

Clearing Desktop Report – CPS 818

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Swan River Crossings Project -
Fremantle Traffic Bridge Southern Abutment
Metro Region
EOS1808

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Document Control

Report Compilation & Review	Name and Position	Document Revision	Date
Author:	[REDACTED], FBA Environment Advisor	Draft v1	18/09/2024
Reviewer:	[REDACTED], FBA Environmental Manager	Draft v1	26/09/2024
Author:	[REDACTED], Environment Contractor	Rev 0	3/10/2024
Reviewer:	[REDACTED], Senior Environment Officer	Rev 0	08/10/2024

1 PROPOSAL

1.1 Purpose and Justification

The purpose of this Clearing Desktop Report (CDR) is to provide a report detailing the assessment of native vegetation clearing that is proposed to be undertaken using the Statewide Clearing Permit CPS 818 issued to Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads).

The Swan River Crossing Project is replacing the Fremantle Traffic Bridge (FTB) by constructing a dual carriageway road bridge over the Swan River on the location of the existing FTB. The existing 1939 FTB was designed as a temporary structure, with an initial anticipated lifespan of 40 years. Upgrades to the bridge have allowed the bridge to serve its function well beyond that initial lifespan, the bridge's structure has been deteriorating over a number of years. Despite extensive strengthening and maintenance works, recent investigations have identified that the State heritage listed bridge needs to be replaced. The replacement of the deteriorating bridge will ensure traffic flows in the locality can be maintained. Future road planning in the area has shown that there is a need to maintain a four-lane traffic bridge across the Swan River at this location. At least 30,000 vehicles use the traffic bridge per day.

The proposed clearing is for Abutment 2 on the southern approach of the FTB for the Swan River Crossing project. Replacing the FTB will result in the existing historical bridge structure being demolished. The current alignment of the FTB is not sufficient for the new dual carriageway and tie into Canning Highway. To facilitate this and to ensure safe access for vehicles and pedestrians the bridge abutment is to be extended.

The CDR outlines the key activities associated with Abutment 2 works, the existing environment, and an assessment of native vegetation clearing. This assessment provides an evaluation of the vegetation clearing impacts associated with the works using the ten Clearing Principles, and the strategies used to manage vegetation clearing.

1.1.1 Main Roads Approach to Road Safety and the Environment

Main Roads is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of all of its activities and manages the state road network to achieve balanced economic, social, safety and environmental benefits for the community. Main Roads recognises that Western Australia's environment is significant from a global perspective and the unique conservation values that are contained within its road reserve. Main Roads' road network often adjoins natural areas and, in some locations, the reserve itself hosts remnant vegetation with high environmental values. Although the reserves were not established for this purpose, Main Roads recognises that it has a responsibility to conserve the environmental values that occur within the state's road network and minimise the impact its proposals have on the environment. In addition to providing a safe and efficient road network for all people using the roads under its control, Main Roads is also committed to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

In accordance with National and State Government road safety policies, Main Roads is also committed to substantially reducing road trauma on the road network through Safe System principles. The Safe System approach acknowledges that more than two thirds of all serious crashes are due to human error rather than deliberate risk taking (e.g. speeding or drink driving) and seeks to improve behaviour through education and enforcement while managing the safety of vehicles, speeds and the road and road infrastructure. It is shown that improving sub-optimal road formation will substantially reduce the likelihood and severity of road crashes. For example, according to the Road Safety Management Guideline, increasing the sealed shoulder from 0.5 m to 2 m will reduce Killed and Seriously Injured numbers by more than 50%.

As the statutory authority responsible for providing and managing a safe and efficient main road network in Western Australia, Main Roads focuses on improving road safety by thoroughly considering all environmental, economic and community benefits and impacts. It operates on a hierarchy of avoiding, minimising, reducing and then, if required, offsetting our environmental impacts. This has been achieved through changes in proposal scope and design. Main Roads regularly reduces its clearing footprint by restricting earthworks limits for proposals, steepening batters, installing barriers, establishing borrow pits in cleared paddocks and avoiding temporary clearing for storage, stockpiles and turn around bays to avoid and minimise its impacts.

Further details on measures to avoid, minimise and reduce are provided in Section 1.6.

1.2 Proposal Scope

Project Name: Swan River Crossings Project – Southern Abutment 2.

Project Purpose / Components: The Project scope is an activity relating to the Swan River Crossings project. The Southern Abutment 2 Project will include the following key activities:

- Clearing of vegetation within the work area, undertaken by a specialist clearing contractor.
- Removal / relocation of any existing services within the work area. Identified services include stormwater drainage, electrical, communications, gas, and water services.
- Installation of traffic management and temporary fencing, to provide safe working room for construction.
- Installation of temporary sheet piles to enable safe excavation during construction while the FTB remains open.
- Construction of piling pads and bridge falsework hardstand.
- Installation of King Post retaining wall. The face of the retaining wall will be excavated to approximately 3.5m from the top of post.
- Installation of permanent bored piles and abutment pile caps including excavation to a depth ranging from 4-5m.
- Widening of Queen Victoria Street and installation of a shared pathway along the bridge and Canning Highway.
- Installation of terraced permanent hardscaping, pause-points and staircases to enhance connectivity with the foreshore area.
- Installation of permanent landscaping based on the final landscaping and rehabilitation design, which is required to be reviewed and approved by all stakeholders assigned as advising agencies for the project under Development Approval conditions.

