

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	GNH / Rutland Rd Roundabout: 2025 Construction Sidetrack		
Region/Directorate:	Metropolitan Region		
Local Government:	City of Swan		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Rutland Rd (1090045)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 0.45		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#73641		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#74488		
EOS Number:	1135		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	5 February 2025		
Oracle Project No:	21111723	Task Code:	13.01
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#70717	HRA TRIM Number:	D25#66427

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

To construct a sidetrack to maintain safe traffic access between GNH and Muchea South Road during the construction of the GNH/Rutland Road roundabout. The full (temporary) closure of Rutland Road during construction is not permitted, therefore this sidetrack is required.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

Without the sidetrack, the Project will be required to be staged to maintain traffic movements through the area. This poses a safety risk to road users and construction personnel and will result in significant time delays and associated costs, requiring the Project to be placed on hold over the winter months and resuming in late 2025.

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

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

- Main Roads retains frangible vegetation where a clear zone is to be established for road projects. For these works, 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. Given this proposal is limited to the construction of a sidetrack to maintain road access, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.
- The sidetrack has been designed with due consideration of vegetation impacts. Vegetation clearing has been limited, where possible, to only planted or previously cleared vegetation.

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):	0.04	No. Trees Cleared:	~10
Species Name(s):	<i>Acacia</i> sp., <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp., <i>Melaleuca</i> sp.		
Easting and Northing:	116.013440°E 31.648323°S		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	ErMhVb: Mid <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> open forest over tall <i>Melaleuca hamulosa</i> shrubland over low <i>*Vicia benghalensis</i> shrubland. Vegetation Association 4 "Medium woodland; marri & wandoo." Five (0.02 ha) <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. are located on private property at the Rutland Road entry point. The area also contains <i>Acacia saligna</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp. as confirmed by site inspection.
Site Vegetation Condition:	The area has been mapped as Degraded as part of the Rutland Road Intersection Improvements Biological Survey (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). The site exists directly adjacent to the Rutland Road reserve.
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	State-wide: 26.95% IBRA Region (Swan Coastal Plain): 19.06% IBRA sub-region (Perth): 14.67% LGA (City of Swan): 53.99%

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.	A biological survey was completed by Phoenix Environmental (2019). No Threatened Flora listed under the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act) or the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (BC Act), or Priority flora were recorded within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area during the targeted searches conducted by Phoenix Environmental (2019). Native vegetation to be cleared is in Degraded condition, comprising 0.04 ha ErMhVb: Mid <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> open forest over tall <i>Melaleuca hamulosa</i> shrubland over low <i>*Vicia benghalensis</i> shrubland including five <i>Melaleuca</i> sp. on private property at the Rutland Road entry point. Native vegetation to be cleared is representative of the vegetation in the broader area however, this section proposed for clearing has been selected to avoid the clearing of Marri trees that are present in adjacent areas. . No vegetation communities within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area or adjacent areas are considered representative of any known EPBC Act or BC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). None of the vegetation communities are locally significant as they are well represented outside of the Native Vegetation Clearing Area and, based on current available data, do not support any conservation significant plant species. Vegetation beyond the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is in better condition in areas that are not subject to edge effects from the existing roads and adjacent land use (paddock/farmland). One fauna habitat type was identified within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area (Phoenix Environmental, 2019), comprising of Flooded Gum Woodland. This habitat type is considered well represented in the surrounding areas and the small amount of proposed clearing will not result in a significant reduction of fauna habitat from the local area. Within a 12.2 ha biological survey area, 3.31 ha of Flooded Gum Woodland was mapped extending outside of the Native Vegetation Clearing Area (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). Up to 1% of Flooded Gum Woodland mapped within the biological survey area is proposed to be cleared as part of these works. A review of spatial data indicated the following six conservation significant fauna species may occur within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area (Phoenix Environmental, 2019): • Fork-tailed Swift (<i>Apus pacificus</i>) – Migratory under the EPBC and BC Act; • Carnaby's Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) – Endangered under the EPBC Act and BC Act; • Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>) – Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and BC Act; • Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) – Other specially protected fauna under the BC Act;

