

# Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



## 1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

<b>Proposal Name:</b>	Pacific Energy Wind Turbine Blade Transport		
<b>Region/Directorate:</b>	Goldfields Esperance Region		
<b>Local Government:</b>	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder		
<b>Road/Bridge Name &amp; Number:</b>	Goldfields Highway SLK 80.82 Speedway Road		
<b>Proposal Location (SLK):</b>	SLK 80.86 – SLK 80.84. approx. 5km north of Kalgoorlie		
<b>CDR Short Form TRIM Number:</b>	D24#17945		
<b>Spatial Data TRIM Number:</b>	Proposal: D24#13440 Clearing Area: D24#13443 Hardstand Area: D24#13432		
<b>EOS Number:</b>	3293		
<b>Expected Proposal Start Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024		
<b>Oracle Project No:</b>	21108313	<b>Task Code:</b>	401.02
<b>LISC TRIM Number:</b>	D24#10216	<b>HRA TRIM Number:</b>	D24#10212

## 2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Main Roads has been approached by Pacific Energy to seek approval for the application of works within the road reserve for the purpose of enabling the safe transportation of wind turbine blades by truck. Four (4) trees and understory vegetation, constituting an area of 0.129 ha, is proposed to be removed and/or cut to a height of less than 2m to support the construction of a 340m<sup>2</sup> hardstand area. The hardstand will support trucks by providing more turning room to enter onto Speedway Road. The Proposal Area is located on the corner of Goldfields Highway (SLK 80.82) and Speedway Road, located 5 km north of Kalgoorlie, in the Shire of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Vegetation clearing has been minimised by undertaking Swept Path Analysis to determine the vegetation that would inhibit vehicles turning and the area required for hardstand construction for the trucks to make the turn safely.

## 3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The application of Swept Path Analysis has identified the necessary clearing of four trees and understory vegetation that would otherwise obstruct the transportation of wind turbine blades.

Alternative pathways have been considered, however this would require the clearing of more vegetation than this proposal.

Understory vegetation that is less than 2m high will be retained in areas that are not required to be cleared for the construction of the hardstand and are in the transportation pathway.

While clearing has been limited, it is still required to support the safe transportation of the blades.

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

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

- Sightline and turning circle requirements have been obtained via Swept Path Analysis to determine the pathway and maximum clearing area required for safe transportation (refer to Appendix 1)
- Vegetation that is less than 2m high in areas to be cleared outside of the hardstand area will be retained to minimise clearing impacts.

- Main Roads retains frangible vegetation where a clear zone is to be established for road projects. For this project, however, clearing will only be required to accommodate the road formation, with no clear zone being established. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- Reducing the speed limit to minimise clearing requirements, while still balancing safety (driver fatigue) and freight efficiency. Speed Limits are an essential mechanism to ensure the safe and efficient operation of road networks. The application of appropriate speed limits and other traffic management measures is a key mechanism in managing vehicle speeds to achieve desired safety, mobility, traffic management, local amenity, and road user expectations. There are several factors involved in road safety, including road conditions, driver behaviour and overall road design. Except in special situations, reducing speed limits below national standards on state and national roads is not typically supported as it has the potential to contribute to driver frustration, impatience, tiredness and recklessness. The environmental values protected by reducing the speed limit, do not justify the impacts on freight efficiencies nor road user safety. Clearing proposed for these works are related to providing a safe transport route for turning trucks. Accordingly, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not applicable.

