

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	T7a LCSS – M037 – Collie Lake King SLK 181.6 - 195		
Region/Directorate:	Regional Management & Operations Directorate / Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Shires of Wagin and Dumbleyung		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	M037 – Collie Lake King		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 181.6 - 195		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#509960		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	CPS818: D25#508177		
EOS Number:	2466 (investigation work under 3225)		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	September 2025		
Oracle Project No:	30000432	Task Code:	19151
LISC TRIM Number:	D24#572237	HRA TRIM No:	D24#570773

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The proposed works involve widening the existing seal width along a section of Collie Lake King Road to meet Road Safety Management (ROSMA) safety standards. Seven trees within 6 metres of the new edge of seal are required to be cleared as they pose a high safety risk to road users.

These trees are located at:

1. 184.02 (RHS) – *Eucalyptus longicornis* (Red Morrel)
2. 188.13 (RHS) – *Eucalyptus loxophleba subsp. loxophleba* (York Gum)
3. 188.14 (RHS) – 2x *Eucalyptus loxophleba subsp. loxophleba* (York Gum)
4. 188.17 (RHS) – 2x *Allocasuarina huegeliana* (Rock Sheoak)
5. 188.20 (RHS) – *Allocasuarina huegeliana* (Rock Sheoak)

Total Clearing for the proposal is approximately 0.009 ha.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The proposed works involve shoulder sealing activities of approximately 15 kilometres of road alignment and removing any trees that are within 6 metres of the road centreline due to the safety hazard to motorists. Alternatives include the installation of crash barriers, or alternative alignment of the road infrastructure. Whilst crash barriers are a potential solution to avoid clearing, these may increase dangers to other motorists by bouncing back onto the opposite side of the road into oncoming traffic. To manage this risk, removal of the tree is the safest option for motorists and barrier installation is reserved for high-value environmental receptors. An alternate alignment would be an extremely costly exercise and make the project unfeasible.

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

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

- The proposed clearing is only for trees that are confirmed to pose a significant safety hazard to motorists on completion of Low-Cost Shoulder Sealing (LCSS) works. The works have avoided clearing additional trees of risk, which will be assessed once shoulder sealing has been completed to determine if any other trees pose a significant hazard to road users.
- 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 (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2021)
- 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):	0.009 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	Seven
Species Name(s):	One <i>E. longicornis</i> , three <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> , and three <i>E. loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i>		
Easting and Northing:	117.6642037, -33.3043002 and 117.6250501, -33.2878745		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Beard Vegetation Association 1023: Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>) Based on vegetation mapping undertaken by Ecoscape (2021), the proposed clearing area intersects areas mapped as Cleared and vegetation type EII MOF (<i>Eucalyptus</i>)
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	<i>loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i> mid open forest over <i>Ehrharta longiflora</i> , <i>E. calycina</i> and <i>Bromus diandrus</i> low grassland).
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely Degraded (Ecoscape, 2021).
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	10.79% (statewide) 10.84% (Avon Wheatbelt IBRA bioregion) and 12.91% (Local Government Authority)

