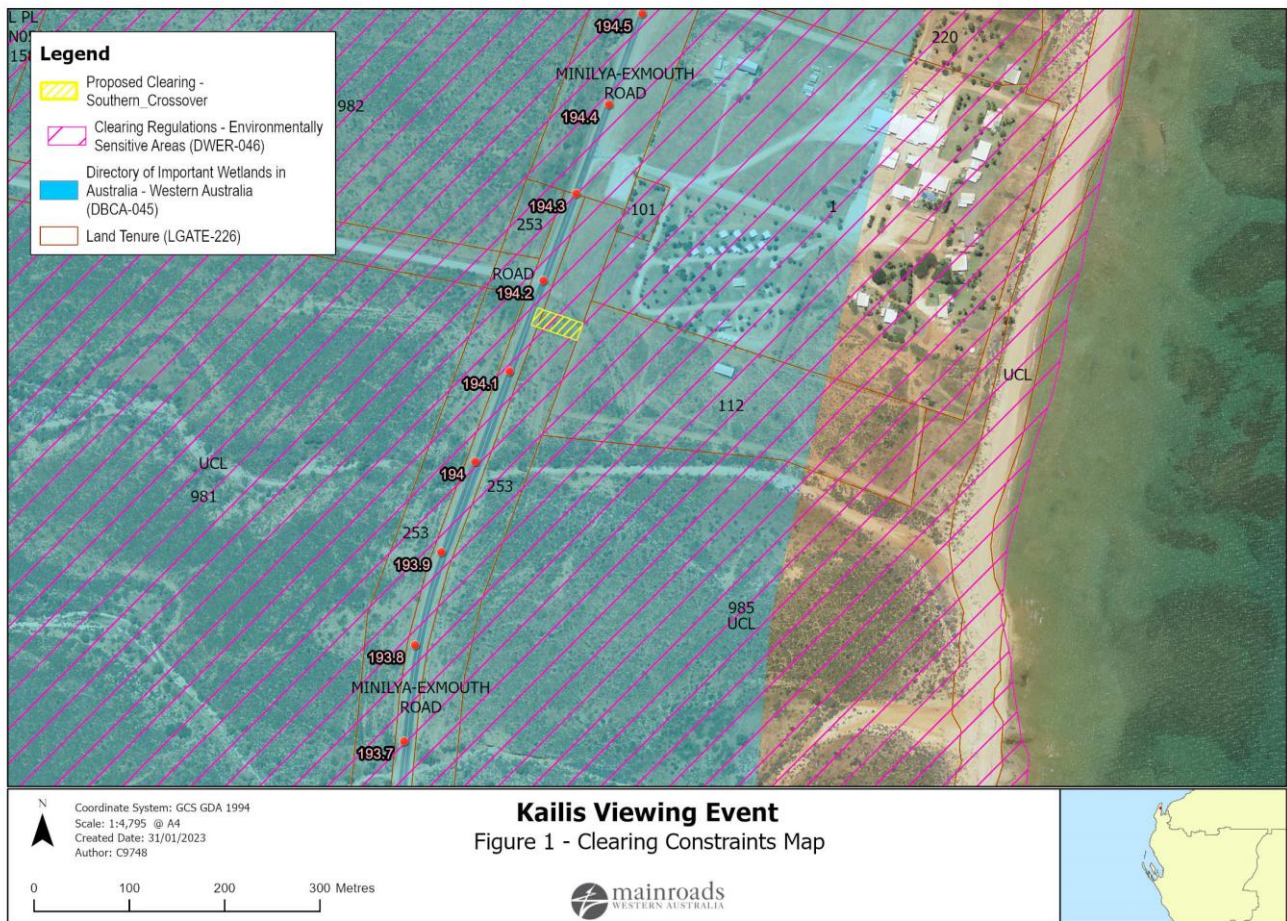


Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	DJTSI – Kailis Viewing Event		
Region/Directorate:	MWG Region		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Exmouth		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Minilya – Exmouth Road		
Proposal Location (SLK):	194.10 – 194.15 – Refer to Fig 1		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D23#106802 – Refer to Fig 1		
EOS No:	2933		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	06/02/23		
Project No:	21110531	Task Code:	411
LISC TRIM No:	D23#47905	HRA TRIM No:	D23#46162