## 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):	0.129 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	4
Species Name(s):	Overstorey vegetation: <i>Eucalyptus ?solalis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus ?xerothermica</i> Midstorey: <i>Acacia ?aneura</i> Understorey: <i>Atriplex ?nummularia</i> , <i>Eremophlia</i> sp. <i>Olearia muelleri</i>		
Easting and Northing:	Eastings: 121.4692887 Northings: -30.7013745		
7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION			
Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association: 468 Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt		
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded		
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	583, 902 ha (98.63 %) remains at a Statewide level with 296, 698 (97.75 %) remaining at a LGA level (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder)		
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>Clearing of four mature Eucalyptus trees and understorey vegetation constituting a clearing area of 0.129 ha within a Proposal Area of 0.20 ha is proposed.</p> <p>The vegetation condition is considered to be in Degraded condition due to previous ground disturbance, existing tracks and recent access by vehicles, and the presence of only minimal understory vegetation as evidenced in aerial imagery available from Google Street view and recent site photos.</p> <p>Analysis of DBCA GIS Flora databases indicates there are no listed Threatened or Priority species within or in proximity of the Proposal Area.</p> <p>Based on the Pre-European vegetation extent levels, the vegetation association is relatively common throughout the region and has over 90% remaining at a statewide level (98.63 %) and a Local Government Area level (97.75 %).</p> <p>No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are present within or in proximity of the Proposal Area.</p> <p>Analysis of DBCA GIS Fauna databases revealed that no Threatened or Priority fauna species are located within 3 km of the Proposal Area.</p> <p>The absence of conservation significant flora and fauna species, condition of the vegetation and broad representation of the vegetation association to be impacted, demonstrates this area does not support a high level of biological diversity.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>Analysis of DBCA GIS Fauna databases revealed that no Threatened or Priority fauna species are located within 3 km of the Proposal Area.</p> <p>The habitat and vegetation within the Proposal Area is common and broadly available beyond the Proposal Area. The vegetation is therefore not considered to comprise the whole, or part of an area necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</p>
<p><b>Principle ©</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.</p>	<p>Analysis of DBCA GIS Flora databases revealed that no Threatened flora species are located within 30 km of the Proposal Area.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation restricted to within the Proposal Area is <b>not at variance</b> of this Principle.</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>Analysis of the TEC/PEC databases revealed that the Proposal Area is not mapped within, or in proximity of a TEC/PEC.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation restricted to within the Proposal Area is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>One vegetation association of Beard (1976) has been mapped over the Proposal Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation Association 468 described as a Medium woodland; salmon gum &amp; goldfields blackbutt.</li> </ul> <p>583, 902 ha (98.63 %) of Vegetation Association 468 remains at a Statewide level with 296, 698 (97.75 %) remaining at a LGA level (City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder).</p> <p>The removal of 0.129 ha of roadside native vegetation comprising of four <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. and an midstorey comprised of <i>Acacia ?aneura</i>, with an understorey of <i>Atriplex ?nummularia</i>, <i>Eremophlia</i> sp. <i>Olearia muelleri</i>, in Degraded condition and subject to ongoing disturbance, does not comprise a significant remnant of native vegetation.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation from the Proposal Area is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>Analysis of GIS database layers revealed the Proposal Area is not located within or in proximity to any watercourses or wetlands. Additionally, the trees and understory proposed for clearing are not typical riparian species or species found growing in association with riparian vegetation.</p> <p>Therefore, the removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation from the Proposal Area is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>DPIRD mapping indicates that the area displays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No water erosion hazard;</li> <li>• No wind erosion hazard;</li> <li>• No restrictions on site drainage potential;</li> <li>• No salinity hazard;</li> <li>• No Acid Sulphate Soil hazard.</li> </ul>

	<p>The removal of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation with minimal understory and subject to disturbance is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation in an area adjacent to road infrastructure based on the mapping results.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed clearing is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>Analysis of DBCA GIS shapefiles layers indicates that the Proposal Area does not lie within or in proximity of any DBCA managed lands or waters, Nature Reserves, Conservation Areas or Bush Forever Areas.</p> <p>The clearing of up to 0.129 ha of vegetation from the Proposal Area is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>Analysis of the GIS database shows that the clearing area is not located within a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA),</li> <li>• CAWS Act Clearing Control Catchment,</li> <li>• RIWI Act Surface Water or Irrigation district.</li> </ul> <p>The Proposal Area is mapped within a groundwater area proclaimed under the RIWI Act. Clearing is limited to an area of 0.129 ha of roadside vegetation in an area that does not intersect any watercourses. The area is subject to ground disturbance activities by vehicle access and will not result in altered drainage patterns. No change to quality or level of surface or groundwater levels is expected.</p> <p>Therefore, the proposed clearing is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</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>The removal of up to 0.129 ha of roadside vegetation from within the Proposal Area that is subject to ground disturbance through vehicle access, is unlikely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>The minimal clearing proposed will not result in a significant change in drainage patterns.</p> <p>DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No flood hazard;</li> <li>• No waterlogging and inundation risk.</li> </ul> <p>Clearing is <b>not at variance</b> to this Principle.</p>

