

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



This Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form is required for projects with low clearing impacts that do not require a full assessment through a Clearing Desktop Report (CDR). Clearing that may be or is at variance should not be assessed using this form. This form must be reviewed and endorsed by the Central Review and Submissions Process (CRSP) role or delegate, who will determine whether the clearing impacts have been assessed properly. Send the form via clearingpermit@mainroads.wa.gov.au. The Environment Officer will be advised within **2 business days** if the assessment of the project clearing is endorsed. Refer to the [Factsheet on the Assessment of Low Impact Clearing under Main Roads Statewide Clearing Permit CPS 818](#) (D17#452322) for further information.

1. PROJECT DETAILS

Project Name:	Romeo Road Western Power Relocation		
Region/Directorate:	Metropolitan		
Expected Project Start Date:	18/11/2021		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Romeo Road		
Project Location (SLK):	SLK 1.25		
TRIM Document No:	D21#1155013		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D21#1038229		
EOS No:	2544		
Project No:	21112799	Task Code:	13.06

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The aim of this proposal is to relocate Western Power services to an alignment that will not be affected by the Romeo/Benenden Roads works. A retaining wall will also be constructed as part of this project. The proposed footprint (hereafter referred to as project area) extends over an area of 0.06 ha.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no alternatives to the clearing proposed as the footprint has been reduced as far as practicable and only a minimal amount of native vegetation in a Degraded condition will be removed for the works.

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

The project area will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to the approved limits of vegetation clearing. This approach will prevent accidental over-clearing.

5. APPROVED POLICES AND PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act* (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):	0.06 ha of native vegetation	No. Trees Cleared:	No trees with a DBH of ≥ 50 cm were recorded.
Species Name:	<i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> , <i>Banksia attenuata</i> , <i>Eucalyptus tottiana</i> , <i>Acacia pulchella</i> , <i>Xanthorrhoeae preissi</i> , <i>Daviesia divaricata</i> subsp. <i>divaricata</i> , <i>Hibbertia hypericoides</i> , <i>Mesomelaena pseudostygia</i>		
Easting and Northing:	50J; Easting: 377072, Northing: 6500642		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Allocasuarina fraseriana, Banksia attenuata, Eucalyptus tottiana scattered low trees over Acacia pulchella, Xanthorrhoeae preissi, Daviesia divaricata subsp. divaricata scattered shrubs over Hibbertia hypericoides scattered low shrubs over Mesomelaena pseudostygia, sparse sedgeland over *Avena barbata, *Bromus diandrus and *Briza maxima open grassland.	
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded	
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Vegetation Association 949:	
	Levels	% Remaining
	Statewide	56.42
	IBRA Bioregion Swan Coastal Plain	57.28
	IBRA Subregion Perth	56.45
	Local Government Authority City of Wanneroo	46.30

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is Vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
<p>Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.</p>	<p>A biological survey conducted by GHD in 2018 did not identify any significant flora and fauna species in the project area and its vicinity (GHD 2019). In addition, no significant flora and fauna species were recorded during a site inspection conducted in October 2021 (Main Roads 2021 – Appendix 1). The vegetation which extends over 0.06 ha was assessed as being in a Degraded condition (Main Roads 2021). Given the disturbed nature of the habitat, it is highly unlikely that any significant fauna or flora species would be reliant on habitat present in the project area.</p> <p>The project area lies within an area that was previously mapped as a Tuart (<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>) woodlands of the SCP PEC (GHD 2019). Sections of this vegetation unit have since been cleared as part of the Mitchell Extension project leaving a fragmented patch (0.37 ha) of Tuart woodland. The project area borders that small patch of native vegetation on two sides as shown in Appendix 2. Although the patch is less than 0.5 ha and there is a gap of more than 60 m from the outer canopy edges of Tuart trees from a neighbouring patch (Appendix 4), there is a possibility that the 0.37 ha of Tuart woodland could still be considered as the Tuart (<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>) woodlands of the SCP TEC (Tuart TEC) as it was previously part of the broader mapped TEC. However, no Tuart trees will be cleared as part of this project and only 0.06 ha of understorey vegetation in a Degraded condition will require clearing. Consequently, clearing for this project is unlikely to have a significant impact on the Tuart TEC.</p> <p>The size of the clearing footprint coupled with the fact that no significant species or ecological communities will be impacted make it unlikely that clearing will significantly reduce the biodiversity of the locality.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>No significant fauna species were recorded in the project area during the 2019 biological survey and the 2021 site inspection. The likelihood of these species being present is considered to be very low. Given that the project area occurs at the edges of a small, fragmented patch of vegetation, significant fauna species are not expected to be reliant on the vegetation to be cleared. The scattered <i>Banksia attenuata</i> individuals present within the project area also does not represent a significant foraging habitat for the Black Cockatoos and it is highly unlikely that these plants would be an important food source for these birds.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>