1.3 Proposal Location

The development envelope is located along Beach Street within the City of Fremantle as shown in Figure 1. The central coordinate of the proposal is:

- Latitude: -32.0423
- Longitude: 115.7550

1.4 Clearing Details

Proposed Clearing to be undertaken using CPS 818: 0.04 ha.

Areas of Native Vegetation Clearing: The areas of native vegetation to be cleared are shown in Figure 1.

Type of Native Vegetation:

An assessment of vegetation found that most vegetation in the area was revegetation or planted with locally occurring species and may be considered to represent native (natural) or semi-native (planted using local native species) vegetation.

Although the vegetation is expected to consist entirely of vegetation that is not remnant native vegetation, the clearing is being assessed as though it is native vegetation as a precautionary approach to demonstrate the highest level of consideration and due diligence has been employed.

Vegetation to be cleared under this Proposal is shown in Figure 1 and has been described as:

- EdCpLOF: *Eucalyptus decipiens* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest;
- EgCpMOF: *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Callitris preissii* mid open forest.

1.5 Alternatives to Native Vegetation Clearing Considered During Proposal Development

There are no alternatives to the proposed clearing as the footprint has been reduced as far as practicable through design refinement and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The planned clearing footprint aligns with the permanent works footprint as close as possible to allow for constructability and only a minimal amount of native vegetation will be removed for the works.

1.6 Measures to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage Proposal Clearing Impacts

The design and management measures implemented to avoid and minimise the potential clearing impacts of the Proposal are provided in Table 1.

The proposed clearing area will be marked before clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to the approved limits of vegetation clearing. Where possible, trees will be pruned rather than cleared.

Table 1. Justification of avoiding, minimising, mitigating, and managing project clearing impacts.

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Preferential use of existing cleared areas for access tracks, construction storage and stockpiling	As far as practicable, the bridge abutment has been selected to avoid clearing native trees and shrubs, ensuring alignment with the footprint of permanent works and the required working room.
Minimise tree removal	As far as practicable, the alignment and extent of the bridge abutment has been selected to avoid clearing native trees. Wherever possible, trees that have been approved for clearing will be pruned in preference to removal.
Lower impact clearing methodology	In the area of native vegetation, clearing will be done by tree loppers and stump grinding, and the area will not be grubbed. Topsoil / root systems will remain intact as far as practicable.
Reduction in scope of works	Original designs submitted in the development phase included clearing the Beach St embankment approximately 65m further east. The revised plan involves a smaller permanent and temporary works footprint and manages to retain mature trees along the Beach St embankment for incorporation into the final landscaping.
Simplification of design to reduce number of lanes and/or complexity of intersections	Previous iterations of the design involved major modification to the Queen Victoria Street and Canning Highway intersection, with some proposed designs involving complete realignment of Canning Highway through the project area. The current proposal is a like-for-like

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
	replacement of the bridge, with only minor modification to the current Canning Hwy intersection.



Document No: D24#1242802

1.7 Approved Policies and Planning Instruments

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the 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, Main Roads has also had regard to the below instruments where relevant. Consideration of these instruments has been documented in either the vegetation survey and/or assessment against the 10 clearing principles.

Other Legislation potentially relevant 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*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA).
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*

Environmental Protection Policies:

- Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet - Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2011.

Other relevant policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (Government of WA, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (Government of WA, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, 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.

2 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF CLEARING

Native vegetation will be cleared to accommodate this Proposal. This clearing will be undertaken using the Main Roads Statewide Clearing Permit CPS 818.

To comply with CPS 818, Main Roads must prepare a Clearing Desktop Report (CDR) that outlines the key activities associated with the Proposal, the existing environment and an assessment of native vegetation clearing. This assessment provides an evaluation of the vegetation clearing impacts associated with the Proposal using the ten Clearing Principles listed under s51 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and strategies used to manage vegetation clearing.

2.1 Report Terminology and Sources

The following terms are used in this Clearing Report:

- **Proposed Clearing Area** – The maximum amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the Proposal that will accommodate the designed earthworks and, typically, a nominal buffer to allow for the safe movement of machinery during construction.
- **Development Envelope** – The total footprint of the works including both cleared and uncleared areas. This is based on the current design. It usually includes a buffer to allow for constructability and the movement of machinery during construction.
- **Study Area** – Area covered by the Biological Survey.

2.2 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of the Development Envelope was undertaken as part of the Ecoscape (2024) survey by viewing internal datasets and other government agency managed databases, aerial imagery, relevant literature, and consulting with relevant stakeholders where necessary. Results from searches can be found in Appendix 1.

Internal datasets and government managed databases were also used to inform the assessment of the proposed clearing area. GIS layer viewing and mapping is done using ArcMap and/or Main Roads corporate mapping system known as iMaps. Referencing of the GIS layers accessed is done under the relevant methodology section of each clearing principle. Government managed databases were searched to locate additional information, which are found under References in Section 8.