<p><b>Methodology Used and References:</b></p>	<p><b>Photographs:</b></p> <p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>Photo 2: Tree 1 - west of H049 – removed or trimmed to 2m max height.</p> <p>Photo 3: Tree 1 on Goldfields Hwy – to be removed or trimmed to a 2m max height (<i>flagged</i>)</p> <p>Photo 4: Tree 2 - NE corner of intersection removed for handstand area.</p> <p>Photo 5: Tree 2 - NE corner of intersection removed for handstand area. (<i>flagged</i>)</p> <p>Photo 6: Two Trees (Tree 3 and Tree 4) in Hardstand Area - <b>to be removed (flagged)</b></p> <p><b>Photographs of Pegged Clearing Boundary:</b></p> <p>Photo 7: Clearing Boundary - pegged</p> <p>Photo 8: Clearing Boundary - pegged</p> <p>Photo 9: Clearing Boundary - Pegged</p> <p>Photo 10: Clearing Boundary - pegged</p> <p><b>Shapefile of clearing area/trees:</b></p> <p>Proposal: D24#13440</p> <p>Clearing Area: D24#13443</p> <p>Hardstand Area: D24#13432</p>
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## 9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS

<p><b>Offset Proposal:</b></p>	<p>No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in a significant residual impact to native vegetation within the region.</p>
<p><b>Revegetation and Rehabilitation:</b></p>	<p>No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities.</p>

## 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
<p><b>1.</b> Proposal is within a Region that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>has rainfall greater than 400mm; and,</li> <li>is South of the 26<sup>th</sup> parallel; and,</li> <li>works are necessary in 'Other than dry conditions'; and,</li> <li>works have potential for <b>uninfested</b> areas to be impacted.</li> </ul>	<p><b>No</b></p>	<p>Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), <u>Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669)</u> and <u>Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551)</u> will be applied (<i>which include relevant sections of Condition 10</i>).</p>

<b>2.</b> Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	<b>No</b>	No further action required.
<b>3.</b> 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.	<b>No</b>	No further action required.
<b>4.</b> Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	<b>No</b>	Standard hygiene management plan will apply.

#### Completed By:

<b>Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Signature</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Job Title</b>	Environmental Officer
<b>Date</b>	16/01/2024

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
<b>Name</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Signature</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Job Title</b>	Senior Environment Officer
<b>Date</b>	18/01/2024