	• Quenda (<i>Isodon fusciventer</i>) – Priority 4 listed by DBCA; • Black-striped Snake (<i>Neelaps calonotos</i>) – Priority 3 listed by DBCA. Evidence of the Carnaby's Cockatoo (calls) and the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (foraging evidence and used suitable hollows in proximity of but not within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area) was identified during the 2019 biological survey (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). The Native Vegetation Clearing Area has been selected to avoid Marri trees and contains species that do not represent high quality foraging habitat for black cockatoos. There are no trees of suitable DBH (> 500 mm), known roosting trees nor nesting hollows present within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. While the proposal area is located within proximity of known black cockatoo roosting, vegetation species, location and characteristics such as height, size and absence of hollows does not provide suitable habitat for black cockatoo roosting or breeding. No records or evidence of any of the other conservation significant fauna species was identified in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area during the biological survey. Whilst the Native Vegetation Clearing Area may provide some habitat, it is unlikely that any conservation significant fauna species would rely on this area as key habitat when habitat of higher quality is available in undisturbed surrounding areas Based on the above, the Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not comprise a high level of biological diversity. 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.	One fauna habitat type was identified in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area during the Phoenix Environmental (2019) biological survey, comprising 0.04 ha of Flooded Gum Woodland. A desktop review of spatial data indicated six conservation significant species (listed below) may occur within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. Fork-tailed Swift (<i>Apus pacificus</i>) (Migratory) Occurs in a wide range of dry or open habitats, including riparian woodlands, tea-tree swamps, low scrub, heathland, saltmarsh, grassland and spinifex sandplains, open farmland and inland and coastal sand dunes. This species may occur as an occasional fly over visitor to the Native Vegetation Clearing Area as part of a wide foraging range but was not recorded during the biological survey. The habitat type present is well represented in the surrounding areas and the Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus banksia naso</i>) (Vulnerable) The Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo forages in jarrah and marri woodlands and forest, and edges of karri forests including wandoo and blackbutt trees, within the range of the subspecies. They generally breed in woodland or forest but may also breed in

	former woodland or forest now present as isolated trees. The species nests in hollows of both live or dead trees of marri, karri, wandoo, bullich (<i>E. megacarpa</i>), blackbutt (<i>E. patens</i>), tuart and jarrah. No DBH trees are proposed to be cleared or impacted by this Proposal, with the Flooded Gum habitat described as being unsuitable for nesting (Phoenix, 2019) The vegetation species, location and characteristics such as height, size and absence of hollows does not provide suitable habitat for black cockatoo roosting or breeding. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area has been selected to avoid Marri trees and does not contain species that represent high quality foraging habitat. The Bullsbrook Nature Reserve is located approximately 1 km north of the Proposal Envelope and contains over 119 ha of bushland with recorded Black Cockatoo sightings (DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna database). Based on available aerial imagery this bushland contains better or equal quality Black Cockatoo habitat and represents more preferable habitat than the small area of roadside vegetation in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Carnaby's Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) (Endangered) Carnaby's Cockatoo forage in native shrubland, kwongan heathland and woodland dominated by proteaceous plant species. They generally breed in woodland or forest, but also breed in former woodland or forest now present as isolated trees. The species nests in hollows in live or dead trees of salmon gum (<i>E. salmonophloia</i>), wandoo, tuart, jarrah (<i>E. marginata</i>), flooded gum (<i>E. rudis</i>), york gum (<i>E. loxophleba subsp. Loxophleba</i>), powderbark (<i>E. accedens</i>), karri and marri. No DBH trees are proposed to be cleared or impacted by this Proposal, with the Flooded Gum habitat described as being unsuitable for nesting (Phoenix Environmental, 2019) The vegetation species, location and characteristics such as height, size and absence of hollows does not provide suitable habitat for black cockatoo roosting or breeding. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area has been selected to avoid Marri trees and does not contain species that represent high quality foraging habitat. Suitable foraging habitat was reported to occur extensively to the east of the biological survey area (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). The Bullsbrook Nature Reserve is located approximately 1 km north of the Proposal Envelope and contains over 119 ha of bushland with recorded Black Cockatoo sightings (DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna database). Based on available aerial imagery this bushland contains better or equal quality Black Cockatoo habitat and represents more preferable habitat than the small area of roadside vegetation in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area.
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	The Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) (Other specially protected fauna) Preferred habitat includes cliffs and wooded watercourses. Nesting occurs mainly on cliff ledges, granite outcrops, quarries and in trees with old raven or Wedge-tailed Eagle nests. This species may utilise the Native Vegetation Clearing Area for fly over while accessing a wide range of foraging area, however there are no key breeding or nesting habitat features available within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area and the species was not recorded during the survey. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Black-striped Snake (<i>Neelaps calonotos</i>) (Priority 3) The Black-striped Snake is restricted to deep sands of coastal heaths and low shrublands on the Swan Coastal Plain, found mostly at long-unburnt sites. While some suitable habitat may occur in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, this species was not recorded during the survey and habitat is well represented in the surrounding areas. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Quenda (<i>Isoodon fusciventer</i>) (Priority 4) The Quenda prefers scrubby, often swampy, vegetation with dense cover up to one metre high, often feeding in adjacent forest and woodland that is burnt on a regular basis and in areas of pasture and cropland lying close to dense cover. While this species has the potential to occur in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, records of occurrence are infrequent in the Bullsbrook area, and no evidence of species presence was recorded during the survey. The habitat type in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is well represented in the surrounding areas. on the Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not provide significant habitat for this species. Species of conservation significance have the potential to occur in the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, however the vegetation beyond the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is in better condition in areas that are not subject to edge effects and disturbance from the existing roads and adjacent land use (paddock/farmland). Following the biological survey, Phoenix Environmental (2019) determined the entire survey area (12.2 ha) to be unlikely to represent critical habitat for any of these species. Based on the above, the Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not comprise the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna. 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.	A desktop assessment of Threatened species was undertaken identifying the following four species as potentially occurring within the Proposal Envelope (Phoenix Environmental, 2019): • <i>Darwinia foetida</i> (VU)