2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DJTSI) have approached Main Roads requesting assistance to deliver this project as part of the Total Eclipse Event (D23#115675). The purpose of this clearing is to create a crossover from Minilya Exmouth Road into Lot 112 on Plan 182633, which is where Kailis/DJTSI will be holding a Viewing Event. DJTSI have already obtained a DWER clearing permit for clearing within Lot 112 on P182633 (CPS9963/1). This CDR-Short is to assess the additional clearing required for the crossover from Minilya Exmouth Road into Lot 112 only.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

Requests to allow access into Lot 112 via other routes (i.e. through existing cleared areas from Lot 1 on P47770, the private lot immediately located to the north of Lot 112) were denied by both Department of Health and also Department of Fire and Emergency Services as direct vehicle access will be required into Lot 112 in case of emergencies.

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

Clearing for the crossover will only be to the extent necessary to enable the construction of safe traffic entry way into Lot 112. Although there is another entry point into Lot 112 (Lot 1 on Plan 47770), the direct crossover from Minilya Exmouth Road is required for safety reasons, as discussed in Section 3. It is anticipated that a maximum of 0.09 ha will be required to be cleared within the road reserve. The extent of clearing will be minimised where possible.

Other management measures that will be employed to reduce impacts are consistent with management measure provided in CPS9963/1:

- Hygiene steps will be implemented to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.
- To minimise wind erosion, construction activities will commence within two months of clearing.

5. APPROVED POLICES AND PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.3), Main Roads has also had regard to the following documents.

Environmental Protection Policies:

- Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet - Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2011

Other legislation of relevance for assessment of clearing and planning/other matters:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (WA) (RIWI Act)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) (AHA)
- *Town Planning and Development Act (WA) 1928*

Relevant other policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DEC, December 2014)

- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, August 2014)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)
- Approved conservation advice under section 266B of the EPBC Act for threatened flora/fauna/vegetation communities
- Approved Recovery Plans for threatened species
- EPBC Act Referral guidelines for the three threatened black cockatoo species
- Strategic advice - EPA

6. CLEARING AREA

Clearing Area (ha):	0.09 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	0 (shrubland only)
Species Name:	Veg type: <i>Acacia</i> spp. open shrublands (GHD 2022)		
Easting and Northing:	199162.11 E, 7550514.586 S		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	<p>Within the proposed clearing area, vegetation is either already cleared/bare, or consists of vegetation type: VT01: <i>Acacia</i> spp. open shrublands (GHD 2022).</p> <p>Within the GHD 2022 Biological Survey, VT01 was mapped along the entire length of the Minilya-Exmouth Road Reserve, it occurred on sandy soils with varying degrees of exposed limestone (219.53 ha). Of the 9 vegetation units described in GHD (2022), VT01 had the greatest floristic diversity of all the vegetation types recorded with 66 species. The upper to mid strata of this vegetation type was dominated by six species of <i>Acacia</i>, of these <i>Acacia bivenosa</i>, <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> and <i>A. synchronicia</i> were most widespread. The lower mid strata of this vegetation type varied slightly in composition and densities throughout the survey area however <i>Senna</i> spp. and <i>Scaevola</i> spp. were consistent. *<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> was a dominant <i>Poaceae</i> species in the lower stratum along with <i>Triodia epactia</i> (GHD 2022).</p>
Site Vegetation Condition:	<p>Vegetation has broadly been mapped by GHD (2022) as of Good condition, with the following comments provided:</p> <p>"More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as at caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weed."</p> <p>Aerial imagery shows the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is significantly altered and is more likely to represent the condition of that described in CPS9963/1 for Lot 112: Completely Degraded to Degraded.</p>
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	<p>Project is located in Veg Association Type 663: "Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee <i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea</i> spp. <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp."</p> <p>Excerpt from GHD 2022 providing the extent of pre-European vegetation for Veg Association 663:</p>

Vegetation association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	% Current extent in all DBCA managed land (proportion of current extent)
663	State: Western Australia	30,474.41	25,976.66	85.24	28.93
	IBRA bioregion: Carnarvon	29,068.26	25,866.32	88.98	25.51
	IBRA subregion: Cape Range	29,068.26	25,866.32	88.98	25.51
	LGA: Shire of Exmouth	30,474.41	25,976.66	85.24	24.66

