

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Great Eastern Highway Ghooli Stage 3 & Karalee		
Region/Directorate:	Goldfields Esperance		
Local Government:	Shire of Yilgarn		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Great Eastern Highway (H005)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK394.550 to SLK394.700		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#689314		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D26#689356		
EOS Number:	2283		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	12/07/2026		
Oracle Project No:	21116565	Task Code:	19503
LISC TRIM Number:	D26#688733	HRA TRIM Number:	D26#688737

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) proposes to upgrade Great Eastern Highway (GEH) to address deteriorating pavement and narrow seal widths. Works include road reconstruction, widening and overlay, and reinstating associated drainage.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no feasible alternatives to clearing as not undertaking the works will result in continued deterioration of the road pavement and narrow sealed width which poses a safety risk to road users.

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 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.

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):	0.045	No. Trees Cleared:	Unknown
Species Name(s):	<i>Allocasuarina</i> and <i>Acacia</i> shrubland (TS1): Mid-dense shrubland of <i>Allocasuarina corniculata</i>, <i>A. spinosissima</i>, <i>Acacia beauverdiana</i>, <i>A. resinimarginea</i>, <i>A. assimilis</i> subsp. <i>assimilis</i>, <i>Leptospermum fastigiatum</i>, <i>Grevillea didymobotrya</i> subsp. <i>didymobotrya</i>, and <i>G. paradoxa</i> with occasional <i>Callitris preissii</i> and <i>Eucalyptus ?rigidula</i> (2-5 m) over a low mid-dense shrubland of <i>Euryomyrtus maidenii</i>, <i>Thryptomene kochii</i>, <i>Euryomyrtus leptospermoides</i>, <i>Phebalium tuberculatum</i>, <i>Platysace trachymenioides</i> and <i>Melaleuca cordata</i>. The ground layer was very sparse and included <i>Schoenus</i> sp. (insufficient material) and ± <i>Triodia scariosa</i> isolated hummock grasses.		
Easting and Northing:	119.6111072°E 31.2891123°S		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	<i>Allocasuarina</i> and <i>Acacia</i> shrubland (TS1) – see Section 6 for description.
Site Vegetation Condition:	Very Good (Botanica, 2021)
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	> 70%

