

# Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

## Bindoon North, Western Power Pole Replacement



### 1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

<b>Proposal Name:</b>	Bindoon North – Western Power Pole Replacement – Pole 5		
<b>Region/Directorate:</b>	Wheatbelt / IDD		
<b>Local Government Authority:</b>	Shire of Victoria Plains		
<b>Road/Bridge Name and No:</b>	Great Northern Highway and Mogumber – Yarawindah Road		
<b>Proposal Location (SLK):</b>	108.17		
<b>TRIM Link to Spatial Data:</b>	File 13/7463 (Bindoon North – Western Power Pole 5 CPS818 Clearing)		
<b>EOS No:</b>	622		
<b>Expected Proposal Start Date:</b>	April 2023		
<b>Project No:</b>	30001925	<b>Task Code:</b>	19501
<b>LISC TRIM No:</b>	D23#170813	<b>HRA TRIM No:</b>	D23#170783

### 2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

As part of the Great Northern Highway Bindoon North Project (the Project), Western Power need to replace and install 10 new power poles and associated transmission lines. All power poles and transmission lines are outside of the existing approval area for the Project. Of the 10 poles, only Pole 5 requires the clearing of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation. The remaining power poles are primarily located on agricultural land that has been parkland cleared. This Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form assesses the impacts to the native vegetation clearing proposed under CPS818 for Pole 5 only.

Pole 5 is located at the south-western corner of the intersection of Great Northern Highway and Mogumber-Yarrawindah Road, approximately 5.1 km south of New Norcia (Figure 1).

### 3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The disturbance footprints of the power pole replacements have largely been sited within existing cleared agricultural land, thereby avoiding the need to clear large areas of native vegetation. Of the 10 locations, only Pole 5 will require the clearing of a small area of native vegetation (0.02ha).

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

The following measures have been implemented to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and manage proposed clearing impacts:

- Nine of the 10 power pole disturbance footprints have been preferentially located within existing cleared agricultural land.
- The proposed vegetation clearing area has been reduced to the smallest area necessary to safely install the power pole (0.02 ha).
- The proposed vegetation clearing area has been sited immediately adjacent to the Great Northern Highway and Mogumber-Yarawindah Road intersection, thereby avoiding the need to clear additional areas of vegetation to facilitate access to the power pole installation point.
- The proposed vegetation clearing area is sited within an area that does not contain any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), Priority Ecological Communities (PECs), conservation significant flora or significant habitat value for Black cockatoo. The area contains vegetation recorded as being in Good to Very Good condition but was noted to have been previously affected by disturbance.

- The vegetation clearing area will be pegged and flagged by a qualified surveyor, prior to any clearing occurring, to ensure clearing is restricted to 0.02 ha only.

## 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

<b>Clearing Area (ha):</b>	0.02 ha	<b>No. Trees Cleared:</b>	N/A
<b>Species Name:</b>	The area requiring vegetation clearing contains Medium Woodland, Wandoo. The dominant species is <i>Eucalyptus wandoo subsp. wandoo</i> (Phoenix Environmental Services 2019).		

Easting and Northing:	<b>GDA1994 Zone 50</b>		
	<b>Pole</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
	5	424746.60	6567624.58

## 7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

<b>Site Vegetation Description/Association:</b>	The proposed vegetation clearing comprises Medium Woodland, Wandoo (Vegetation Unit Code 946) (Phoenix Environmental Services 2019). The dominant species (40%) is <i>Eucalyptus wandoo subsp. wandoo</i> , overlying an understorey of shrubs including <i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> and <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i> grass.						
<b>Site Vegetation Condition:</b>	The proposed vegetation clearing is recorded as being in 'Good' to 'Very Good' vegetation condition (Phoenix Environmental Service 2019).						
<b>Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):</b>	<p>Vegetation associations may be considered regionally conservation significant, where less than 30% of their pre-European extent remains at Statewide and/or bioregional scale.</p> <p>The proposed vegetation clearing contains the Medium Woodland, Wandoo vegetation association and is situated within the Jarrah Forests Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (IBRA) region. Pre-European extent is as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Scale</th><th>Percentage vegetation association remaining of Medium Woodland, Wandoo</th></tr> <tr> <td>WA scale</td><td>26%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jarrah Forest bioregion</td><td>67%</td></tr> </table>	Scale	Percentage vegetation association remaining of Medium Woodland, Wandoo	WA scale	26%	Jarrah Forest bioregion	67%
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WA scale	26%						
Jarrah Forest bioregion	67%						