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	The Proposal Area consists of seven individual trees to be cleared, which includes One <i>E. longicornis</i>, three <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>, and three <i>E. loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i>. The trees proposed to be cleared are not Threatened or Priority-listed flora, nor are they part of a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or Priority Ecological Community (PEC). Furthermore, the trees are not part of a conservation area, nor do they form part of a linkage or ecological corridor to any conservation areas. The proposed clearing does not impact any Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) or other features of biodiversity value, such as wetlands. The trees proposed for clearing are unlikely to support a high level of fauna diversity, considering there is no native understorey present to allow ground-dwelling fauna to forage, shelter or disperse. The tree at SLK 184.02 is an isolated roadside tree surrounded by cleared agricultural land and roads. Whilst it is a suitable Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) tree to be classified as a Black Cockatoo habitat tree, it contains no hollows to support breeding and is not located within 48 or 38 km of any mapped roosting or breeding trees, respectively. None of the six trees proposed for clearing between SLK 188.13 and 188.20 are suitable DBH trees, none contain hollows and all are part of a small roadside strip of vegetation that has negligible ecological corridor or connectivity value to allow native fauna to disperse to larger remnants of native vegetation. The trees provide no to low value foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo and are not likely to be an important foraging resource in a local context, given the lack of mapped roosting and breeding trees within 38 km, and the availability of larger remnants of native vegetation locally. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.
Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.	The proposed clearing includes one <i>E. longicornis</i>, three <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>, and three <i>E. loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i> trees over no native understorey. As further discussed below, the seven trees proposed to be cleared do not provide significant habitat for any fauna species. Based on the findings of the biological survey undertaken by Ecoscape (2021), the trees proposed for clearing provide potential

habitat for *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's Black Cockatoo) and *Phascogale calura* (Red-tailed Phascogale) as discussed below.

Carnaby's Black Cockatoo:

One tree identified for clearing in the Proposal Area located at SLK 184.02 (RHS) is identified to be a fauna habitat tree, *Eucalyptus longicornis*, with a DBH of 545 mm. This was identified as a Class 5 tree, meaning it does not have hollows suitable for black cockatoos, but is of sufficient size that it may develop hollows in future that could be used by Black Cockatoos. 1,082 trees were identified as Class 5 within Ecoscape's (2021) broader Survey Area. The removal of 1 of these 1,082 class 5 trees (0.09%) is unlikely to significantly impact the availability of fauna habitat trees in the local area. In addition, *E. longicornis* is a low nesting priority species for Carnaby's Cockatoo and is not identified to be of any significance for feeding or roosting (Groom, 2011).

None of the three York Gum trees proposed for clearing between SLK 188.13 and 188.20 are suitable DBH trees, none contain hollows and all are part of a small roadside strip of vegetation that has negligible ecological corridor or connectivity value to allow native fauna to disperse to larger remnants of native vegetation. The trees provide low value foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo and are not likely to be an important foraging resource in a local context, given the lack of mapped roosting and breeding trees within 38 km, and the availability of larger remnants of native vegetation locally.

Allocasuarina huegeliana does not provide nesting or roosting habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo and is not a preferred foraging species (Groom, 2011).

Based on the above, it is unlikely that the seven trees proposed for clearing provide significant habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

Red-tailed Phascogale

The Red-tailed Phascogale occurs in remnant vegetation in the southern wheatbelt of Western Australia, where annual mean rainfall is 400–500 mm (Short & Hide 2012). Most of the records are concentrated in an area about 150 km long in a north-south direction from Brookton to Katanning, and about 80 km wide from Williams to Dumbleyung (Short & Hide 2012). The species is largely confined to woodlands with old-growth hollow-producing eucalypts, particularly Wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and York gum (*E. loxophleba*), often with associated rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*), but has also been recorded in shrublands and various mosaics of woodland, shrubland and scrub-heath. The best habitat has numerous tree hollows for shelter and a semi-continuous canopy. The species prefers long unburnt (more than 50 years) patches of remnant vegetation.

The tree proposed for clearing at SLK 184.02 is an isolated Red Morrel tree that would not be used by the Red-tailed Phascogale given it is completely isolated (surrounded by road and cleared