2.3 Surveys and Assessments

A biological survey (Ecoscape 2024) was commissioned to assess any values that may be associated with the vegetation in the Beach Street Reserve. The details of the biological survey are outlined in Table 2 and a summary of the findings in these reports are presented in Sections 3.

Table 2. Summary of Biological and Targeted Surveys Relevant to the Proposal

Consultant & Survey Name	Survey Details
Ecoscape (2024) Beach Street Reserve Springs Biological Surveys	Survey Area: The survey area comprised approximately 2.56 ha consisting of the Beach Street Reserve and an area to the west of the FTB between Beach Street and Queen Victoria Street. Type: The results incorporate the outcomes of a desktop assessment, a reconnaissance level flora and vegetation survey conducted during April 2022, and a detailed flora and vegetation survey conducted over two days in November 2022 and a site visit in January 2024. The detailed flora and vegetation survey was conducted according to current Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidance to describe the flora and vegetation values of the site, including determining if it represents native vegetation. A basic fauna survey was also conducted according to current EPA guidance to describe the fauna and fauna habitat values of the site, including its value to Black Cockatoo species. Timing: April 2022 (reconnaissance) and November 2022 and a site visit in January 2023. Survey Results Shapefile TRIM Ref: D24#350259 Document TRIM Ref: D24#307423

3 SURVEY RESULTS

The biological survey concluded that all areas in the development envelope are either revegetated with native vegetation (but in Degraded-Completely Degraded condition), gardens, parkland and lawn, or not having vegetation i.e. cleared (noting that this also includes gardens immediately adjacent to existing buildings). None of the fauna habitat types present in the survey area have any significance for any fauna species. The survey indicated that the values of the site are likely to be social rather than environmental as the site is significantly disturbed and degraded.

The results of the biological survey are summarised below.

3.1 Summary of Flora and Vegetation Surveys

The 2.56 ha survey area is in the City of Fremantle in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion. The survey area primarily consists of the Beach Street Reserve. The survey area was subject to a detailed flora and vegetation survey conducted over two days in November 2022 and a site visit during January 2023. The results also incorporate the outcomes of a reconnaissance survey conducted in April 2022.

The significant findings of these surveys were:

- Vegetation is not likely to be remnant native vegetation because it has been historically cleared. The vegetation is either regrowth or replanted but contains a significant portion of locally occurring species as if to be representative of (i.e. mimicking) native vegetation.
- 73 vascular flora species recorded from the 12 quadrats and relevés (noting that some overlap in extent) and nine vegetation observation points recorded in planted gardens. This included at least 49 introduced (weeds) or deliberately planted non-native species (67.12% of the total inventory), including one Declared Pest plant/Weeds of National Significance species; **Asparagus asparagoides* (Bridal Creeper) that has no management requirements.

- The survey identified four vegetation types that were potentially native vegetation and two garden (planted) vegetation types (that do not represent native vegetation) plus parkland cleared areas (i.e. planted trees over grass). The vegetation types identified to potentially represent native vegetation or native (natural) or semi-native (planted using local native species) vegetation were:
 - AxTrMhTS: *Acacia xanthina*, *Templetonia retusa* and *Melaleuca huegelii* tall shrubland
 - EdCpLOF: *Eucalyptus decipiens* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest
 - EgCpMOF: *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Callitris preissii* mid open forest
 - StLCF: **Schinus terebinthifolia* low closed forest.
- All vegetation to be cleared is in 'Degraded' or 'Completely Degraded' condition.
- None of the vegetated areas are representative of any currently described Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or Priority Ecological Community (PEC) and no Threatened or Priority Flora species were recorded during the survey.
- The results of the vegetation survey were used to conduct a likelihood of occurrence assessment for the presence of potential significant flora or ecological communities. The likelihood of occurrence assessment did not identify any flora species or ecological communities that were considered likely to occur in the survey area.
- The flora and vegetation of the survey area was not considered to be locally or regionally significant according to the descriptions of significance outlined in the Flora and Vegetation Technical Guidance (EPA 2016).

3.2 Summary of Fauna Surveys

A basic fauna survey was conducted at the same time as the flora and vegetation survey and found:

- three fauna habitat types were present in the survey area:
 - Shrubland that provided the greatest variety of structure and species for shelter, nesting and food sources,
 - Woodland that provided perching habitat and ground foraging.
- Planted grass was not considered a fauna habitat although may provide limited foraging for some bird species.
- 11 fauna species (all birds) were recorded including three introduced species, none of which were conservation-listed and all common in urban areas.
- None of the fauna habitat types present in the survey area have significance for any fauna species or suite.

The fauna survey also assessed the suitability of the area for Black Cockatoos. This assessment found:

- No evidence of Black Cockatoo use.
- Three trees of a suitable diameter to be Black Cockatoo nesting trees, however, none had hollows. None of these trees occur in the clearing area.
- Although potential roosting trees were present, there are more suitable areas 1.2 km to the south-east which have a source of fresh water.
- The report concluded that if Black Cockatoos occur in the survey area it is likely to be briefly for resting during traverses of the area (day roosting) and not for foraging or for night roosting.