	• <i>Eleocharis keigheryi</i> (VU) • <i>Grevillea curviloba</i> subsp. <i>curviloba</i> (EN, CR) • <i>Grevillea curviloba</i> subsp. <i>incurva</i> (CR). No Threatened species were recorded within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area during targeted searches completed as part of the biological survey (Phoenix Environmental, 2019) and subsequent Targeted flora survey undertaken by Main Roads' Botanist (MRWA, 2019). 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.	The desktop assessment for Threatened Ecological Communities conducted by Phoenix Environmental (2019) identified two mapped TEC boundaries that intersect the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. These are: - <i>Eucalyptus callophylla</i> – <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> woodlands and shrublands, Swan Coastal Plain (Critically Endangered); and - Shrublands and woodlands on Muchea Limestone (SCP3c) (Endangered). Phoenix Environmental (2019) have confirmed that no vegetation in the biological survey area was determined to represent any TECs. The status of vegetation aligning with either of the above TEC's identified during the desktop assessment is described as 'not present'. <i>Corymbia callophylla</i> is considered a dominant species of the SCP3c TEC but the most important criterion for this TEC is the presence of heavy soils. No heavy soils were found in the biological survey area and no <i>Corymbia callophylla</i> species will be impacted as part of this Proposal. The Shrublands and woodlands on Muchea Limestone TEC is not considered present in the Proposal Envelope as substrate is not present (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). No heavy soils and no limestone outcrops were found in the biological survey area (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). The vegetation type recorded within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is not considered representative of any known TEC (Phoenix Environmental, 2019). 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 National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001) recognises that the retention of 10% or more of the pre-clearing extent in constrained areas of each ecological community is necessary if Australia's biodiversity is to be protected. One Vegetation Association (Vegetation Association 4) has been identified within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, with 27% of the pre-European extent remaining. Based on the above, the proposed clearing of 0.04 ha of native vegetation will not significantly reduce the availability of this Vegetation Association.

	The proposed clearing is not likely to be 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.	No Ramsar Wetlands, Nationally Important Wetlands or DBCA managed waters occur within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. No surface water expressions are present within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area (Phoenix Environmental, 2018). The Native Vegetation Clearing Area falls within the mapped boundaries of the Ellen Brook Floodplain which is a Multiple Use (Palusplain) wetland. This wetland is not a conservation category wetland and is not a defined wetland in accordance with the legislation. Native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in, or in association with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland. 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 Native Vegetation Clearing Area is located predominantly within the Reagan Land System (Phoenix Environmental, 2019) which is characterised by brown, yellow and pale sands that may be shallow to very deep with clay or duricrust underlying. The Atlas of Australian Soils (1991) describes the Native Vegetation Clearing Area as having hard acidic yellow soils containing ironstone gravels. The landscape slopes gradually to the west and the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is not located within areas subject to historic flooding, thus appreciable land degradation is not likely to occur due to surface water flows. 0.04 ha of degraded native vegetation is proposed to be cleared. This represents a minor proportion of vegetated surface at a local and regional scale. Given the existing soil type and minimal native vegetation clearing proposed, appreciable land degradation is not likely to occur. 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.	There are two Reserves within close proximity to the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. These reserves will not be impacted by the proposed clearing due to the distance of separation: • Public Cemetery (Reserve Number 10788); • Public reserve used for recreation (Reserve Number 27583). Bush Forever Area 294 occurs nearby to the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. The proposed native vegetation clearing of 0.04 ha of degraded vegetation will not impact on the environmental values of the nearby Environmentally Sensitive Area (Bush Forever site 294) or Reserves. 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 Native Vegetation Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped watercourses. No surface water expressions are present (Phoenix Environmental, 2018). Vegetation proposed to be cleared is not associated with a watercourse or wetland and clearing will not significantly alter current drainage patterns and therefore, will not cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. 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.	A review of ArcGIS shapefiles has confirmed that the proposed clearing will not disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface run-off patterns. It is unlikely that the clearing of 0.04 ha of native vegetation in Degraded condition alongside the existing road and from an already highly disturbed paddock, would cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding events. The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Methodology Used and References:	Phoenix Environmental (2019) Main Roads Site Inspections (2019 & 2023: D19#709542 & D24#1060123) Atlas of Australian Soils (1991) Dataset DWER Dataset FPM Extent of Flooding (DWER-017) Landgate Cadastre Dataset LGATE-217 (2022) EPA (2016) Photographs of vegetation: Appendix 2 (photographs) Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D25#74488

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
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1. Proposal is within a Region that: • has rainfall greater than 400mm; and, • is South of the 26th parallel; and, • works are necessary in 'Other than dry conditions'; and, • works have potential for uninfested areas to be impacted.	Yes	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669) and Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551) will be applied. The Contractor's approved CEMP will be implemented during clearing activity and incorporates hygiene management.
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		
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	29/01/2025	

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	Redacted
Signature	<i>Redacted</i>
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	04/02/2025

APPENDIX 1: NATIVE VEGETATION CLEARING AREA

