

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Brians Woods Pit Unsuitable Material Relocation		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Shire of Toodyay		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	M026 Toodyay Rd		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK Start – SLK Finish for each road/section.		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D24#1053351		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D24#1038448		
EOS Number:	1167		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	13 th August 2024		
Oracle Project No:	30000916	Task Code:	19100
LISC TRIM Number:	D24#754727	HRA TRIM Number:	D24#754728

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Planned rehabilitation of sections of Brian Woods' Pit requires the removal of unsuitable oversize rock material. Wheatbelt Region proposes to relocate the rock material to Lot 3506 north of Toodyay Road to partially fill a farm dam that will be removed for the Section 2 realignment of the Toodyay Road Upgrade project.

The current width of the existing crossover from Toodyay Road to the dam is insufficient to allow access for the side tipper transporting the rock material. The removal of two immature wandoos (totalling 0.001 ha canopy) is proposed to widen the crossover.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

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

- Initially, a semi tipper was proposed to transport the material as this could enter through the crossover without any clearing required. However, due to the large oversize material, it was determined that a larger side tipper truck was necessary.
- Alternative access was considered via the eastern access track that passes through road reserve and private property on Lot 3506 and Lot 3508 (see image below) but given the combined size and weight of the vehicle and materials, improvements to the track would be required to prevent degradation and erosion. The time and cost of negotiating with landowners and making improvements to the track would be prohibitive for the small scope of works. It was agreed that the best way forward was by removing the two immature wandoos and gravel sheeting the crossover at SLK 33.54.



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

The following measures have been considered and will be applied where applicable to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and manage 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 minimally widen a crossover, with no clear zone being established. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- In selecting the access location, the Project Manager identified the minimum quantity of vegetation required to be removed to facilitate access for the side tipper.
- Vegetation to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to identified locations. This approach aims to prevent accidental over-clearing. It should be noted that no understorey and ground layer native vegetation is present in the area and consequently, only 0.001 ha (two juvenile trees) of vegetation will be impacted during clearing.

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):	0.001 ha (10m ²)	No. Trees Cleared:	2
Species Name(s):	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>		
Easting and Northing:	116.4604592, -31.6078481		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	According to Beard (1976) Pre-European Vegetation Mapping, the proposed clearing is mapped as vegetation association 4 (VA4) Medium woodland; marri & wandoo. Aecom (2016) was engaged to conduct biological assessments for the Toodyay Road Upgrade project. According to their survey data, the proposed clearing area occurs within <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> subsp. <i>wandoo</i>, <i>Corymbia calophylla</i> and <i>Eucalyptus accedens</i> mid open forest over <i>Gastrolobium truncatum</i>, <i>G. parviflorum</i> and <i>Xanthorrhoea preissii</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>sedifolia</i>, <i>Opercularia vaginata</i> and <i>Hakea lissocarpa</i> mid open heath shrubland (EwGtAI).
Site Vegetation Condition:	Very Good condition
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	26.95%

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.	Aecom (2016) was engaged to conduct biological assessments for the Toodyay Road Upgrade project. No threatened or priority flora species were recorded in the proposed clearing area. The two trees proposed to be removed are within an area mapped as 'very good' foraging habitat for Black Cockatoos; however, they not of a sufficient size and age to provide foraging, roosting or breeding habitat (Aecom 2016). Although the EwGtAI vegetation association mapped by Aecom (2016) had a high species richness, the removal of two immature trees of the same species (wandoo) adjacent to an existing cleared track is unlikely to affect any ecological linkage and does not comprise a high level of biological diversity. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.
Principle (b) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	Two immature wandoos are proposed to be cleared, both less than 300 mm DBH and containing no hollows. A desktop assessment The proposed clearing occurs in an area mapped Eucalypt Woodland habitat with 'very good' foraging habitat for Carnaby's and Baudin's Black Cockatoos (Aecom 2016). The following conservation significant species are considered 'likely' to occur or utilise habitat within the Eucalypt Woodland habitat type: • Carnaby's Black Cockatoo • Baudin's Black Cockatoo • Western Brush Wallaby • Rainbow Bee-eater • Chuditch Black Cockatoos: Aecom (2016) mapped 211.95 ha of habitat of 'moderate' to 'very good' foraging value and 90 ha of potential roosting habitat for