	agricultural land) with no connectivity to remnant native vegetation. The three York Gum and three <i>A. huegeliana</i> trees proposed for clearing in the vicinity of SLK 188 are part of a small, discontinuous strip of roadside vegetation with limited connectivity to larger patches of remnant vegetation. It is unlikely that these trees would provide critical habitat for the Red-tailed Phascogale given they do not contain any known hollows for shelter and are adjacent to a road, cleared agricultural land and open low samphire vegetation that would not be used by Red-tailed Phascogale. Summary The seven roadside trees proposed for clearing are not likely to comprise the whole or a part of, or be necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for any fauna species. The trees are mapped in areas in Completely Degraded condition and their removal is unlikely to adversely impact any habitat values that the broader local area or road reserve may provide. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be 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.	The proposal consists of clearing one <i>E. longicornis</i>, three <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>, and three <i>E. loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i>, none of which are threatened flora species. According to Western Australian Herbarium and DBCA datasets, the nearest threatened flora record is <i>Thysanotus tenuis</i>, located approximately [REDACTED] km south-east. Given that the proposed clearing is limited to seven overstorey trees and does not contain any native understory or groundcover, threatened flora species won't be impacted by the proposed clearing. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (d) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	A desktop assessment of mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the Study Area (20 km radius of the proposed clearing area) identified the presence of one TEC - Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt Woodlands), listed as 'Critically Endangered' under the EPBC Act. According to TEC GIS databases, the proposed clearing area is within the buffered extent (200 m) of this TEC. However, analysis of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, including the surrounding vegetation of the remnant patch within which it occurs, indicates the vegetation is not representative of the TEC (Ecoscape, 2021). The nearest vegetation mapped as a TEC from the Ecoscape Survey Area is over 1.5 km from the Proposal Area. The vegetation proposed to be cleared does not comprise the whole or a part of, nor is it necessary for the maintenance of, a TEC.

	Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (e) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.	The proposal area is mapped as occurring within Vegetation Association 1023 (Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>)) (Government of Western Australia, 2019). Vegetation Association 1023 has less than 30 % of its pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA bioregion, IBRA subregion and Shire of Dumbleyung and Wagin levels (10.79 %, 10.84 %, 12.32 % and 10.54 / 12.91 % respectively). However, the vegetation proposed for clearing consists of seven roadside trees in a Completely Degraded condition and is not representative of a York Gum woodland. The proposed clearing will not sever a significant ecological linkage across the landscape and is therefore not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	The proposal consists of clearing one <i>Eucalyptus longicornis</i>, three <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>, and three <i>E. loxophleba subsp. loxophleba</i> roadside trees. As evident from the photographs in Appendix 1, the trees are growing on the edge of the elevated road formation, and are not associated with the adjacent low-lying environment that is characterised by seasonal inundation and associated samphire vegetation at SLK 188. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The removal of seven trees from the roadside is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, noting the vegetation is already in a Completely Degraded condition. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (h) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.	The proposal area is not located within, adjacent to or nearby any conservation areas. The nearest conservation area is the Dumbleyung Lake Nature Reserve, located approximately 400 metres south. The proposed clearing does not occur in any ecological linkages or corridors that connect areas of ecological significance locally or regionally. Noting the above, and given the distance to the nearest conservation area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact the environmental values of any conservation areas. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (i) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	The removal of seven trees from the roadside is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

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	Based on the above, the proposed clearing 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 proposed clearing of seven roadside trees is not likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Used and References:	Ecoscope (Australia) Pty Ltd (2021) Collie-Lake King Road SLK 181.73-274 Shoulder Sealing Biological Survey EOS 2466, prepared for Main Roads Western Australia Government of Western Australia (2019) – Statewide Vegetation Statistics - https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics Groom C. (2011). Plants used by Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Plants for Carnaby's search tool, DEC, Kensington Photographs of the trees proposed to be cleared: Appendix 1 Proposal Area Maps: Appendix 2 Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D25#508177 GIS Datasets: - Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites - Buffered (DBCA-063) - Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - Buffered (DBCA-064) - Carnabys Cockatoo Confirmed Roost Sites (DBCA-050) - Clearing Regulations – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046) - DBCA – Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011) - DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012) - DBCA Restricted WA Herbarium Flora - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Fauna - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Flora - DBCA Restricted Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - DBCA Restricted White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations - DBCA Restricted Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations - Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045) - EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976 – 1991 (DBCA-029) - FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020) - Hydrography Linear (DWER-031) - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 7 (Regions and Subregions) - Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233) - Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018) - Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005) - Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006) - Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010) - Threatened Ecological Communities (DBCA-038)
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.	No	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669) and Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551) will be applied.
2. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	No	No further action required.
3. Main Roads has been notified by DWER or an environmental specialist that the area to be cleared is susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback.	No	No further action required.
4. Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	No	No further action required.