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
<b>Principle (a)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	<p><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The proposed vegetation clearing area is very small in extent (0.02 ha) and comprises Medium Woodland, Wandoo overlying an understorey of shrubs including <i>Calothamnus quadrifidus</i> and <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i> grass. The area is regarded as being in Good to Very Good vegetation condition.</p> <p>A flora and fauna assessment completed by Phoenix Environmental Services (2019), which included the proposed vegetation clearing area, noted a similar number of flora species (296) to previous flora surveys conducted in the area. The survey also did not identify any Priority Ecological Communities (PECs), Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), or Threatened, priority listed, or range restricted flora species within or immediately adjacent to the proposed vegetation clearing area.</p>

	<p>The area is also not located within an area identified as being a biodiversity hotspot for priority action, as identified by the Commonwealth Threatened Species Scientific Committee.</p> <p>The proposed vegetation clearing would not decrease the quantity of significant fauna habitat and is not considered to reduce the level of biological diversity.</p>
<p><b>Principle (b)</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><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The proposed vegetation clearing area is very small in extent (0.02 ha) and is situated within a relatively narrow area of habitat (roadside remnants), that is fragmented from other areas of native vegetation by cleared agricultural land and degraded areas.</p> <p>One conservation significant species, Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>), is known to occur within the wider area. A flora and fauna assessment completed by Phoenix Environmental Services (2019) did not identify any potential cockatoo breeding trees (with or without hollows) within the area of proposed vegetation clearing. The vegetation area has been mapped by Phoenix Environmental Services as low value foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. It therefore does not represent significant habitat for the species. Additionally, the small amount of clearing required will not reduce the overall availability of foraging habitat in the area for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo.</p>
<p><b>Principle (c)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, Threatened flora.</p>	<p><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>No Threatened flora species have been identified within or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed vegetation clearing area.</p> <p>The nearest known recorded conservation significant flora species is <i>Banksia serratuloides</i> subsp. <i>serratuloides</i> (Vulnerable), situated approximately 2.6 km south-south-west (Phoenix Environmental Services, 2019)</p>
<p><b>Principle (d)</b> – 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><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>No TECs are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed vegetation clearing area.</p> <p>A flora and fauna assessment completed by Phoenix Environmental Services (2019) for the Great Northern Highway, Muchea to Wubin Upgrade Stage 2 Project noted several patches of eucalyptus woodlands within the wider area, which met the characteristics for the Eucalyptus Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC. All assessed patches, however, were in degraded condition as per both the TEC site assessments and vegetation condition mapping. As such these were discounted from representing the TEC in accordance with conservation advice for the TEC (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2015).</p>
<p><b>Principle (e)</b> – 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><b>Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The proposed vegetation clearing area comprises Medium Woodland, Wandoo, which has 67% of its pre-European extent remaining within the Jarrah forest bioregion. On a WA scale, the</p>

