

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



This Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form is required for proposals with low clearing impacts that do not require a full assessment through a Clearing Desktop Report (CDR). Clearing that may be or is at variance should not be assessed using this form. This form must be reviewed and endorsed by the Central Review and Submissions Process (CRSP) Team, who will determine whether the clearing impacts have been assessed properly. Send the form via clearingpermit@mainroads.wa.gov.au. The Environment Officer will be advised within **2 business days** if the assessment of the proposal clearing is endorsed. Refer to the [Factsheet on the Assessment of Low Impact Clearing under Main Roads Statewide Clearing Permit CPS 818](#) (D17#452322) for further information.

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	H009 South Western Hwy [300 to 306 SLK].		
Region/Directorate:	South West		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Manjimup		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	South Western Hwy		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 300 – SLK 306		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#1043504 H009 South Western Hwy [300 to 306 SLK] Clearing shapefile CDR		
EOS No:	2853		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	November 2022		
Project No:	30001544	Task Code:	19301
LISC TRIM No:	D22#1043532	HRA TRIM No:	D22#1043529

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Shoulder re-construction and sealing is required between 300 – 306 SLK (Figure 1). The pavement widening treatment will be applied to both sides of the centreline, to achieve a 3.5m wide lane and 1.5m unsealed shoulder.

The works are required to improve road user safety, improve and maintain drainage features and ensure the current section confirms with the same designs implemented along the other parts of South Western Highway.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no alternatives proposed that would result in less clearing.

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

The project has implemented the following management measures and actions to avoid and minimise the proposal's clearing impact:

- steepen batter slopes and utilise existing cleared areas where possible
- install kerbing through selected areas where possible to minimise clearing
- chose a central alignment to maximise shoulder widening in existing disturbed areas

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):	0.006	No. Trees Cleared:	3
Species Name:	Marri, Jarrah, Karri		
Easting and Northing:	E426579 N6192850 GDA 2020 MGA Zone 50		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	The project occurs within the existing H009 road reserve, along the edges of a mosaic of karri forests, jarrah and marri woodlands, and a number of small seasonal creeks. These habitats are widespread and well represented in the adjoining Sir James Mitchell National Park, Tone and Warren State Forests. Beard (1981) vegetation association is mapped as Mainly karri <i>Eucalyptus diversicolor</i> or Tuart <i>E. gomphocephala</i> (Nornalup 1144).
Site Vegetation Condition:	Vegetation within the clearing footprint is in a degraded to completely degraded condition, with adjacent vegetation in a good or better condition (EPA 2016).

Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):

The EPA and national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation have targets to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30% of pre-European levels (EPA, 2000) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The project will require the clearing of Vegetation Association 1144: Tall forest; Karri and Marri (Beard 1981). This vegetation association is well represented (>30% remaining) and well reserved (>15% reserved) from pre-European levels at all planning scales (Table 1).

Table 1 Extent of Beard (1981) vegetation associations mapped within the project (GoWA 2019)

VEG ASSOC	SCALE	PRE-EUROPEAN EXTENT (HA)	CURRENT EXTENT (HA)	% REMAINING	% REMAINING IN DBCA MANAGED LANDS
1144	Statewide	160,314.84	128,066.79	79.88	92.53
	Bioregion Warren	159,668.36	127,836.26	80.06	92.54
	Sub region Warren 1	159,668.36	127,836.26	80.06	92.54
	Shire of Manjimup	150,788.36	118,932.99	78.87	92.04

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:

Justification or Evidence:

Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Not at variance

Clearing of two mature trees (one marri, one jarrah) and one regrowth Karri is proposed over a Degraded understorey. The trees proposed to be cleared were the subject of an Environmental Site inspection conducted by a Main Roads Fauna specialist on 13/09/2022 (TRIM D22#1043473).

The Marri and Jarrah are located on the edge of the road shoulder and the Karri is located on the opposite embankment. Vegetation under each of the trees has been previously cleared and only a sparse, Degraded understorey remains.

The trees, with the exception of the Karri (being too young), appeared to contain hollows, however, none appeared to have any evidence of use and likely have a limited biodiversity value.

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.

Not at variance

Clearing of three trees is proposed over a Degraded understorey. Two of the trees appeared to contain hollows, however, there was no evidence of chews or other use by black cockatoos or other fauna observed during the Environmental Site Inspection. These habitats are widespread and well represented in the adjoining Sir James Mitchell National Park, Tone and Warren State Forests.

