

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Smart Freeways Mitchell Southbound – Reid Highway to Vincent Street		
Region/Directorate:	IDD		
Local Government:	City of Stirling		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Reid Hwy (H021)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 2.70		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#39976		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#89963		
EOS Number:	2071		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	March 2025		
Oracle Project No:	21115833	Task Code:	13.09
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#28437	HRA TRIM Number:	D24#1398504

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The Intelligent Freeways Alliance (IFA) are designing and constructing Smart Freeway technology along the Mitchell Freeway Southbound between Reid Highway and Vincent Street. This has included installation of an electronic sign (RC3C sign) displaying real time traffic information relating to travel times and the operational condition of the freeway along Reid Highway. The removal of native vegetation is required to allow sight lines to the RC3C sign and the safe operation of the Smart Freeway. Appendix 1 displays the Proposed Clearing Area.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no feasible alternatives as not undertaking the proposed clearing may result in the unsafe operation of the Smart Freeways.

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 has sought to reduce the clearing of native vegetation as much as possible, and has opted to prune native vegetation, opposed to clearing, where possible.
- The required clearing is within an area of Completely Degraded vegetation. Impacts to better quality vegetation directly adjacent to the proposal have been avoided.
- 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 improve sight lines to electronic signage, 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. Accordingly, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.

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 (DER, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2021)
- 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):	0.001 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	One
Species Name(s):	<i>Acacia rostellifera</i>		
Easting and Northing:	386187, 6474821 (MGA Zone 50)		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	The vegetation to be cleared consists of one <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> individual tree. The area of the proposed clearing was mapped by Focused Vision (2022) as 'CcXp': <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> with occasional <i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i> Open Forest over <i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> Low Open Woodland over <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> and <i>Jacksonia furcellata</i> Tall Sparse Shrubland. A review of aerial imagery (Landgate 2024) indicates that the area was previously cleared in December 2000 for the widening of Reid Highway and the native vegetation consists of regrowth amongst planted vegetation and weeds.
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Vegetation Association 6 (Spearwood): Statewide: 23.72% Swan Coastal Plain: 23.72% SWA02 Perth: 23.72% City of Stirling: 3.88%

	Karrakatta Complex-Central and South Swan Coastal Plain: 23.49% City of Stirling: 3.85%
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 desktop assessment did not identify any Threatened or Priority species in the Proposed Clearing Area or its vicinity. The vegetation to be cleared comprises one regrowth <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> individual in Completely Degraded condition, adjacent to planted vegetation. While the proposed clearing area intersects the buffer of the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain Ecological Community Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) and Priority Ecological Community (PEC), Focused Vision (2022) determined that 'CcXp' did not support suitable species to be characterised as the Banksia Woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain TEC/PEC (Banksia Woodlands TEC/PEC). As such, the vegetation is not representative of any listed TECs or PECs. A review of aerial imagery indicates the Proposed Clearing Area was previously completely cleared in December 2000 for the construction of Reid Highway and currently comprises regrowth amongst planted vegetation and weeds. No conservation significant flora or fauna (Threatened or Priority listed species) are present within or adjacent to the proposed clearing area. Adjacent vegetation comprises patches of better condition native vegetation communities, which will not be impacted by the proposed works. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with Principle (a).
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.	The Proposed Clearing Area contains very limited fauna habitat. The habitat proposed to be impacted for the proposal is low value roadside vegetation. There are no records of Threatened or Priority Fauna within or adjacent to the Proposed Clearing Area. Areas of intact habitat in better condition are located adjacent to the Proposed Clearing Area and will not be impacted. The individual <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> tree provides negligible habitat for Black Cockatoos, given the tree does not support suitable breeding, foraging or roosting habitat. The highly disturbed nature of the Proposed Clearing Area reduces the likelihood of any fauna species being present. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Principle (b).
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	No threatened flora will be impacted by the proposed clearing. The proposed clearing area was previously cleared in 2000 for the construction of Reid Highway and does not comprise intact vegetation containing any Threatened flora species. There are no records of any Threatened flora species within or adjacent to the Proposed Clearing Area.

	Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (c).
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.	Focused Vision (2022) determined that the vegetation in the Proposed Clearing Area was not representative of any Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). While DBCA mapping indicates that the buffer of the Banksia Woodlands TEC/PEC intersects the Proposed Clearing Area, Focused Vision (2022) determined that the vegetation 'CcXp' did not support suitable species to be characterised as the Banksia Woodlands TEC. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (d).
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 Beard Vegetation Association and Heddle Vegetation Complex mapped for the Proposed Clearing Area are greater than 20% for the State and IBRA Region Sub-levels. While the Vegetation Association and Vegetation Complex is less than 10% at the Local Government level, the vegetation in the Proposed Clearing Area is not representative of Vegetation Association 6 or the Vegetation Complex, as it highly disturbed regrowth vegetation and is not representative of an intact vegetation community. Larger patches of remnant vegetation exist adjacent to the Proposed Clearing Area, which will not be impacted by the proposed clearing. Based on the above, the proposed clearing not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (e).
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.	The proposed clearing area does not intersect any waterways, main drains, floodplains or wetlands. The proposal will not impact any riparian vegetation or groundwater dependent ecosystems. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (f).
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The soil landscape land quality mapping for the Proposed Clearing Area indicates there is no risk of flooding, wind erosion, water erosion, waterlogging or salinity. The small amount of clearing is unlikely to cause land degradation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (g).
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.	A search of the DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011) and DBCA Lands of Interest (DBCA-012) datasets indicates the Development Envelope is not within 100 metres of any DBCA managed conservation areas. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage datasets DPLH-019 and DPLH-022 also indicate the Development Envelope is not within 100 metres of Bush Forever or Special Areas designated under the Metropolitan Region Scheme. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (h).
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.	No watercourses or rivers, main drains, floodplains or wetlands intersect the Proposed Clearing Area. The Proposed Clearing Area occurs within the Perth Coastal and Gwelup Underground Water Pollution Control Area.

	However, the Proposed Clearing Area is in an area that is highly disturbed and degraded and the small area of clearing proposed is unlikely to cause direct or indirect deterioration in surface or groundwater quality. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (i).
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	The removal of one small tree adjacent to the existing road network is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The function of existing road network drainage structures will not be impacted by the proposed clearing and natural drainage patterns will not be altered. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to Clearing Principle (j).
Methodology Used and References:	Focused Vision Biological Survey data: D23#1219685 Photographs of the <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> tree to be cleared: see LISC (D25#28437) Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D25#89963

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
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.	No	No further action required.
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	[REDACTED]	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	14/02/2025	

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	17 February 2025

Appendix A – Proposed Clearing Area

