision (2024)
- BoM Website (Accessed April 2026)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
  - Soil Mapping (Accessed April 2026

6 COMPLIANCE WITH CPS 818

Table 6 summarises what further pre-clearing impact assessment is required in accordance with CPS 818.

Table 7. Summary of Additional Management Actions Required by CPS 818

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. The CDR indicates that the clearing is 'At Variance' or 'May be at Variance' with one or more of the Clearing Principles.	**Yes**	No further action required. As the clearing is variance to Principle f) only, the area of the proposed clearing at variance to principle f) is <0.5ha and impacts are related to a minor non- perennial watercourse: • The preparation of an Assessment report under (6) is not required • Submissions under 8(a) and 8(b) are not required; and • An offset proposal is not 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 **un-infested** 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.
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 cleared is susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback.	**No**	No further action required.
7. Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to	**No**	No further action required.

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.		
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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