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
<p>Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The project involves the clearing of 0.09 ha of vegetation association type 663. There is over 85% of this vegetation association still intact in Western Australia. Vegetation type is consistent with that found in the directly adjacent Lot 112, and through aerial imagery can be inferred as a contiguous extension of that vegetation type. As such, it is considered appropriate for the proposed clearing of 0.09ha within the Minilya Exmouth Road Reserve to be informed by and mirror the assessment of CPS9963/1, which was considered not likely to be at variance for the clearing of 2.89 ha of this vegetation type.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (10km radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 96% of the original native vegetation cover.</p> <p>The vegetation type within the clearing area was recorded by GHD 2022 as VT01: <i>Acacia</i> spp. open shrubland, with vegetation condition indicated as Good (GHD 2022). However aerial imagery shows the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is significantly altered and is more likely to represent the condition of that described in CPS9963/1 for Lot 112: Completely Degraded to Degraded.</p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats or assemblages of plants. The area did not contain any threatened or priority ecological communities (TECs, PECs) (GHD,2022). The nearest priority species identified in the field survey was a Priority 3 species <i>Gymnanthera cunninghamii</i> located 150m south of the proposed clearing area, in an area associated with a watercourse. This species will not be impacted by the proposed clearing.</p> <p>The proposed clearing area is located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) however, the ESA relates to the (now obsolete) Register of National Estate and as such no significant or specific environmental values are present within the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>Given the small size of the proposed clearing area, its location within the already disturbed road corridor, the results of GHD's biological survey and the assessment of CPS9963/1, the clearing of 0.09 ha is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.</p>	<p>The 0.09ha clearing area was described as 'mixed shrublands of <i>Triodia</i> Hummock Grasslands on low stony plains with occasional patches of sandy loam' (GHD 2022). The habitat types identified during the GHD survey were considered not confined to the survey area and are considered well represented in the local and regional area.</p> <p>The habitat within the clearing area supports a sparse mid shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> species over a low open shrubland. This habitat type consists of areas of bare open ground generally associated with some level of disturbance from the road and/or tracks. In these areas there was little woody debris and leaf litter. This vegetation provides habitat for ground dwelling birds, reptiles and small mammals. The habitat type was considered suitable foraging habitat for Peregrine Falcon and Grey Falcon, and potential habitat for open habitat species like Oriental Plover. Given this habitat</p>

	<p>type is considered well represented in the local and regional area, removal of 0.09ha of vegetation will not significantly impact these avian or any conservation significant species.</p> <p>In addition, the assessment of a larger area (2.89ha) in the immediately adjacent Lot 112 (CPS9963/1) concluded that given no conservation significant fauna were recorded within the proposed clearing area and the amount of remnant vegetation remaining within the local area, the area was not considered to be a significant habitat for fauna species. Given the vegetation and habitat types are considered the same for that of the proposed 0.09 ha of clearing under this assessment, the same conclusions can be applied that the proposed clearing area does not contain significant fauna habitat.</p> <p>The clearing of 0.09 ha within the Minilya Exmouth Road Reserve is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.</p>	<p>No records of threatened flora occur within the local area nor were any threatened flora species recorded during the Biological Survey (GHD 2022). In addition, no observations of threatened flora were recorded in the adjacent property (Lot 112) during the flora and vegetation survey undertaken for CPS9963/1.</p> <p>The nearest priority species is a P3 <i>Gynanthera cunninghamii</i> located more than 150m south of the proposed clearing and is associated with a watercourse (GHD 2022). The proposed clearing of 0.09 ha will not jeopardise the continued existence of this priority flora.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is therefore considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (d) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.</p>	<p>No threatened ecological communities (TEC) have been mapped within the local area and the area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that indicate the presence of a TEC (GHD 2022).</p> <p>Clearing is therefor considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (e) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p>	<p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia.</p> <p>The project involves the clearing of 0.09 ha of vegetation association type 663. There is over 85% of this vegetation association still intact in Western Australia.</p> <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area and is adjacent to existing roads (Minilya Exmouth Rd). Given the small-scale nature of clearing (0.09ha), and the large extent of the vegetation association within the region, the proposed clearing is not considered to have a significant impact on areas containing remnant vegetation.</p> <p>Clearing of 0.09ha is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	<p>The 0.09 ha area proposed for clearing intersects the mapped nationally important wetland 'Cape Range Subterranean Waterways', however the proposed clearing area is not considered to be located within an area associated with a watercourse or wetland. This is consistent with the assessment of the adjacent Lot 112 in CPS9963/1.</p> <p>Therefor the clearing of 0.09ha is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> with this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the</p>	<p>The area is located within the Learmonth soil system and mapped as having a high susceptibility to wind and water erosion and moderate to high risk of flooding, due to numerous occurrences of non-perennial watercourses in the local area. However, no watercourses occur within the proposed clearing area for the crossover, with the</p>

