

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Northam Cranbrook (M031) – removal of tree at SLK 91.79		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt / Regional Management and Operations Directorate		
Local Government:	Shire of Brookton		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	M031 Northam Cranbrook		
Proposal Location (SLK):	91.79		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#136861		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#139716		
EOS Number:	2945		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	24 February 2025		
Oracle Project No:	30002931	Task Code:	19401
LISC TRIM Number:	D22#924534	HRA TRIM Number:	D25#133746

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

As part of the wider Northam Cranbrook Low-Cost Shoulder Sealing and Rehabilitation Works SLK 88.7 – 92.7, it has been identified that one Wandoo tree located at 91.79 SLK (RHS) is located within 5m of the road centreline and is leaning towards road. This tree poses a safety risk to road users according to Road Safety Guidelines and therefore, is proposed to be cleared.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The Proposal involves the clearing of one additional tree along an existing 4 km stretch of Northam Cranbrook Road. The tree that is proposed for removal is too close to the road and poses a safety hazard to motorists. Accordingly, there is no opportunity to alter the clearing.

The tree proposed to be cleared is in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition.

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

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

- Clearing for the wider Northam Cranbrook Low-Cost Shoulder Sealing and Rehabilitation Works was minimised and included retaining this tree. As works have progressed, the risk to road users has become more apparent with clearing of this tree now required to improve road user safety.
- The tree will be removed progressively using an Elevated Work Platform (or similar), which can be used to manoeuvre and minimise the impact to surrounding understory vegetation. The tree will preferentially be utilised for artificial nesting hollows for black cockatoos, including the use of branches and chips. Where the materials cannot be used for this purpose, the trees will be chipped and used as mulch on adjacent land where no understorey vegetation will be impacted, or it will be removed offsite where mulching cannot be undertaken due to the potential for impacts on understory vegetation.
- 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. 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 (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):	0.0064 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	One
Species Name(s):	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>		
Easting and Northing:	117.004447, -32.312377		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	VA 352: York gum, salmon gum etc. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> , <i>E. salmonophloia</i>		
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994)		
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Remaining in State (ha)	Remaining in State (%)
	Veg Assoc No. 352 Statewide	142,019	19.61

	Veg Assoc No. 352 LGA (Brookton)	3,972	9.58							
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.	It is proposed to clear one tree (<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>wandoo</i>), located in the maintenance zone of Northam Cranbrook Road, with minimal to no understorey.									
	According to Main Roads GIS WA Herbarium layer, the closest record to conservation significant flora is:									
	<table><tr><th>Tree No.</th><th>SLK</th><th>Flora / Distance from tree</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>SLK 91.79 (RHS)</td><td>redacted</td></tr></table>				Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redacted
	Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree							
	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redacted							
	According to Main Roads GIS Significant flora layer, the closest record is:									
	<table><tr><th>Tree No.</th><th>SLK</th><th>Flora / Distance from tree</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>SLK 91.79 (RHS)</td><td>redacted</td></tr></table>				Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redacted
	Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree							
	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redacted							
	Ecoscape (2022) did not identify any Commonwealth or State-listed Threatened flora, or State listed Priority flora during the survey. The closest known significant species recorded by Ecoscape (2022) was redacted, located redacted of the Proposal area.									
According to Main Roads GIS Threatened Fauna layer, the closest record is:										
<table><tr><th>Tree No.</th><th>SLK</th><th>Flora / Distance from tree</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>SLK 91.79 (RHS)</td><td>redated</td></tr></table>				Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redated	
Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree								
1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	redated								
The Proposal area Is located within the Breeding Range of Carnaby’s Cockatoo, with the closest mapped roosting and breeding sites being located 25 km west and 43 km west, respectively.										
The following reference advises Wandoo is used for Black Cockatoo roosting, feeding and nesting – https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/carnabys/Plants used by Carnabys black cockatoo 20110415.pdf										
An inspection of the tree on 7 February 2025 by Wheatbelt Environmental Officers did not identify any hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos. Given that the tree is in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition, provides only a limited amount of foliage (due to canopy death), and no evidence of use was observed, this tree does not provide an important habitat for Black Cockatoos. Additionally, Ecoscape (2022) did not record or see any evidence of Carnaby’s Black Cockatoos presence during the biological field survey.										
No records or evidence of any other conservation significant fauna species was identified in the Proposal area. A search of Main Roads GIS TEC/PEC layer indicates that the Proposal area is located outside a mapped TEC/PEC. Ecoscape (2022) undertook a TEC/PEC assessment as part of its biological survey and concluded there were no plant communities observed within the Proposal area that correspond to any state (DBCA) or Commonwealth (EPBC Act) listed Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or state-listed Priority Ecological Community.										
Based on the above, the Proposal area does not comprise a high level of biological diversity.										
The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.										
Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be	According to Main Roads GIS Threatened Fauna layer, the closest record is:									