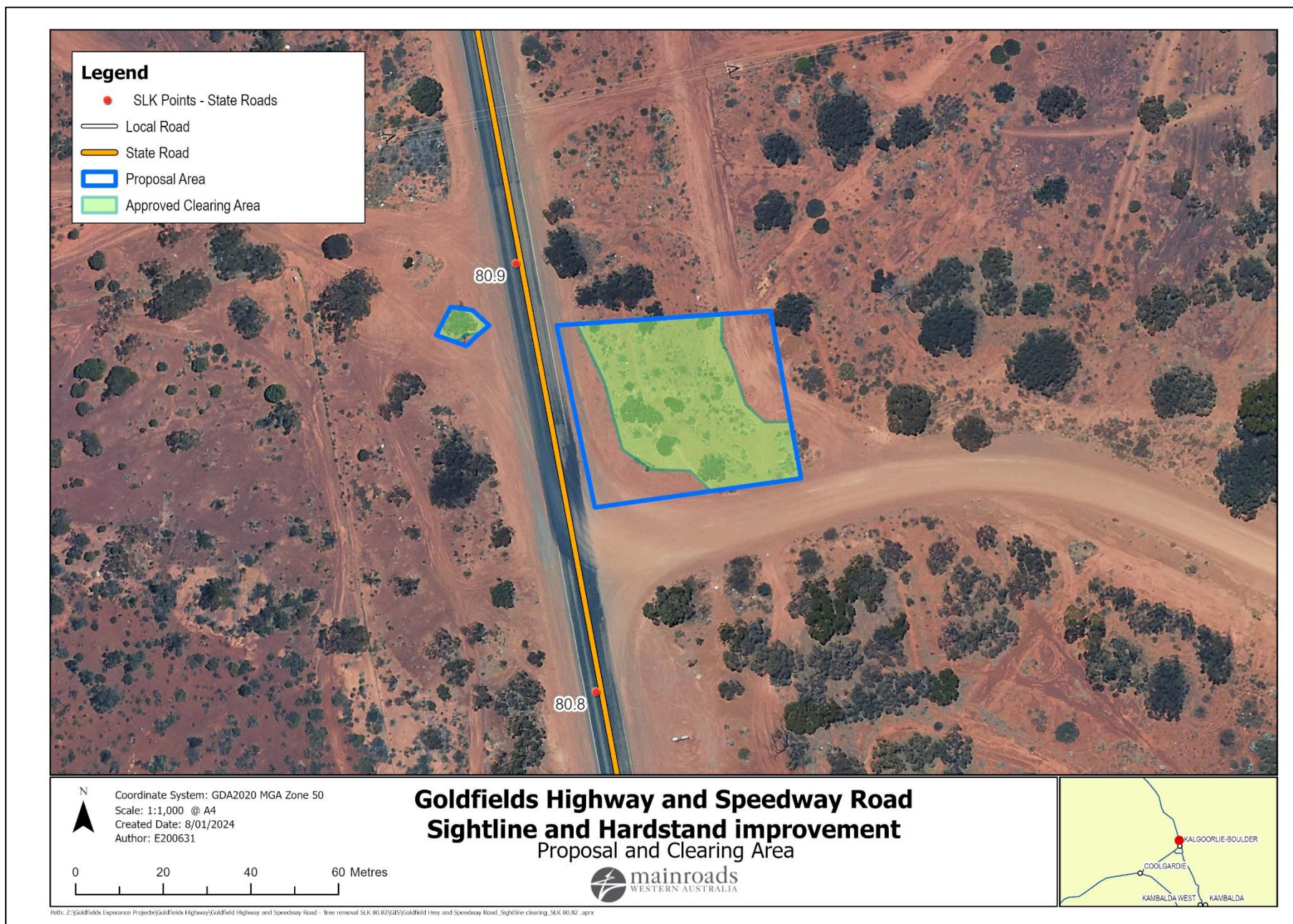
## APPENDIX 1 – maps and plans





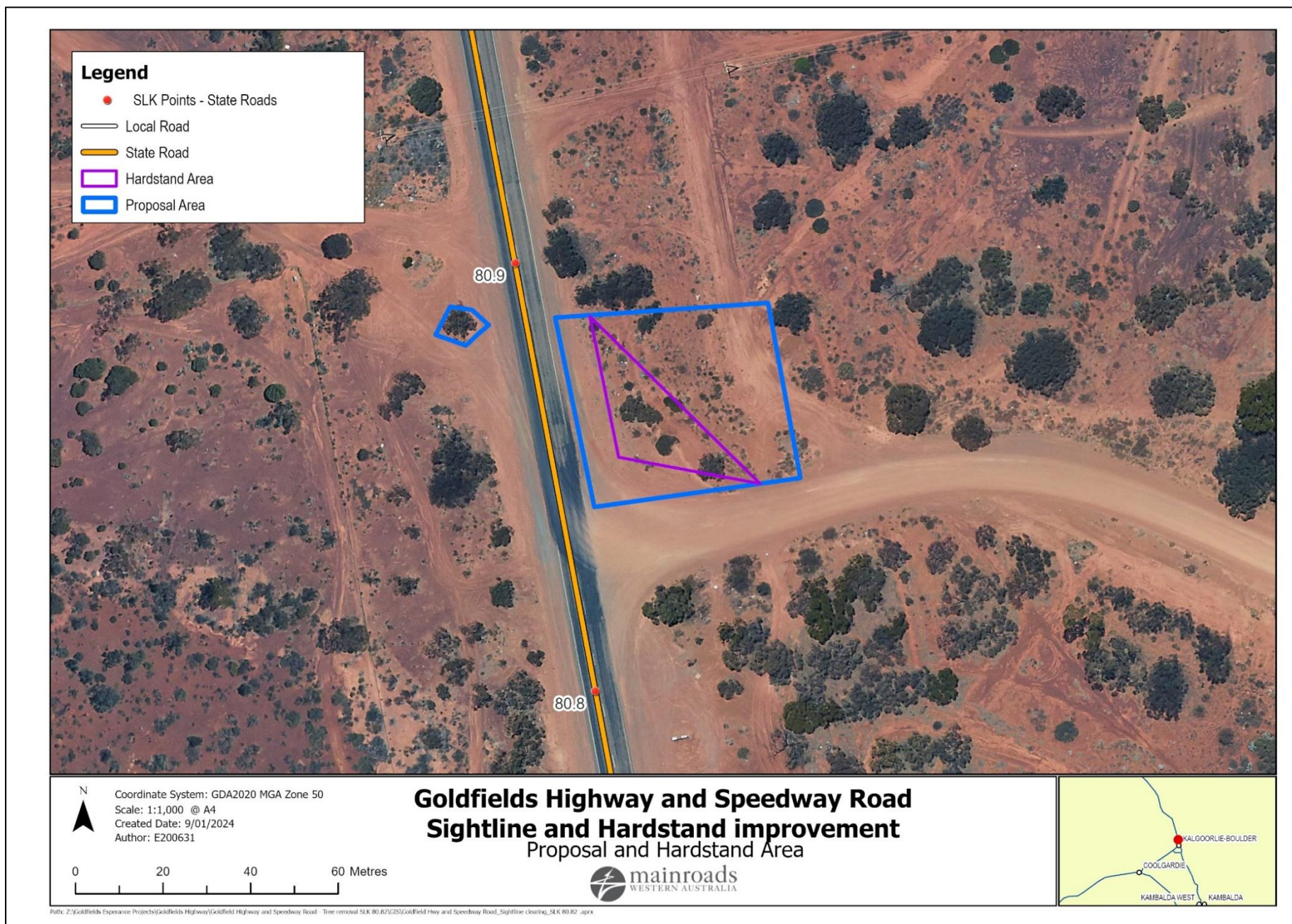


**Photo 1: Hardstand Area**



**Figure 1: Proposal Area and Clearing Area**





**Figure 2: Hardstand Location**



Hardstand area proposed to be constructed.

Two main trees to be pruned or removed.



**Photo 2: Tree 1 - west of H049 – removed or trimmed to 2m max height.**



**Photo 3: Tree 1 on Goldfields Hwy – to be removed or trimmed to a 2m max height (*flagged*)**



**Photo 4: Tree 2 - NE corner of intersection removed for handstand area.**



**Photo 5: Tree 2 - NE corner of intersection removed for handstand area. (*flagged*)**





**Photo 6: Two Trees (Tree 3 and Tree 4) in Hardstand Area - to be removed (flagged)**



**Photo 7: Clearing Boundary - pegged**



**Photo 8: Clearing Boundary - pegged**



**Photo 9: Clearing Boundary - Pegged**





**Photo 10: Clearing Boundary - pegged**