After considering the results of the survey the report determined that three species had the potential to visit the survey area, but would not depend on the resources within it:

- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo) – EPBC EN; BC EN
- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo) – EPBC VU; BC VU
- *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon) – BC OS

4 VEGETATION DETAILS

Although the report has indicated vegetation to be cleared is unlikely to be remnant native vegetation, this clearing is being assessed as native vegetation as a precautionary measure in case some of the vegetation was not historically cleared, native regrowth is present, or it would meet the definition of native vegetation under the Environmental Protection Regulations (e.g. if it was originally planted for biodiversity or land conservation).

4.1 Proposal Site Vegetation Description

The proposed clearing area is in the Swan Coastal Plain IBRA region and the Perth subregion (SWA2). Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) mapping on Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD 2023) indicates there is no remnant native vegetation in the application area. An aerial photograph from 1974 shows that the application area has been previously cleared and subsequent aerial photos between the 1970s and 2000's (refer Appendix 2) show landscaping and plantings with some areas being maintained as grassed parkland (Ecoscape 2024).

The vegetation in the area is replanted but contains a significant portion of locally occurring species as if to be representative of (i.e. mimicking) native vegetation. Therefore, the vegetation within the application area is likely planted and not considered native vegetation. However, because the areas may contain some natural regeneration it has been considered 'native vegetation' as a precautionary measure for the purposes of project approvals.

The vegetation survey (Ecoscape 2024) described two vegetation types of potentially native vegetation within the proposed clearing area:

- ***Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Callitris preissii* mid open forest (EgCpMOF):** *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Callitris preissii* mid open forest over *Melaleuca huegelii*, *Spyridium globulosum* and *Acacia xanthina* tall open shrubland over *Rhagodia baccata* and **Tetragonia decumbens* low chenopod open shrubland/forbland.
- ***Eucalyptus decipiens* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest (EdCpLOF):** *Eucalyptus decipiens* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest over *Acacia rostellifera*, *Spyridium globulosum* and *Acacia xanthina* tall shrubland over *Rhagodia baccata*, **Fumaria capreolata* and **Euphorbia terracina* low open chenopod shrubland/forbland.

The vegetation condition of the proposed clearing area is mapped as 'Degraded' (Ecoscape 2024). The main factor affecting vegetation condition within the portion considered as native vegetation was the number of weeds. Table 3 provides details of the vegetation types and their condition within the proposed clearing area.

Table 3. Summary of Vegetation Types within Clearing Area

Vegetation Type	Vegetation Condition	Extent within Clearing Area (ha)	Total Extent Mapped within Survey Area (ha)
EgCpMOF	Degraded	0.01	0.05
EdCpLOF	Degraded	0.03	0.25

The proposed clearing area and immediate surrounds intersect one pre-European Vegetation Association and one vegetation complex:

- **Vegetation Association:** Spearwood 998: Woodland southwest: Jarrah, marri and wandoo *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *E. wandoo*.
- **Vegetation Complex:** Cottesloe Complex-Central and South.

Table 4 provides a summary of the vegetation associations found within the proposed clearing area and their remaining extent. Table 5 summarises the vegetation complexes and remaining extent within the proposed clearing area.

Table 4. Pre-European Vegetation Representation (Government of Western Australia 2019)

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Current Extent in DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European Extent)
Veg Assoc No. 998	Statewide	51,015.33	18,492.63	36.25	48.68
	IBRA Bioregion <i>Swan Coastal Plain</i>	50,867.50	18,492.32	36.35	48.68
	IBRA Sub-region <i>Perth</i>	50,867.50	18,492.32	36.35	48.68
	Local Government Authority <i>City of Fremantle</i>	1,147.71	12.33	1.07	N/A

Table 5. Vegetation Complexes (Hedde/Mattiske) within the Development Envelope

Hedde/Mattiske Veg Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining
Cottesloe Complex – Central and South	45,299.61	14,567.87	32.16

5 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE TEN CLEARING PRINCIPLES

In assessing whether the Proposal's proposed clearing is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the Proposal was assessed against the ten Clearing Principles (EP Act, Schedule 5).

Each principle has been assessed in accordance with the former Department of Environment Regulation (now Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)) '[A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation](#)' (Department of Environment Regulation, 2014) and other relevant clearing permit application decision reports prepared by DWER.

The proposed clearing is not at or not likely to be at variance with the ten Clearing Principles.

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.****Assessment**

The proposed clearing area is 0.04 ha and occurs in the Swan Coastal Plain bioregion in a highly developed area that is surrounded by urban, transport (roads, rail), industrial (port) and parks and recreation land uses. The proposed clearing area was surveyed by Ecoscape (2024) as part of a wider 2.56 ha survey area. The flora and vegetation survey did not identify any significant vegetation (Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities) or conservation significant (Threatened or Priority) flora within the survey area. The survey recorded 73 vascular flora species of which 49 (67.12%) were introduced. The vegetation is in 'Degraded' or 'Completely degraded' condition.