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.

Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree
1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	<i>redacted</i>

According to Main Roads GIS Threatened Fauna layer, the closest record is:

Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree
1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	<i>redacted</i>

The Proposal area is located within the Breeding Range of Carnaby's Cockatoo, with the closest mapped roosting and breeding sites being located 25 km west and 43 km west, respectively.

The following reference advises Wandoo is used for roosting, feeding and nesting: <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/images/documents/plants-animals/threatened-species/carnabys/Plants used by Carnabys black cockatoo 20110415.pdf>

An inspection of the tree on 7 February 2025 by Wheatbelt Environmental Officers did not identify any hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos. The tree provides only a limited amount of foliage due to canopy death and no evidence of use by black cockatoos was observed. Additionally, Ecoscape (2022) did not record or see any evidence of Carnaby's Black Cockatoos presence during the biological field survey.

The tree proposed for clearing is not representative of quality habitat for Black Cockatoos given limited foliage for foraging; absence of suitable hollows or hollows forming in the near future that would support Black Cockatoo breeding; and height being less than 24m as preferred by Black Cockatoos for roosting.

Ecoscape (2022) reported that Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) are found in eucalypt woodlands with a dense understorey and are now restricted to fragmented populations throughout the Western Australian Wheatbelt region.

Thirty-five records of this species occurred within 10 km of the survey area in 2019. However, as the habitats of the survey area along the roadsides are generally in a degraded and disturbed state with little to no understorey or understorey consisting of weeds, it is considered unlikely that this species would rely on the Proposal area as significant habitat. The post-survey likelihood of occurrence assessment determined the species was 'Unlikely to occur'. This species was not recorded during the survey.

The tree proposed for clearing does not comprise the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

Based on the above, 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.

According to Main Roads GIS WA Herbarium layer, the closest record or conservation significant flora is:

Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree
1	SLK 88.96 (RHS)	<i>redacted</i>

According to Main Roads GIS Significant flora layer, the closest record is:

Tree No.	SLK	Flora / Distance from tree
1	SLK 88.96 (RHS)	<i>redacted</i>

Ecoscape (2022) did not record any Commonwealth or State-listed Threatened flora, or State listed Priority flora during the survey. The closest known significant species identified by Ecoscape (2022) was *redacted*, located approximately *redacted* of the Proposal area.