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
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Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	A review of DBCA datasets and previous biological surveys (GHD, 2016 and Botanica., 2021) did not identify any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the proposed clearing area. The area is mapped as pre-European vegetation association 1413 which retains greater than 70% remaining across all levels. A review of DBCA Threatened and Priority Flora and WA Herbarium ArcGIS datasets identified 25 conservation significant flora taxa within 20 km, none of which are located within the proposed clearing area. Likewise, no species of conservation significance were identified within the proposed clearing area during the previous biological surveys conducted by GHD (2016) and Botanica (2021). A desktop review of DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna GIS datasets identified 3 Threatened and Priority species within a 20 km radius of the proposed clearing area, with no records located within 10 km. Biological surveys by GHD (2016) and Botanica (2021) did not identify any primary or secondary evidence of conservation significant species within the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing area is located directly adjacent to the existing road network and associated maintenance zone. The proposed clearing area does not contain any conservation significant flora or fauna and is not associated with important biodiversity features such as watercourses. The small size of the proposed clearing area in a narrow linear orientation adjacent to the existing road infrastructure does not represent an area comprising a high level of biological diversity. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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.	A desktop review of DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna GIS datasets identified 3 Threatened and Priority fauna species within a 20 km radius of the proposed clearing area, being: • Chuditch; • Malleefowl; and • Western Brush Wallaby. No records were located within 10 km of the proposed clearing area and no conservation significant species were identified during the biological surveys. One fauna habitat was described by GHD (2016) within the proposed clearing area, being <i>Allocasuarina</i> and <i>Acacia</i> Shrubland. This fauna habitat is not considered to be exclusive and is well represented at a local and regional scale, with a large expanse of relatively intact vegetation surrounding the area. Whilst a range of fauna species may potentially utilise the habitat within the proposed clearing area for dispersal or foraging, the small linear scale of the clearing at the edge of a large intact remnant extent of vegetation is unlikely to comprise the whole or part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	A search of DBCA Threatened flora, WA Herbarium and biological survey results from GHD (2016) and Botanica (2021) did not identify the presence of any Threatened flora within the proposed clearing area. The proposed native vegetation 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 is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	A review of the DBCA Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) GIS dataset indicates that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not located within or in proximity of a mapped TEC/PEC. A biological survey by GHD (2016) did not consider any of the native vegetation proposed to be cleared as representative of a TEC or PEC. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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 proposed clearing area is mapped as pre-European association (VA) 1413. This association has greater than 70% of Pre-European extent remaining at all levels. Pre-European Vegetation Representation <table><tr><th>Pre-European Vegetation Association</th><th>Scale</th><th>Pre-European (ha)</th><th>Current Extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th><th>% Remaining in DBCA reserves</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">Veg Assoc No. 1413</td><td>Statewide</td><td>1,679,916.32</td><td>1,286,855.48</td><td>76.60</td><td>13.22</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Bioregion Coolgardie</td><td>1,061,212.28</td><td>1,042,553.77</td><td>98.24</td><td>18.18</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Sub-region Southern Cross</td><td>953,237.73</td><td>934,825.95</td><td>98.07</td><td>19.38</td></tr><tr><td>Local Government Authority Shire of Yilgarn</td><td>538,791.10</td><td>395,458.48</td><td>73.40</td><td>19.26</td></tr></table> There is ~112,408 ha of native vegetation extent remaining within 20 km of the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, 22,409 ha (20%) of which is vegetation association 1413. Noting that the minimal extent of clearing proposed (0.045 ha) is directly adjacent to the existing road network and the vegetation is part of a large continuous extent of remnant vegetation, vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA reserves	Veg Assoc No. 1413	Statewide	1,679,916.32	1,286,855.48	76.60	13.22	IBRA Bioregion Coolgardie	1,061,212.28	1,042,553.77	98.24	18.18	IBRA Sub-region Southern Cross	953,237.73	934,825.95	98.07	19.38	Local Government Authority Shire of Yilgarn	538,791.10	395,458.48	73.40	19.26
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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.	A review of GIS databases indicates there are no mapped watercourses or wetlands within the proposed clearing area. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in, or near to an environment associated with a wetland or watercourse. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.																											

Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	DPIRD mapping indicates that the proposed clearing area has 1 % mapped as high to extreme risk of water and wind erosion, and 1 % as moderate salinity hazard. The proposal is mapped as having 0 % high susceptibility of subsurface acidification, only a 1 % moderate to very high risk of waterlogging and inundation, and 1% moderate to high risk of flooding. The removal of up to 0.045 ha of native vegetation from the proposed clearing area will not cause appreciable land degradation in areas directly adjacent to the existing road network. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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.	A review of the DBCA GIS datasets indicates that the proposed clearing area is not located within or adjacent to DBCA Managed Lands or Lands of Interest and is not located within or adjacent to any mapped Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's). The nearest DBCA managed area to the proposed clearing area is the Yellowdine Nature Reserve, located 650m north. This area will not be impacted by the proposed activities. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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.	A review of Arc GIS database indicates there are no mapped watercourses or wetlands within or adjacent to the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing area is not located within any Surface Water Areas proclaimed under the RIWI Act (1914) or within a Public Drinking Water Source Areas. The proposed clearing is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the RIWI Act (1914). No excavation below the water table will be undertaken and no groundwater extracted. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing will not result in the deterioration in quality of surface or groundwater and is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	The removal of 0.045 ha of native vegetation adjacent to the existing road network is unlikely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. The function of existing road network drainage structures will be maintained, and natural drainage patterns will not be altered. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Used and References:	Biological Survey: - GHD (2016). Great Eastern Highway Karalee SLK 394.5 – 414 Biological Assessment. Unpublished report for Main Roads Western Australia. - Botanica (2021). Memorandum: Great Eastern Highway Ghooli, Karalee & Quardanoolagin Flora/Fauna Assessment. Unpublished report for Main Roads Western Australia. - Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) Targeted Chuditch and Malleefowl survey for Karalee (SLK 694.69 to 414.02), Unpublished report for Main Roads, Perth. ArcGIS database
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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'; and, - works have potential for uninfested areas to be impacted.	No	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), Hygiene Checklists , Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template 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	Environment Officer
Date	03/06/2026

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	09/06/2026