An aerial photograph from 1974 shows that the application area has been previously cleared and subsequent aerial photos from the 1970s and 1980s show landscaping and plantings (Ecoscape 2024). Therefore, the vegetation within the application area is likely planted however may contain some natural regeneration and has been considered 'native vegetation' as a precautionary measure.

The native vegetation proposed to be cleared has been mapped as:

- *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* and *Callitris preissii* mid open forest (EgCpMOF);
- *Eucalyptus decipiens* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest (EdCpLOF).

Although by its description the EgCpMOF vegetation type has potential to represent the EPBC Tuart Woodlands TEC, the Ecoscape (2024) vegetation survey included an assessment against Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC (DotEE 2019). Ecoscape's assessment found only 0.05 ha of the EgCpMOF vegetation type in the survey area. Consequently, this vegetation type does not meet the minimum patch size (0.5 ha) criteria set out in the Approved Conservation Advice and therefore does not represent this TEC.

The survey found the proposed clearing area and surrounding vegetation provides negligible fauna habitat, and therefore the area is not expected to have high fauna diversity.

Overall, the vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent a high level of biodiversity. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Vegetation Survey (Ecoscape 2024)
- DotEE (Department of the Environment and Energy) (2019)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

A search of DBCA databases conducted by Ecoscape (2024) identified that 11 conservation listed species have previously been recorded within a 10 km buffer of the survey area. This included one mammal, nine birds, and one invertebrate. The EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool identified three mammal and 13 bird species that either have known habitat in the area or habitat is likely to occur in the area.

A desktop likelihood of occurrence assessment conducted by Ecoscape (2024) indicated that two fauna species were likely to occur in the survey area and one that may occur. Following the field survey this likelihood assessment was reviewed but resulted in no changes to the desktop assessment with the following three conservation significant species may use the area:

- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (EPBC VU; BC VU) – Likely;
- *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* Carnaby's Cockatoo (EPBC EN; BC EN) – Likely;
- *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon) – BC OS – May Occur.

This survey report indicates that although these species may use the area, none of these species were likely to depend on the resources within the survey area.

Ecoscape's assessment found that the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (FRTBC) and Carnaby's Cockatoo may occur in the survey area as they are relatively common on the Swan Coastal Plain and there are records in the DBCA database of sightings in proximity to the survey area. However, no direct or indirect evidence of either species was recorded by Ecoscape during the April 2022, November 2022, and January 2023 field surveys (Ecoscape 2024). The 0.04 ha of vegetation proposed to be cleared provides marginal foraging habitat for the FRTBC and Carnaby's Cockatoo. The area does not contain any of the preferred foraging sources (such as Banksia species, Jarrah, Marri or Pine) for either Cockatoo species. Although some isolated flora species in the area may be used for foraging, they are unlikely to provide any significant food source and Ecoscape (2024) concluded that Black Cockatoos are not likely to be dependent on the resources in the survey area. There are no trees with a DBH (diameter at breast height) >50cm within the proposed clearing area. Furthermore, it is noted that the proposed clearing area is not within the modelled breeding range of any Black Cockatoo species (DAWE 2022; EPA 2019). Considering the scale and nature of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, it is not considered significant habitat for black cockatoos.

The Ecoscape (2024) fauna survey found that Peregrine Falcons may occur on rare occasions by overflying the survey area during traverses of the area. However, as there are no suitable nest areas and unlikely to be significant prey, the species would not be dependent on any resources in the survey area.

In summary, Ecoscape's biological survey found no significant habitat for terrestrial fauna occurs within the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing area is very small in extent, degraded in nature and surrounded by roads, urban and industrial areas. All areas have been heavily disturbed for many years and there is no significant habitat for fauna.

Based on the above, vegetation does not comprise the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (Ecoscape 2024)
- DAWE (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) (2022)
- EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) (2019)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

Proposal is not at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

Database searches undertaken by Ecoscape (2024) identified 12 Threatened flora species within a 10 km buffer of the survey area. This consisted of one species known to occur within the search buffer and the remaining species identified in the EPBC Protected Matters Search Tool (which identifies where associated habitat may occur).

Ecoscape (2024) did not identify any Threatened flora within the survey area during the field assessment and undertook a likelihood of occurrence assessment which considered the results of the field assessment, vegetation condition, disturbances, and habitat availability. The assessment concluded Threatened flora species were highly unlikely to occur in the survey area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (Ecoscape 2024)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

Ecoscape (2024) reported that four Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) occur within a 10 km buffer of the survey area. One of these TECs; SCP30a: *Callitris preissii* (or *Melaleuca lanceolata*) forests and woodlands, Swan Coastal Plain) occurs within a 5 km buffer of the survey area.

An assessment of likelihood of occurrence was conducted by Ecoscape (2024) based on the vegetation and flora survey results. The likelihood of occurrence assessment concluded that two of the four TEC's do not occur due to a lack of suitable habitat or species:

- Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh (EPBC-VU);
- Banksia Woodlands TEC (EPBC-EN).