Completed By:

Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Graduate Environment
Date	30/05/2025

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

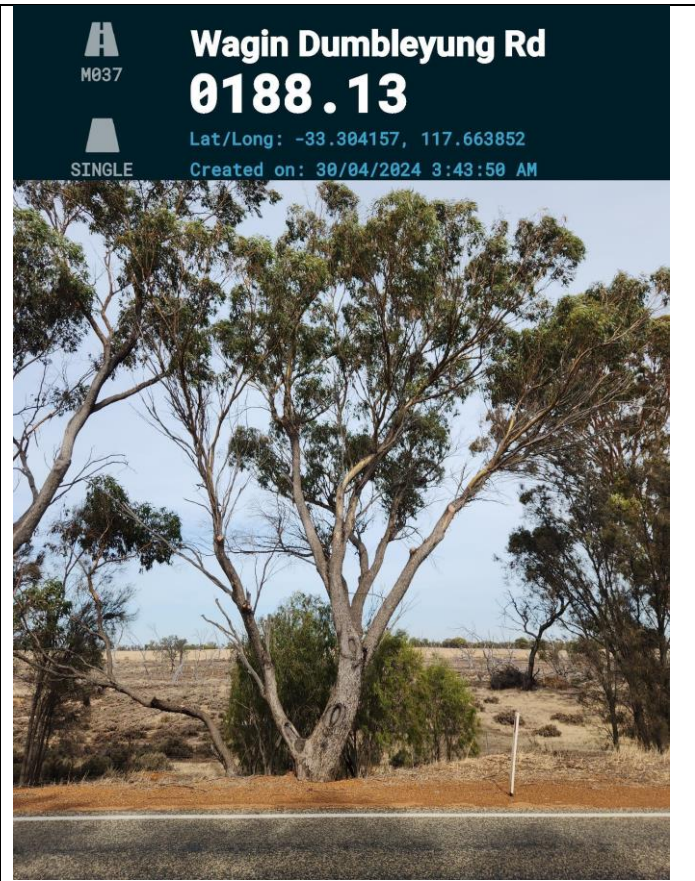
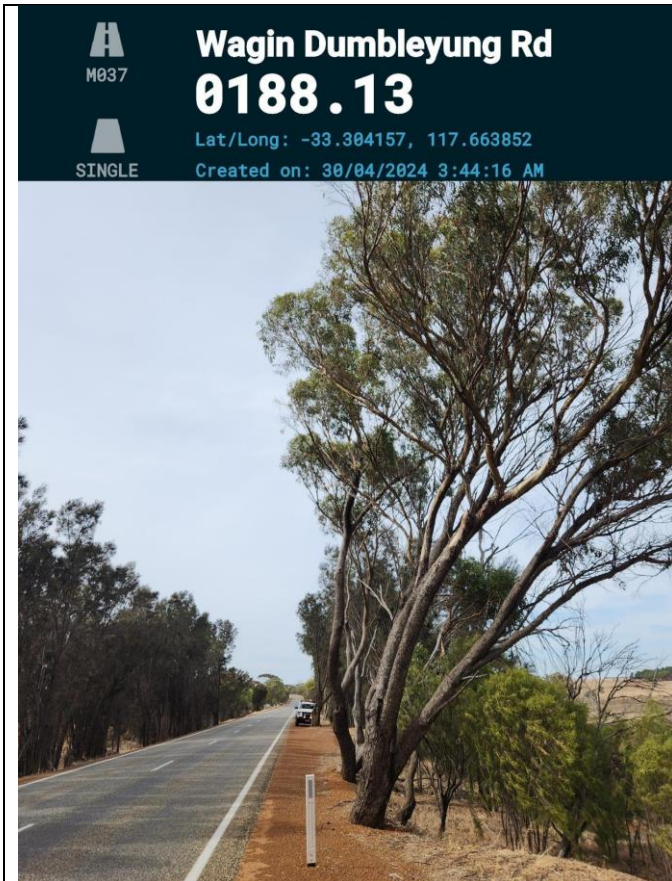
Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer
Date	3 June 2025