Based on the above, 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.	A search of Main Roads GIS TEC/PEC layer indicates that the Proposal area is not located in any mapped TEC. Ecoscape (2022) undertook a TEC assessment as part of its biological survey. It concluded that there were no plant communities observed within the Proposal area that corresponded to any state (DBCA) or Commonwealth (EPBC Act) listed Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). Based on the above, 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.	One vegetation association of Beard (1976) has been mapped over the Survey area, namely: <table><tr><th>Pre-European Vegetation Association</th><th>Remaining in State (ha)</th><th>Remaining in State (%)</th></tr><tr><td>Veg Assoc No. 352 Statewide</td><td>142,019</td><td>19.61</td></tr><tr><td>Veg Assoc No. 352 LGA (Brookton)</td><td>3,972</td><td>9.58</td></tr></table> The proposed clearing of one tree (approximately 0.0064 ha) in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition with little to no understory from the road maintenance zone is not representative of vegetation that is significant as a remnant. The impact on available vegetation equates to approximately 0.0001% of the vegetation association at a LGA level. . Vegetation Association 352 has less than 30 % of its pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA bioregion, IBRA subregion and Shire of Brookton levels (19.61 %, 17.27 %, 10.74 % and 9.58 % respectively). However, the vegetation proposed for clearing consists of one roadside tree in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition that is not representative of a York Gum woodland. The proposed clearing will not sever a significant ecological linkage across the landscape and is therefore not considered to be a significant remnant of Vegetation Association 352. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Remaining in State (ha)	Remaining in State (%)	Veg Assoc No. 352 Statewide	142,019	19.61	Veg Assoc No. 352 LGA (Brookton)	3,972	9.58	
Pre-European Vegetation Association	Remaining in State (ha)	Remaining in State (%)									
Veg Assoc No. 352 Statewide	142,019	19.61									
Veg Assoc No. 352 LGA (Brookton)	3,972	9.58									
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.	According to Main Roads Linear Hydrology layer (DWER-031), the closest recorded watercourse or wetland is: <table><tr><th>Tree No.</th><th>SLK</th><th>Watercourse / Distance from tree</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>SLK 91.79 (RHS)</td><td>Avon River South, 1.3 km west</td></tr></table> The tree is a <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>wandoo</i> which is not a species classified as riparian vegetation. Due to the distance of separation, the tree is not considered to be growing in or in association with a watercourse or wetland. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.	Tree No.	SLK	Watercourse / Distance from tree	1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	Avon River South, 1.3 km west				
Tree No.	SLK	Watercourse / Distance from tree									
1	SLK 91.79 (RHS)	Avon River South, 1.3 km west									
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	DPIRD mapping indicates the Proposal area has: <table><tr><th>Tree No.</th><th>Information</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0% of very high to extreme water erosion hazard</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>97% of high to extreme wind erosion hazard</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>1% of very poor to poor site drainage potential</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>0% of moderate salinity hazard</td></tr></table> The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) has been used to determine the likelihood of Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) occurring within the Proposal area. The ASRIS database indicates there is a <i>Low Probability / Low Confidence</i>	Tree No.	Information	1	0% of very high to extreme water erosion hazard	1	97% of high to extreme wind erosion hazard	1	1% of very poor to poor site drainage potential	1	0% of moderate salinity hazard
Tree No.	Information										
1	0% of very high to extreme water erosion hazard										
1	97% of high to extreme wind erosion hazard										
1	1% of very poor to poor site drainage potential										
1	0% of moderate salinity hazard										

	(beige) probability of ASS occurring within the Proposal area. No dewatering or excavation below the water table is proposed. The removal of one tree in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition from the roadside is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, especially as the majority of the land where the tree is located will be covered with road infrastructure. Based on the above, 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.	A search of the Main Roads ArcGIS shapefiles indicates no Nature Reserves, Conservation Areas or Bush Forever Sites are located within 10km of the Proposal area. Based on the above, 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 Proposal area does not intersect any mapped watercourses and no surface water expressions are present. The tree 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. Based on the above, 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.	DPIRD mapping indicates that the area where the tree is located has: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Tree No.</th><th>Information</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>0% of moderate to high flood hazard</td></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>31% of moderate to very high flood hazard</td></tr> </tbody> </table> A review of ArcGIS shapefiles has confirmed that the proposed works will not disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface run-off patterns. Removing one tree in Degraded to Completely Degraded condition is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.	Tree No.	Information	1	0% of moderate to high flood hazard	1	31% of moderate to very high flood hazard
Tree No.	Information						
1	0% of moderate to high flood hazard						
1	31% of moderate to very high flood hazard						
Methodology Used and References:	Ecoscape Biological Survey (2022) - D22#1051365 Site inspection (07-Feb-2025) Proposal Area (Figure 1) Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) Mapping (http://www.asris.csiro.au/mapping/viewer.htm) DPIRD mapping (https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/) DAWE (2022) - Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - DCCEEW GIS Datasets: - Clearing Regulations – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046) - DBCA – Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011) - DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012) - DBCA Restricted WA Herbarium Flora - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Fauna - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Flora - DBCA Restricted Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - DBCA Restricted White Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations - Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045) - Hydrography Linear (DWER-031)						

Methodology Used and References:	- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037) - CAWS Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004) - DBCA Restricted TEC PEC Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 7 (Regions and Subregions)
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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.	Yes	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), <u>Hygiene Checklists</u> (D17#859669) will be applied.
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 Environmental Officer
Date	11-Feb-2025

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

Name	redacted
Signature	redacted
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	12/02/2025