The assessment determined the vegetation present within the survey area does not constitute any currently described TEC, including the remaining two identified from the 10km buffer database search:

- Tuart Woodlands TEC (EPBC-CR).
- *Callitris preissii* (or *Melaleuca lanceolata*) forests and woodlands, Swan Coastal Plain (floristic community type 30a as originally described in Gibson et al. (1994)) (BC Act-VU).

Although by its description the EgCpMOF vegetation type has potential to represent the EPBC Tuart Woodlands TEC, the Ecoscape (2024) vegetation survey included an assessment against Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC (DotEE 2019). Ecoscape's assessment found only 0.05 ha of the EgCpMOF vegetation type in the survey area. Consequently, this vegetation type does not meet the minimum patch size (0.5 ha) criteria set out in the Approved Conservation Advice and therefore does not represent this TEC.

Callitris preissii (or *Melaleuca lanceolata*) forests and woodlands TEC is a community that is dominated by one or both titular species. Although both species were present in the survey area, none of the identified vegetation types are dominated by either species (Ecoscape 2024). *Callitris preissii* is present in the proposed clearing area and is characteristic in EdCpLOF and EgCpMOF vegetation types but in both cases, it occurs as a subdominant upper stratum species. Ecoscape concluded that despite representative species being present, the small extent (0.25 and 0.05 ha within the survey area) and degraded nature of the vegetation meant it was unlikely to be representative of this TEC.

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Based on the above, the vegetation proposed to be cleared does not comprise the whole or a part of and is not necessary for the maintenance of a TEC. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (Ecoscape 2024)
- DotEE (Department of the Environment and Energy) (2019)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

The survey area is located within an urban and industrial area that has been extensively cleared.

According to desktop mapping, the Pre-European Vegetation Association intersecting the survey area was identified as Association 998: Woodland southwest: Jarrah, marri and wandoo *Eucalyptus marginata*, *Corymbia calophylla*, *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Table 4, page 15). This association has over 30% of its original extent remaining at State, bioregion, and subregional scales, but only 1.07% remaining within the LGA (Government of Western Australia 2019).

The intersecting Heddl vegetation complex ('Cottesloe Complex – Central and South') has over 30% of its original extent remaining (Table 5, page 15).

Although the proposed clearing is in an area that has been extensively cleared at the local scale, the Ecoscape survey report found that the vegetation has no conservation significance at a local or regional scale because:

- The vegetation has been previously cleared, is planted, and is not considered remnant vegetation. Rather it has been planted to mimic native vegetation. Ecoscape (2024) noted that no Jarrah, Marri or Wandoo were present in the survey area, indicating the area is not representative of Pre-European Vegetation Association 998.
- The vegetation is in 'Degraded' to 'Completely degraded' condition with a large proportion of weeds present and low biodiversity values.
- The vegetation does not form part of a conservation reserve, ecological linkage or provide habitat for significant flora or ecological communities.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (Ecoscape, 2024)
- Government of Western Australia (2019)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.****Assessment**

No watercourses or wetlands intersect the proposed clearing area (DBCA-019; DWER-031). The clearing area is in close proximity to the Swan River Estuary which is classified as a conservation category wetland (DBCA-019) and within the Swan Canning Riverpark boundary (DBCA-035).

The river foreshore is highly modified by development consisting of a hard engineered foreshore edge and is immediately surrounded by either hard surfaces (roads, wharfs, carparks), developments or grassed parklands. No native vegetation is present in the foreshore area. The vegetation to be cleared is located approximately 35 to 65 metres from the foreshore river's edge and outside the floodplain (DWER-020) and therefore, is outside the typical riparian zone. On this basis the vegetation is not considered to contribute to an ecological or hydrological buffer for the river.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Biological Survey (Ecoscape 2024)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
 - Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Hydrography, Linear (Hierarchy) (DWER-031). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Swan Canning Riverpark (DBCA-035). Accessed 18/09/24.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

The survey area is extensively degraded with likely no natural landforms remaining.

Mapped soils in the clearing area have a low risk of ASS (DWER-055), water erosion, salinity, and waterlogging, but are mapped as having a high risk of wind erosion (DPIRD-009; DPIRD-013; DPIRD-015; DPIRD-016). Given the small scale of clearing from a highly modified environment, it is considered unlikely that there would be significant land degradation from wind action.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Swan Coastal Plain (DWER-055). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Salinity Risk (DPIRD-009). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Surface Acidity (current) (DPIRD-035). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Flood Risk (DPIRD-007). Accessed 18/09/2024.

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

The nearest mapped conservation area is Bush Forever site #490 Cantonment Hill located approximately 40 to 70 metres to the south of the proposed clearing area and is separated by the Canning Highway and parkland cleared areas (DPLH-019). No clearing is proposed to occur outside of the proposed clearing area and the values of this conservation area will not be impacted with no clearing of remnant native vegetation proposed.

The clearing will occur in the Swan Canning Riverpark (DBCA-035) and Development Control Area (DBCA-028). Development approval has been obtained and the proposed clearing is not expected to impact on the Swan River (refer to Principle (i)) which is a conservation category wetland (DBCA-019). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Government of Western Australia (n.d.) [Environmental Offsets Register \[website\]](#). Accessed 26/2/24.
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Swan Canning Riverpark (DBCA-035). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Swan and Canning River - Development Control Area (DBCA-028). Accessed 18/09/2024.