APPENDIX 1: Photographs of the trees proposed to be cleared

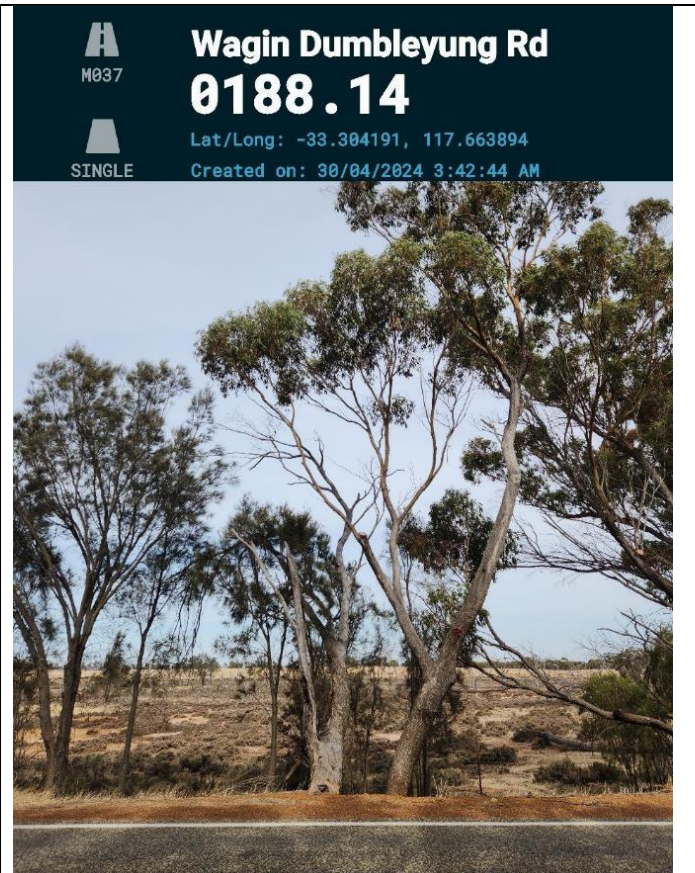
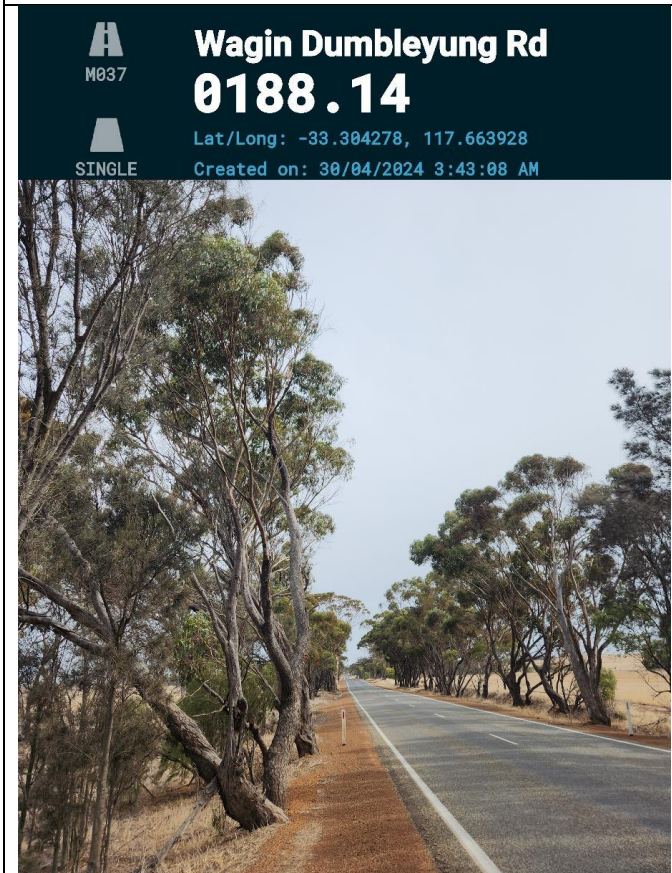
1. 184.02 (RHS) – *Eucalyptus longicornis* (Red Morrel)
2. 188.13 (RHS) – *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* (York Gum)
3. 188.14 (RHS) – 2x *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* (York Gum)
4. 188.17 (RHS) – 2x *Allocasuarina huegeliana* (Rock Sheoak)
5. 188.20 (RHS) – *Allocasuarina huegeliana* (Rock Sheoak)