<p>vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p>nearest non-perennial water course located over 125m south of the proposed clearing.</p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared intersects the mapped nationally important wetland "Cape Range Subterranean Waterways", defined on the basis of its known or potential value for subterranean fauna. In the assessment of CPS9963/1, it was determined that the presence of subterranean fauna within the application area was unlikely due to the lack of suitable micro-habitats. Additionally, the application area for CPS9963/1 was not considered to contain any surface water or vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland. The proposed clearing of 0.09 ha for the crossover can be considered as a contiguous extension of the land type and vegetation assessed within Lot 112. As such, the same justification can be applied.</p> <p>CSIRO ASRIS Acid sulfate soils mapping indicates there is an "extremely low probability" of acid sulfate soils being present within the clearing area.</p> <p>Given the absence of non-perennial watercourses, low acid sulphate soil risk and the small size of the area to be cleared (0.09ha), it is unlikely the clearing will cause an increase in land degradation. As such, the proposed clearing is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> with this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (h) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.</p>	<p>The nearest conservation area is located 2.3 km west of the proposed clearing. As such, the project clearing of 0.09ha is unlikely to impact values of the conservation area and is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (i) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	<p>No waterways are recorded within or immediately adjacent to the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared intersects the mapped nationally important wetland "Cape Range Subterranean Waterways", defined on the basis of its known or potential value for subterranean fauna. In the assessment of CPS9963/1, it was determined that the presence of subterranean fauna within the application area was unlikely due to the lack of suitable micro-habitats. Additionally, the application area for CPS9963/1 was not considered to contain any surface water or vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland. The proposed clearing of 0.09 ha for the crossover can be considered as a contiguous extension of the vegetation assessed within Lot 112. As such, the same justification applies.</p> <p>Given the proposed works will not intersect surface water or groundwater, it is considered unlikely for the proposed clearing to impact surface or groundwater quality. Clearing of 0.09 ha is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>
<p>Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>The mapped soil type has a moderate to high risk of flooding. These occurrences are aligned with the numerous non-perennial watercourses in the local area that may flood after high rainfall events.</p> <p>The nearest non-perennial watercourse is located 125m south of the proposed clearing envelope. It is unlikely for the clearing of 0.09 ha will exacerbate or increase in frequency or magnitude of flooding events associated with this watercourse. Therefore, the proposed clearing is considered <u>not likely to be at variance</u> to this principle.</p>

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Methodology Used and References:	Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D23#106802 GHD 2022: D22#1323152 CPS9963/1: D23#43476 Constraints Map: D23#110277 GIS layers used in assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearing Regulations – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER – 046) - DBCA – Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011) - DBCA_Restricted_TEC_PEC - DBCA_Restricted_TPFA - DBCA_Restricted_TPFL - DBCA_Restricted_WAHerb - DER-clearing-permit-activities_0 - Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA -045) - ENVN Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059) - ENVN CSIRO ASRIS Acid Sulfate Soils - ENVN IRIS Threatened Flora Markers MS - ENVN_Threatened_Flora - IMGY WANow Landgate Imagery (LGATE-320) - Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078) - Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006) - RAMSAR Sites (DBCA-010) - Threatened and Priority Fauna (DBCA-036) - Threatened and Priority Flora (DBCA-037) - Threatened Ecological Communities (DBCA-038)
Completed By:	
Name	
Signature	
Job Title	Environment Officer – MWG Region
Date	31/01/2023

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
Clearing Assessment	ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing is minor in nature and scale (0.09ha). • The small area to be cleared is in a Completely Degraded to Degraded based on extrapolation from adjoining surveyed area and aerial imagery. • Clearing permit for a larger area adjacent to this proposal area (CPS9963/1) was deemed not at variance with the clearing principals. <p>I concur that the clearing of 0.09ha of vegetation is not at variance with the 10 clearing principals</p>	
Name		
Signature		
Job Title	Principal Environment Officer	
Date	02/02/2023	