

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	M037 Collie Lake King Road – Shoulder Widening		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of West Arthur and Shire of Wagin		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Collie Lake King Road (M037)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 127.29 – SLK 155.50		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#769504		
EOS No:	2648		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	September 2022		
Project No:	30000432	Task Code:	19109
LISC TRIM No:	D22#183770	HRA TRIM No:	D22#183773

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Removal of two trees to accommodate the shoulder seal widening along the Collie-Lake King Road. The trees are located very close to the current seal edge. The project is a component of the larger regional safety improvements project being undertaken across the Wheatbelt and other regions.

Total clearing for the proposal is 0.02 ha under CPS 818/15 (based on a conservative 0.01 ha clearing area per tree).

Location map and photographs of the two trees are provided below.

A detailed and targeted flora and vegetation survey was undertaken by Ecoedge (2021).

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no alternatives to clearing the proposed two trees as they are too close to the existing seal to accommodate the required 1m seal widening.

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

The trees to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing to prevent accidental over-clearing. It should be noted that the understory consists of introduced species and consequently, only the two trees will be impacted during 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):	0.02 ha (a conservative area of 0.01 ha has been applied to each tree)	No. Trees Cleared:	2
Species Name:	Tree 1: <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> Tree 2: <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>		
Easting and Northing:	Tree 1 (SKL 147.34 LHS): -33.320384 / 117.249193 Tree 2 (SLK 151.50 RHS): -33.314394 / 117.292528		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	<p>Tree 1: (AaAh) - Low woodland to forest of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> (with occasional isolated <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> or <i>E. rudis</i>) over isolated <i>Jacksonia sternbergiana</i> grassland of <i>*Avena barbata</i>, <i>*Ehrharta longiflora</i> and other introduced annual species on grey or grey-brown sandy loam.</p> <p>Tree 2: (PL) - Planted woodland to low woodland to low forest including <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. wandoo</i>, <i>E. rudis</i>, <i>*E. drummondii</i>, <i>*E. platypus</i> over variable shrub-layer including <i>*Calothamnus quadrifidus</i>, <i>*Callistemon glaucus</i>, <i>*Hakea francisiana</i>, <i>*Melaleuca hamata</i>, <i>*M. fulgens</i> over <i>*Avena barbata</i>, <i>*Briza maxima</i>, <i>*Ehrharta calycina</i>, <i>*E. longiflora</i> grassland. [Natural regeneration of <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> and <i>Acacia acuminata</i> may occur in this Vegetation Unit].</p> <p>* denotes introduced species</p>
Site Vegetation Condition:	<p>Tree 1: Completely degraded</p> <p>Tree 2: Degraded</p>

Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA reserves
	Veg Assoc No. 1023	Statewide <i>1023 (Wagin)</i>	1,601,605.76	172,875.16	10.79	1.18
		IBRA Bioregion <i>Avon Wheatbelt</i>	1,522,680.40	165,123.60	10.84	1.13
		IBRA Sub-region <i>Katanning</i>	1,123,736.23	138,408.96	12.32	1.27
		Local Government Authority <i>Wagin</i>	170,425.95	21,994.35	12.91	0.69

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.	<p>Clearing of two mature trees with no understory except weeds on the edge of the cleared maintenance zone. Trees do not contain hollows. Vegetation is well represented within the area. Limited biodiversity value.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.</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>The two trees proposed to be cleared do not contain any hollows and are therefore unsuitable for breeding of black cockatoo species noted as being likely or known to occur in the area (Carnaby's Cockatoo and Forrest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo) and habitat for Red-tailed Phascogale.</p> <p>Two trees do not represent a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australian with the vegetation type well represented across the project area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.</p>
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	<p>Neither tree represents a threatened species.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</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>The trees do not form part of any Wheatbelt TEC/PEC identified by Ecoedge (2021) within the project area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</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>Whilst the proposed clearing is located within an area with a pre-European extent of below the 30% threshold (Wagin Vegetation Association - 1023), the small extent of clearing proposed, the degraded vegetation condition and the unlikely presence of conservation significant flora, fauna and ecological communities,</p>

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	<p>the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.</p> <p>Similar example where DWRE considered clearing of a minor area not at variance with Principle (e) – CPS 8662-1.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.</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>The two trees proposed to be cleared are not growing in, or in association with a watercourse or wetland.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</p>
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	<p>Being located directly adjacent to the existing road and cleared maintenance zone the proposed clearing of two trees is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.</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>The two mature trees proposed to be cleared are located within the road reserve and not adjacent to any conservation area. Whilst Tree #2 is located 400 m east of Mount Latham Reserve (Crown reserve managed by the Shire of Wagin) the removal of the tree will have no impact on the environmental values of this reserve area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</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>Clearing of two mature trees will not impact on the quality of surface or groundwater within the immediate or wider area. No excavation below the groundwater table is required.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</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>Being located directly adjacent to the existing road and cleared maintenance zone the proposed clearing of two mature trees will not cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance with this Principle.</p>
Methodology Used and References:	<p>Ecoedge (2021): Detailed and Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey Collie-Lake King Road (SLK 58.5 – 64.9 & SLK 127.34 – 155.99) – D21#1249331</p> <p>LISC Appendix B – Tree Removal and Culvert Extensions (photos) – D22#261580</p> <p>Shapefile of trees – D22#769504</p>
Completed By:	
Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Environment Officer
Date	21/07/2022


DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

Clearing Assessment	ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	The 2 native trees are located in the maintenance zone and in Degraded or Completely degraded condition with no understory except for weeds. Sufficient justification has been provided to demonstrate the removal of these trees is low impact and not likely to be at variance with the clearing principles.	
Name	[REDACTED]	
Signature	[REDACTED]	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	05/08/2022	

Tree Clearing – CPS 818/15

The following two trees require removal to accommodate the shoulder seal widening works. Both trees are considered suitable DBH trees, however neither contain hollows according to (Ecoedge, 2021).