Due to the clustering of trees, SLK 188.13 and 188.14 are grouped into one polygon as seen in Figure 2.

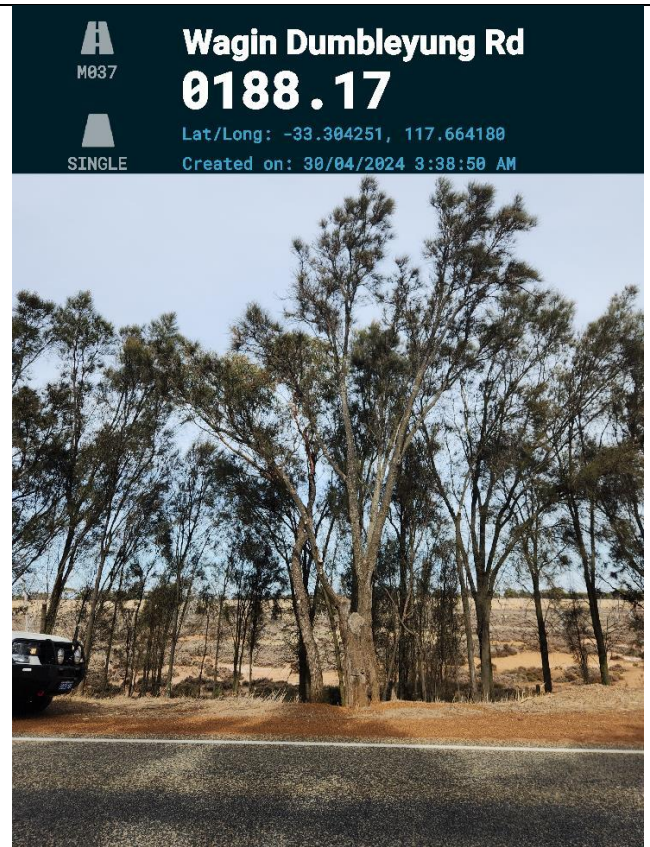
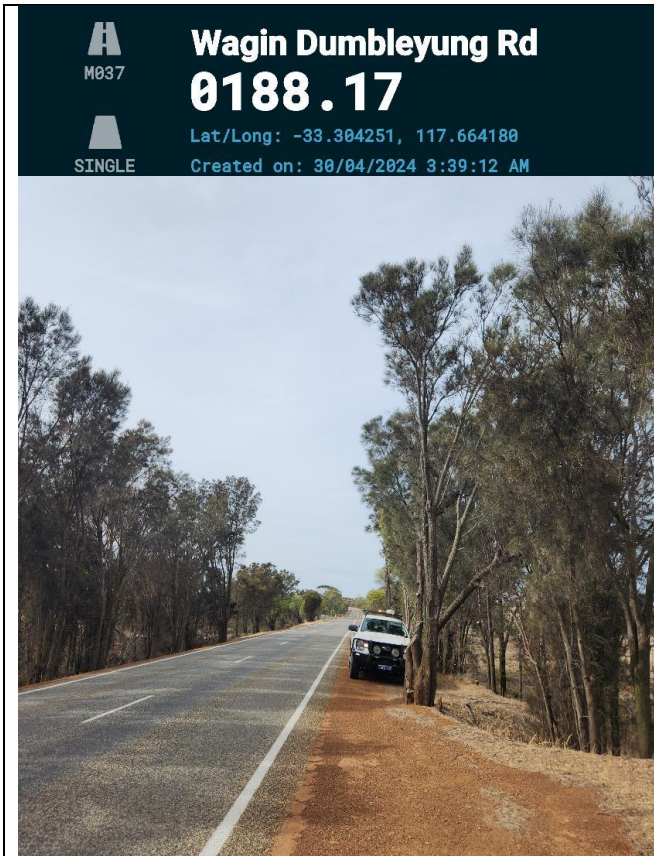