(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.

Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

The proposed clearing area is not located within a proclaimed surface water area but is located in the proclaimed Perth Groundwater area (DWER-037; DWER-034). The proposed clearing of native vegetation is very minor in scale (0.04 ha) and would not be expected to result in changes to the groundwater regime. The soils of the area are mapped as having a low risk for factors that may affect groundwater quality.

The clearing area is approximately 35 to 65 metres from the edge of the Swan River Estuary (which is a classified as a conservation category wetland) and within the Swan Canning Riverpark and Development Control Area (DBCA-019; DBCA-035; DBCA-028). No clearing is proposed to occur outside of the proposed clearing area and the small area of clearing proposed within a highly modified environment is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map, Swan Coastal Plain (DWER-055). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Salinity Risk (DPIRD-009). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Surface Acidity (current) (DPIRD-035). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Swan Canning Riverpark (DBCA-035). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Swan and Canning River - Development Control Area (DBCA-028). Accessed 18/09/2024.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Assessment

Fremantle (Swanbourne Weather Station located approximately 11.5 km away) has an annual average rainfall of 728.7 mm (Bureau of Meteorology Australia 2024).

The site is predominantly underlain by limestone (LS1) – pale yellow brown fine-grained angular and medium-grained rounded quartz and calcite cross-bedding minor heavy minerals. The unvegetated southern bank of the Swan River is underlain by sand (S14) – white to pale grey subangular to subrounded medium to coarse-grained quartz sand abundant shells and shell fragments. These soils have a low flood hazard risk and waterlogging risk (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development n.d.).

Whilst the Swan River foreshore is at risk of tidal and storm surges in the winter months, the area to be cleared is outside the floodplain for a “designated flood event”. According to DWER’s floodplain mapping tool this floodplain area represents “the peak flood level for the 1 in 100 (1%) AEP flood event with the application of sea level rise” (DWER n.d.). Clearing of vegetation can contribute to flooding from increased runoff from the cleared area. The proposed clearing area occurs within a 1,741 ha sub-catchment which is largely cleared. Clearing of 0.04 ha represents less than 0.0001% of the sub catchment area and therefore, would not contribute to changes in surface hydrology that would contribute to an increase in the intensity or incidence of flooding above the current risk level.

Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Bureau of Meteorology Australia. (2024). Climate Data Online – Swanbourne (Station 009215). Available online from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/index.shtml>. Accessed 18/09/2024.
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (n.d.). Soil Landscape Mapping - Best available [spatial dataset], [NRInfo \(natural resource information\) for Western Australia](#). Accessed 18/09/2024.
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (n.d.). Floodplain mapping tool, [WA.gov.au - Floodplain mapping tool](#). Accessed on 18/09/2024.
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality - Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015). Accessed 18/09/2024.
 - Soil landscape land quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007). Accessed 18/09/2024.
- Hydrographic Catchments - Subcatchments (DWER-030). Accessed 18/09/2024.

6 REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION & OFFSETS

6.1 Revegetation and Rehabilitation

The area being cleared for the southern abutment is within the footprint of the larger permanent bridge replacement works. Pursuant to condition 9(b) of CPS 818, Main Roads intends to use areas cleared for the construction of southern abutments for the for FTB replacement works within the next 24 months. As such, no revegetation or rehabilitation will be undertaken pursuant to CPS 818.

6.2 Offset Proposal

No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.

7 COMPLIANCE WITH CPS 818

The clearing associated with the proposal is not at variance, or not likely to be at variance, with any of the ten Clearing Principles. Additional management actions under CPS 818 are detailed in Table 7.

Table 6. Summary of Additional Management Actions Required by CPS 818

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. The CDR indicates that the clearing is 'At Variance' or 'May be at Variance' with one or more of the Clearing Principles.	No	No further action required.
2. Clearing is at variance or may be at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality <u>or</u> (j) the incidence of flooding.	No	No further action required.
3. Clearing is at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality <u>and</u> (j) the incidence of flooding.	No	No further action required.
4. The Proposal involves clearing for temporary works (as defined by CPS 818).	No	The area being cleared for the southern abutment is within the footprint of the larger bridge replacement works. Pursuant to condition 9(b) of CPS 818, Main Roads intends to use areas cleared for the construction of southern abutments for the for FTB replacement works within the next 24 months. As such, no revegetation or rehabilitation will be undertaken pursuant to CPS 818.
5a. 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.	No	The clearing area occurs in the Swan Canning Riverpark and Development Control Area for which DBCA have responsibilities in management. Whilst Fremantle has an average annual rainfall of 728.7 mm annually, clearing works are expected to occur in dry conditions (October). There is minimal potential for uninfested areas to be impacted.

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Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
5b. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	No	
6. 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.
7. 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	There is no vegetation in the immediate area that is in 'good' or better condition. All surrounding areas are either parkland cleared, lawns or vegetation in degraded' to 'completely degraded' condition.
8. Did an environmental specialist conduct the survey or field assessment?	Yes	The Environmental Specialist undertaking the biological assessments was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.
9. Did an environmental specialist prepare the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation including the VMP, Dieback Management Plan or Offset Proposal?	Yes	The Environmental Specialist preparing the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation including the VMP, Dieback Management Plan or Offset Proposal was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.