SLK	LHS / RHS	Number of trees	Distance from road centre line	Trunk circumference
147.34	LHS	1	5.7m	1.7m



New edge of seal

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SLK	LHS / RHS	Number of trees	Distance from road centre line	Trunk circumference
151.50	RHS	1	5.8m	2.0m



A photograph showing a paved road stretching into the distance under a clear blue sky. On the right side of the road, a large, mature tree with a thick trunk and dense green foliage stands prominently. A red arrow is drawn horizontally across the image, pointing from the road towards the tree trunk. The ground around the tree is covered with dry, yellowish grass and some fallen leaves. Other trees are visible further down the road on both sides.

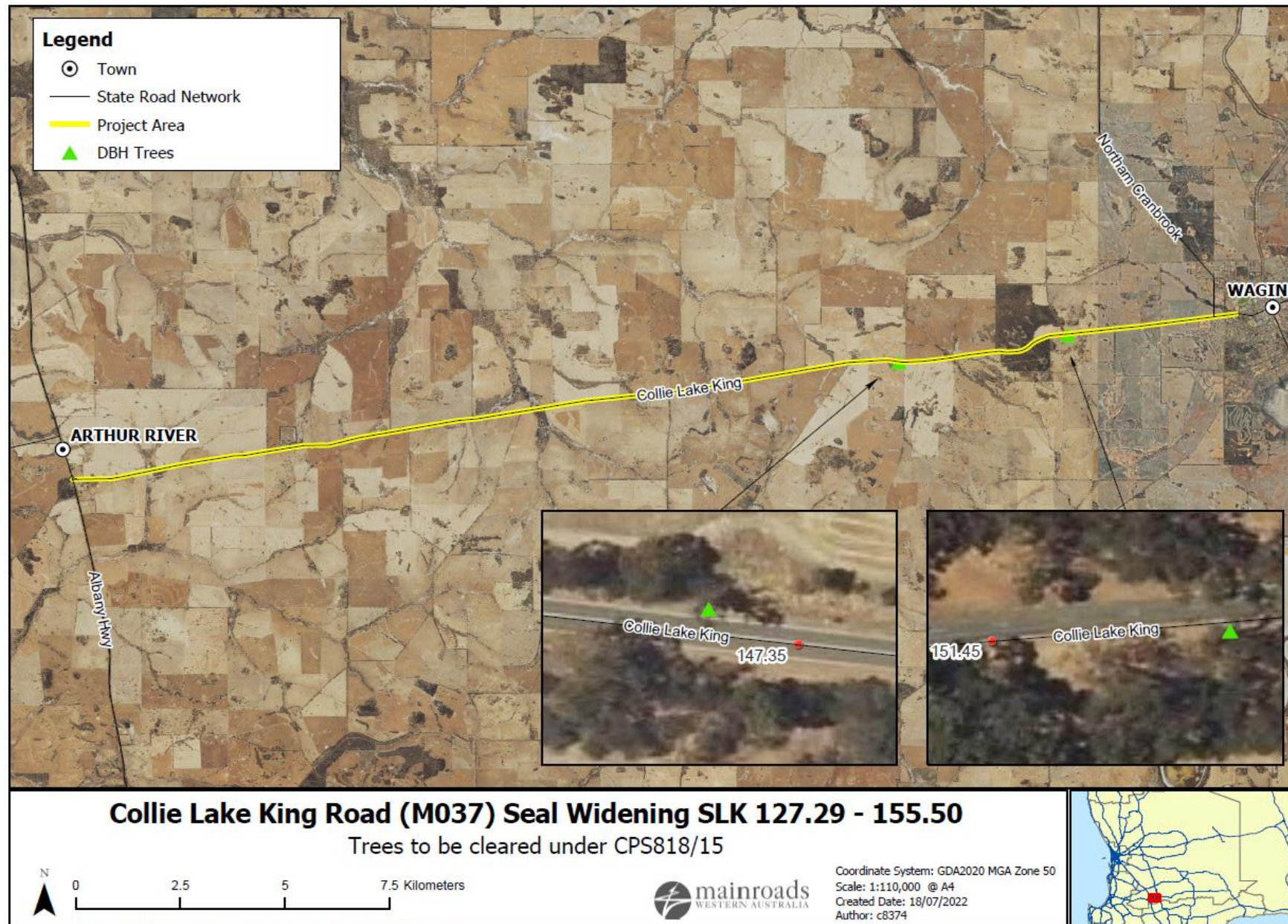


Figure 1. Location of trees to be cleared under CPS818/15