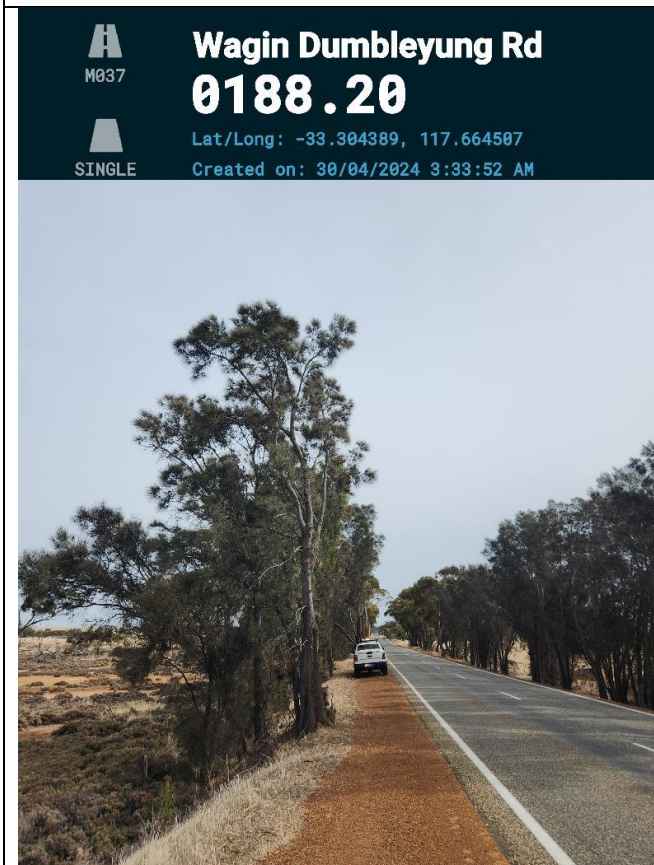
SLK 188.13 *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* will be 1.3m from the edge line marking RHS. Tree is 4.8m from the road centreline.



SLK 188.14 Two *Eucalyptus loxophleba* subsp. *loxophleba* will be 1.9m from the edge line marking RHS. Trees are 5.4m from the road centreline.



**SLK 188.17 Two *Allocasuarina huegeliana* will be 1.6m from the edge line marking RHS.
 Trees are 5.1m from the road centreline.**



**SLK 188.20 *Allocasuarina huegeliana* will be 1.7m from the edge line marking RHS.
 Tree is 5.3m from the road centreline.**

APPENDIX 2: Proposal Area Maps



Figure 1. SLK 184.02 Red Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*) tree proposed to be cleared (tree one of seven)



Figure 2. SLK 188.13 – 188.20 York Gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba subsp. loxophleba*) and Rock Sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) trees proposed to be cleared (trees two to seven).