The proposal to clear up to 0.006 ha of potential foraging habitat for black cockatoos (the Jarrah and Marri) is negligible within a local context, with extensive areas of black cockatoo foraging habitat available in the adjacent DBCA lands. The remaining 0.002 ha canopy associated with the Karri, is not considered to be quality black cockatoo foraging habitat. A suitably licensed and qualified fauna spotter will monitor the clearing to ensure no death or injury of fauna or breeding fauna occur.

<p>Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>A PMST report identified five threatened flora taxa as known or likely to occur within a 10 km search area of the clearing area (PMST 2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Caladenia winfieldii</i> Majestic Spider-orchid (E) • <i>Caladenia harringtoniae</i> Harrington's Spider-orchid, Pink Spider-orchid (V) • <i>Caladenia christineae</i> Christine's Spider Orchid (V) • <i>Drakaea micrantha</i> Dwarf Hammer-orchid (V) • <i>Kennedia glabrata</i> Northcliffe Kennedia (V) <p>A search of the Main Roads threatened flora shapefiles did not locate any threatened flora within 5 km from the clearing area.</p> <p>The minor clearing area (0.006 ha) comprises three trees. The vegetation under each of the trees has been previously cleared with only a sparse, Degraded understory remaining. It is therefore unlikely that any rare flora will be impacted by the proposed clearing.</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>Not at variance</p> <p>MNES are identified within the PMST conducted on 15th September 2022 within 10 km of the site. There were no Commonwealth listed Threatened Ecological Communities identified within the PMST report.</p> <p>Main Roads GIS datasets were analysed for known locations of Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities. The nearest is the Priority 3 "<i>Epiphytic Cryptogams of the karri forest</i>" PEC, located approximately 2 km from the clearing area. Due to the separation distance, this community will not be impacted. It is unlikely this community would be located would within the disturbed road easement.</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>Not at variance</p> <p>The project will require the clearing of Vegetation Association 1144: Tall forest; Karri and Marri (Beard 1981). This vegetation association is well represented (>30% remaining) and well reserved (>15% reserved) from pre-European levels at all planning scales.</p> <p>The project is located immediately adjacent to the Sir James Mitchell National Park, Tone and Warren State Forests. These, along with other reserves, combine to form hundreds of thousands of hectares of contiguous native vegetation through the South West and Great Southern Regions.</p> <p>The proposed clearing of 0.006ha, comprising three individual trees, will have a negligible impact on the remaining native vegetation in the region.</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>Not at variance</p> <p>The term 'wetlands' refers to damplands, estuary-peripheral and water body, floodplains, palusplain and sumplands. There are no formally mapped wetlands locally (SLIP 2022). Given the project is located over 100 km inland from the Swan Coastal Plain, no wetlands listed under the Swan Coastal Plain Lakes Policy 1992 will be impacted. There are no listed wetlands in the RAMSAR wetland or Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (SLIP 2022) datasets from within 10 km.</p> <p>The clearing does not impact on any wetlands or watercourses.</p>
<p>Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p>Not at variance</p> <p>The project is unlikely to disturb soils that are Potential Acid Sulfate Soils (PASS), with national mapping conducted by the CSIRO indicating a very low probability of occurrence. ASS will be managed appropriately through the implementation the CEMP.</p> <p>The project is not associated with any known contaminated sites (SLIP 2022).</p>