	<p>Medium Woodland, Wandoo vegetation association has 26% of its pre-European extent remaining.</p> <p>Given the very small area of proposed clearing (0.02 ha), the area to be cleared is not considered to be a significant remnant of vegetation.</p>
<p><b>Principle (f)</b> – 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><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The area of proposed vegetation clearing does not comprise riparian vegetation and is situated at least 200 m south-east from the nearest surface water body (Moore River East).</p>
<p><b>Principle (g)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The area of proposed clearing is situated within the Glentrome land system; comprising loamy earths, loams, loamy gravel and some clay and rock. This land system does not present a very high or extreme risk of wind or water erosion. The clearing area is also very small in area, which is unlikely to increase or exacerbate land degradation.</p>
<p><b>Principle (h)</b> – 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><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>No conservation reserves or environmentally sensitive areas are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed vegetation clearing. The nearest is Sevenmile Well Nature Reserve, located approximately 4.2 km south.</p>
<p><b>Principle (i)</b> – 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><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The area of proposed vegetation clearing does not comprise riparian vegetation and is situated at least 200 m south-east from the nearest surface water body (Moore River East). Additionally, the area of vegetation is very small (0.02 ha), and as such is unlikely to significantly contribute to a deterioration in surface water (such as through increased sediment) or groundwater quality. The small amount of clearing required will not contribute to issues such as groundwater level rise, mobilisation of salts within soils or dryland salinity.</p>
<p><b>Principle (j)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p><b>Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</b></p> <p>The vegetation clearing is very small in area (0.02ha) and would not change surface water flow patterns or exacerbate flooding. Surface water hydrology in the immediate area is also already likely to have been altered from the presence of Great Northern Highway and Mogumber-Yarawindah Road.</p>

<b>Methodology Used and References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Low Impact Screening Checklist (LISC) (D23#170813).</li> <li>DPIRD Land Qualities mapping (available at <a href="https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f">https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f</a>).</li> <li>Phoenix Environmental Services, 2019. Flora and fauna assessment for Calingiri study area: Great Northern Highway, Muchea to Wubin Upgrade Stage 2 Project (D20#504158).</li> <li>Shepherd, D. P, Beeston, G. R. &amp; Hopkins, A. J. M, 2002. Native vegetation in Western Australia Extent, type, and status. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, WA. Resource Management Technical Report 249.</li> <li>Spatial data of clearing area (D23#170733).</li> <li>Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2015. Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalyptus Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (incl. Appendix A – species list). Department of the Environment. Available at: <a href="http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf">http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/communities/pubs/128-conservation-advice.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>Completed By:</b>	
<b>Name</b>	Author: Callum Mair (Senior Associate Environmental Consultant, Jacobs) Reviewer: Joann McKenny (Senior environment Officer, Main Roads)
<b>Signature</b>	<i>Callum Mair</i>
<b>Job Title</b>	Senior Associate Environmental Consultant, Jacobs
<b>Date</b>	08/05/2023

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Clearing Assessment	<div> <div>ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/></div> </div>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>I note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed clearing comprises 0.02ha of native vegetation</li> <li>No Threatened or priority flora were located in the clearing area</li> <li>No significant fauna were located in the clearing area</li> <li>The clearing area is within the distribution of Carnaby's cockatoo and comprises low value foraging habitat. No breeding trees (with or without hollows) were located within the clearing area.</li> <li>No TECs or PECs were located in the clearing area</li> </ul>
<b>Name</b>	Rob Irwin
<b>Signature</b>	<i>Rob Irwin</i>
<b>Job Title</b>	Environment Contractor
<b>Date</b>	10/05/2023



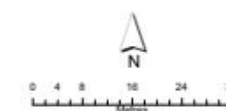


Native Vegetation Clearing Area for Pole 5



# Legend

 Native Vegetation Clearing Required



Scale: 1:800 (A3 Print)  
 Project Name: Bindoon North Desktop Clearing  
 Assessment - Western Power Pole Replacements  
 Projection: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50  
 Sources: Jacobs - Power Pole Replacement  
 Locations: Landgate - Roads, Imagery 2023  
 Map Produced: 5/8/2023  
 Project Number: IW218157  
 Rev A

## Jacobs

JACOBS, Mia Yellagonga Tower 2, Level 5, 5 Spring Street,  
 GPO Box 16112, Perth WA 6000, Australia  
 Tel: +61 8 9469 4400 Fax: +61 8 9469 4400

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