	Carnaby's Black Cockatoo and 193.99 ha of habitat of 'moderate' to 'very good' foraging value for Baudin's Black Cockatoo within the Toodyay Road Upgrade study area. Given the abundance of foraging and roosting habitat mapped by Aecom nearby (2016), the clearing of two trees totalling 0.001 ha (10m²) of canopy that are too immature to contain significant foraging, roosting or breeding value is not considered to have a significant impact on Black Cockatoo habitat in the immediate area. Western Brush Wallaby: According to Aecom (2016), the Eucalypt Woodland habitat type is well represented in the surrounding landscape, although it is a highly fragmented setting. For this reason, this is not considered to represent significant habitat for the Western Brush Wallaby. Rainbow Bee-eater: During the field survey Aecom (2016) evidence of the Rainbow Bee-eater was identified in four locations. The nearest of these was over 13.88 km from the proposed clearing area, therefore, it is unlikely to occur. This highly mobile species is widespread in its distribution and is unlikely to be impacted by the very minor vegetation clearing. Chuditch: Aecom (2017) conducted a targeted Chuditch survey for the Toodyay Road Upgrade project (D17#98115). No signs of Chuditch were observed from scats, tracks and dens, 16 predator scats analyses or photographs. Based on the above assessment, clearing of two immature wandoos totalling 0.001 ha (10m²) canopy does not represent significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	A desktop review of DBCA-036 & WA Herbarium databases identified that the nearest threatened flora species is <i>Caladenia huegelii</i> (T) (2006) recorded in DBCA's GIS layers approximately 3.5 km northwest of the Proposal area. The nearest priority flora species, recorded by Aecom (2016), was a population of <i>Hibbertia montana</i> (P4) occurring approximately 150 m west of the Proposal area within the road reserve. No threatened or priority flora species is recorded within the proposed clearing area and no impacts to threatened or priority flora will occur. 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.	An assessment of the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC was undertaken by Woodman Environmental (2018) (D18#149708) for the Toodyay Road Upgrade project. Quadrat TR11 was placed 60 m east of the proposed clearing area within the same patch of vegetation. Woodman Environmental determined that vegetation within this area does not represent the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC as, although it is on the edge of the

	distribution of the TEC, it is located on east edge of Darling Range and <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> is co-dominant. 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.	According to Beard (1976) pre-european vegetation mapping, the proposed clearing is mapped as vegetation association 4 (VA4) Medium woodland; marri & wandoo, of which 26.95% remains. Although VA 352 has less than the 30% threshold Statewide guideline value remaining, there is 32.22% in the Northern Jarrah Forest IBRA Sub-region, of which 84.3% is in DBCA managed land, and 53.79% remaining in the Shire of Toodyay. Given the extent of VA4 within the IBRA Sub-region and Shire and particularly the extent managed by DBCA, two immature trees totalling 0.001 ha (10m²) does not represent clearing of significant remnants of native vegetation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	The proposed clearing area does not occur within or in association with a watercourse or wetland. The nearest mapped watercourse is Harper Brook, 950 m east of the Proposal area, and the nearest mapped wetland is the Avon River Valley, approximately 6.3 km to the northwest. An artificial dam occurs 25 m north of the proposed clearing area, which will be removed for the Toodyay Road Upgrade Project. No impacts to watercourses or wetlands will occur, therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The removal of two immature wandoos is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, given the small quantity of clearing (0.001 ha) and the adjacent very good quality vegetation that would assist in soil stabilisation. 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.	No conservation areas occur within the proposed clearing area. The nearest nature reserve is Mavis Jefferys Nature Reserve (R 44729) approximately 2.5 km northwest. The nearest ESA is approximately 3.5 km northwest and is associated with <i>Caladenia huegelii</i> (T). No impacts to conservation areas will occur, therefore, 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 minor quantity of clearing (0.001 ha) of two immature trees within a patch of very good quality vegetation containing mature trees and a rich understorey 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.	According to DPIRD-007 GIS data, <3% of map unit has a moderate to high flood risk. The proposed clearing area is within 10 m of the table drain of a sealed road. Given the nearby drainage the adjacent very good quality vegetation that would assist in soil stabilisation, the removal of two immature wandoos is will not cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Methodology Used and References:	AECOM Toodyay Road Biological Survey Final November 2016: D16#731724 AECOM 2017 - Toodyay Road Widening Project - Targeted Chuditch Survey: D17#98115 Brian Woods Pit Spoil Relocation LISC: D24#754727 DBCA/WAherb/DWER database review Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D24#1038448

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	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), 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.

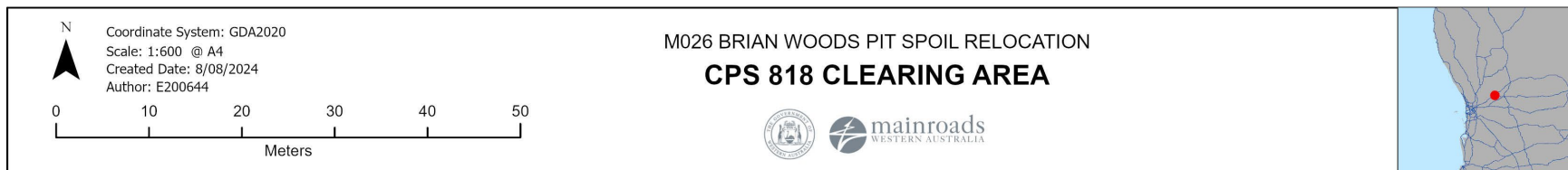
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4. Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	No	No further action required. The proposed clearing will be managed under the relevant Main Roads Principle Environmental Management Requirements to ensure that all vehicles and machinery arrive on site clean and that weed infested mulch is removed from site, therefore, there is a low risk of weed spread.
Completed By:		
Job Title	Environment Officer	
Date	08/08/2024	

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	8/8/2024

APPENDIX 1 - Proposal Clearing Area





Immature wandoos proposed to be removed.