8 REFERENCES

Bureau of Meteorology Australia. (2024). Climate Data Online – Swanbourne (Station 009215). Available online from <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/index.shtml>. Accessed 18/09/2024.

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DBCA (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) (2023) Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain (DBCA-019) [spatial dataset] Accessed via data.wa.gov.au 18/09/2024.

DER (Department of Environment Regulation) (2014). A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation under Part V Division 2 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Department of Environment Regulation. Perth, Western Australia.

DotEE (Department of the Environment and Energy) (2019). Approved Conservation Advice (incorporating listing advice) for the Tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) woodlands and forests of the Swan Coastal Plain ecological community.

DPIRD (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) (2023) Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005) [spatial dataset]. Accessed via data.wa.gov.au 18/09/2024.

DPIRD (n.d.). Soil Landscape Mapping - Best available [spatial dataset], NRInfo (natural resource information) for Western Australia. Accessed 18/09/2024.

Ecoscape (2024) Beach Street Reserve Spring Biological Surveys. Report prepared for Fremantle Bridge Alliance. (MRWA internal reference D24#307423).

EPA (Environmental Protection Authority) 2016, Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. Available from: <http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/policies-guidance/technical-guidance-flora-and-vegetation-surveysenvironmental-impact-assessment>

EPA (2019) Carnaby's Cockatoo in Environmental Impact Assessment in the Perth and Peel Region.

Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. Available online from: <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

9 APPENDICES

Appendix 1. DBCA Threatened Flora and Fauna Database Searches





Appendix 2. Historical aerial imagery of the survey area

The following images are taken from the Beach Street Reserve Spring Biological Survey report (Ecoscape 2024).



Figure 4. 1974 aerial image

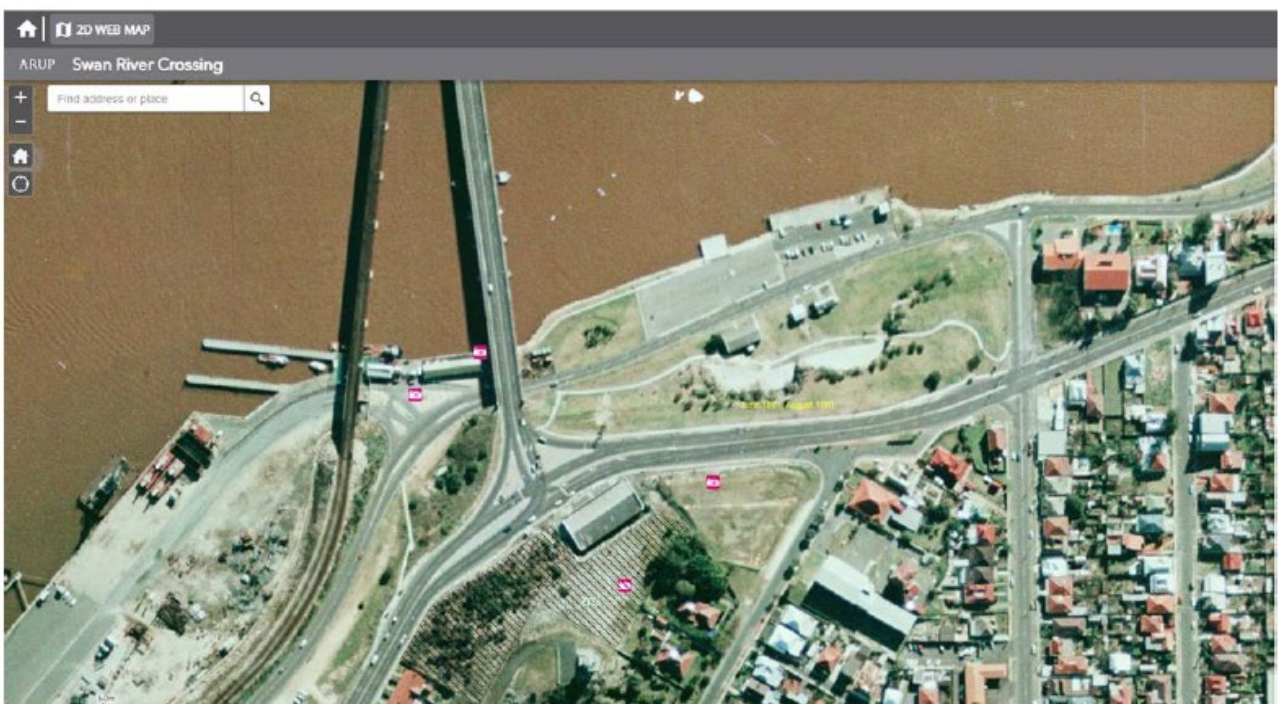


Figure 5. 1981 aerial image



Figure 6. 1985 aerial image



Figure 7. 1995 aerial image



Figure 8. 2000 aerial image