	<p>A dieback survey was carried out by DPaW in 2018 over the entire project area. The project area is classed entirely as <i>Infested</i> (between 300.42-300.51 SLK 300.64-301.28 SLK) or <i>Excluded Unprotectable</i> in the remaining areas (refer to Figure 2). Movement of soil for the proposal will likely occur during moist soil conditions, and DBCA will be liaised with as the project is located adjacent to DBCA Managed Lands. No further action is required.</p> <p>A Main Roads Corporate DBCA Dieback Risk Assessment Form (D22#1077407) was completed, and the project deemed Low Risk (with the following management actions): <i>Submit this completed form to DBCA. Activity can proceed using Main Roads relevant Principal Environmental Management Requirements in Specification 204 Environmental Management. Successful Construction Contractor's Environmental Management Representative must undertake Green Card training prior to construction commencing.</i></p> <p>Dieback, weeds and general soil hygiene will generally be managed during the earthworks through strategies outlined in the CEMP and in consultation with DBCA. These will include but are not limited to - Clean on entry / exit, no dieback affected fill brought into an area, machinery and other vehicle movement limited to clearing areas only, and the majority of works conducted over summer months resulting in predominantly dry soil conditions.</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>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>The project is located immediately adjacent to the Sir James Mitchell National Park, Tone and Warren State Forests. These, along with other reserves, combine to form hundreds of thousands of hectares of contiguous native vegetation through the South West and Great Southern Regions. As all works will be contained within the H009 road reserve, no conservation reserves will be directly impacted by the project.</p> <p>The project falls within the broader area covered by the Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks Management Plan No. 71 prepared by the then Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), Conservation Commission of Western Australia (2012). Whilst the Plan has no jurisdiction over the Main Roads road reserve, there are DEC objectives relevant to the project under s26. Visitor Access – Key Points (point 13) (p94). Liaising with Main Roads Western Australia and/or local authorities where development is proposed in a road reserve adjacent to the parks to ensure appropriate management with regards to flora surveys, <i>P. cinnamomi</i>, weeds, drainage control, visual amenity and rehabilitation. Main Roads has included the Parks and Wildlife Division of DBCA as a stakeholder during consultation and these aspects will be addressed in the CEMP.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is over 30m from the nearest reserve (Warren State Forest) and being minor in scale and nature (0.006 ha comprising three individual trees), is not likely to impact on the environmental values of that reserve, or any adjacent or nearby conservation areas.</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>Not at variance</p> <p>The clearing of three trees over a degraded understorey will not cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p> <p>A review of the project against ground water aspects declared under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RiWI Act) identified that the project is not located within any mapped (proclaimed or otherwise) groundwater areas. The project will not impact on any groundwater resources.</p> <p>The clearing area is located within the Warren River and Tributaries Surface Water Area proclaimed under the RiWI Act. However, the clearing area is not located on either a mapped or minor ephemeral water course and no impacts to surface water flows are anticipated.</p> <p>Project impacts on relevant aspects against the relevant legislation are discussed below.</p>

	<p>Table 2 List of project related aspects from relevant surface and groundwater legislation based on DWER data layers (SLIP 2022)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Aspect</th><th>Comment</th><th>Impact to proclaimed area</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Surface Water Areas (SWA)</td><td>The clearing is located within the Warren River and Tributaries Surface Water Area proclaimed under the RIWiA and the Warren River Water Reserve SWA listed under the CAWS Act.</td><td>No taking of water from watercourses and wetlands is proposed and no impacts are anticipated.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Irrigation District</td><td>The clearing area is not located within an irrigation district.</td><td>No impacts will occur.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rivers</td><td>None associated with the clearing area.</td><td>No impacts will occur.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA)</td><td>None associated with the clearing area</td><td>No impacts will occur.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Waterway Management Areas</td><td>None associated with the clearing area.</td><td>No impacts will occur.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Aspect	Comment	Impact to proclaimed area	Surface Water Areas (SWA)	The clearing is located within the Warren River and Tributaries Surface Water Area proclaimed under the RIWiA and the Warren River Water Reserve SWA listed under the CAWS Act.	No taking of water from watercourses and wetlands is proposed and no impacts are anticipated.	Irrigation District	The clearing area is not located within an irrigation district.	No impacts will occur.	Rivers	None associated with the clearing area.	No impacts will occur.	Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA)	None associated with the clearing area	No impacts will occur.	Waterway Management Areas	None associated with the clearing area.	No impacts will occur.
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<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>Not at variance</p> <p>The clearing of three trees over a degraded understorey will not cause deterioration in the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>																		
<p>Methodology Used and References:</p>	<p>Department of Parks and Wildlife (2018) Dieback Survey B18#6911 and shapefiles B18#6910</p> <p>Main Roads Site Inspection September 2022 (TRIM D22#1043473)</p> <p>Main Roads Shapefiles – D22#1043520 H009 South Western Hwy [300 to 306 SLK]. Exempt areas Clearing shapefile; D22#1043504 H009 South Western Hwy [300 to 306 SLK] Clearing shapefile CDR</p> <p>SLIP 2022 Shared Land Information Platform (https://www.data.wa.gov.au) accessed 2022</p>																		
<p>Completed By:</p>																			
<p>Name</p>																			
<p>Signature</p>																			
<p>Job Title</p>	<p>Contractor Environment</p>																		
<p>Date</p>	<p>6/10/2022</p>																		

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	<p>I note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal requires the clearing of three large trees (0.006ha) over a degraded understorey (two trees may contain hollows, however, no sign of use is evident and are the trees are likely to have limited biodiversity value. The proposed clearing of 0.006ha, comprising three individual trees, will have a negligible impact on the remaining native vegetation in the region which is well represented within conservation estate. No conservation significant flora will be impacted, and the clearing is unlikely to have an impact on conservation significant fauna 	
Name		
Signature		
Job Title	Environment Contractor	
Date	25/10/2022	



Figure 1 Project impacts



Figure 2 Dieback mapping