<p>Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.</p>	<p>No Threatened flora species were recorded during the 2018 biological survey and the site inspection. Given the small size of the clearing footprint that consists of a Degraded vegetation that does not support habitats suitable for the occurrence of Threatened flora species, this project is not likely to directly or indirectly impact any rare flora.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The 2018 biological survey did not identify any state listed Threatened Ecological communities (TECs) within the project area.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The project area is mapped as occurring within Vegetation Association 949, defined as 'Low woodland; banksia'. Vegetation Association 949 is not classified as a significant remnant vegetation as more than 30% of its pre-European extent remains at the State, IBRA Bioregion, IBRA Subregion and Local Government Authority level. Consequently, this project will not impact any significant remnant vegetation.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The vegetation to be cleared under CPS 818/15 is not associated with any watercourse.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	<p>It is unlikely that this project will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the works and the fact that only a small linear section of native vegetation will be cleared.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>There are no reserves or conservation areas located within and in the vicinity of the project area.</p> <p>The nearest area is the Neerabup National Park located 700 m east of the project area. Given the distance to this site, it is unlikely that this project will significantly impact any nature reserves or conservation areas.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The project area is located within a Proclaimed Groundwater Area. It also occurs on a Public Drinking Water Source Area (Perth Coastal and Gwelup Underground Water Pollution Control Area) but does not lie in a proclaimed surface water area. As no dewatering or excavation below the water table will be undertaken, no impacts to the groundwater area and drinking water area are expected.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>

Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.	Based on the presence of loamy soils and small area of native vegetation to be removed, it is unlikely that this project will 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:	GHD (2019). Mitchell Freeway Extension Hester Avenue to Romeo Road Biological Survey, June 2019. Prepared for Main Roads Western Australia. Government of Western Australia. (2019). 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of April 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Perth. Available online from: https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics . Accessed 28/10/2020. Main Roads (2021). Environmental Site Inspection Report: Romeo Road – Site for Western Power Relocation. Main Roads, Perth.
Completed By:	
Job Title	Environment Officer
Date	11/11/2021

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
Clearing Assessment	ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments		
Job Title	Environment Officer	
Date	11/11/2021	

Appendix 1

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE INSPECTION REPORT

Romeo Road – Site for Western Power Relocation

SITE INSPECTION DETAILS		
Date:	21 October 2021	
Location:	Romeo Road 1.25 SLK	
Region/ Directorate:	Metropolitan	
Purpose:	Biological survey	
Attendees:	Shadila Venkatasamy	Environment Officer, Main Roads
SITE VISIT DETAILS AND METHODOLOGY		
<u>Aim</u> The objectives of the survey were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the vegetation types and assess the vegetation condition.• Identify all flora species encountered within the project area.• Record any fauna species observed within the project area.• Take representative photographs.		
<u>Methodology</u> The project area was traversed on foot and the fauna, flora and vegetation components of that site was assessed. Two of the engineers working on the project were present during the site inspection. The project area is shown on Figure 1.		
SITE DESCRIPTION		
The project area extends over 0.06 ha and is bordered on two sides by areas already cleared for the Mitchell Freeway Extension project.		
RESULTS		
Area (ha):	0.06	
Landform:	Plain	
Soil type:	Grey sand	
Vegetation Condition:	Degraded	
Vegetation Structure:	Scattered trees (10%) and shrubs (20%) over ground cover of low shrubs, herbs, sedges and exotic grasses (70%)	
Vegetation Composition:	Overstorey – 10% Midstorey – 20% Understorey – 70%	

Significant fauna and flora:	None observed
Fauna Habitat Values:	The project area forms part of a fragmented and isolated patch (0.35 ha) of vegetation with no ecological linkages. This patch is bordered by cleared areas, road construction site or houses. Consequently, this vegetation does not represent a significant fauna habitat.
Declared weeds or Weeds of National Significance	None observed
Fire age:	No sign of recent fire
Hydrology	No major and minor watercourses are located in the vicinity of the project area.

Vegetation Description

Allocasuarina fraseriana, *Banksia attenuata*, *Eucalyptus tottiana* scattered trees over *Acacia pulchella*, *Xanthorrhoeae preissi*, *Daviesia divaricata* subsp. *divaricata* scattered shrubs over *Hibbertia hypericoides* scattered low shrubs over *Mesomelaena pseudostygia*, sparse sedgeland over **Avena barbata*, **Bromus diandrus* and **Briza maxima* open grassland.

Species recorded in the project area:

Trees 3-5m	<i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i> , <i>Banksia attenuata</i> , <i>Eucalyptus tottiana</i> , <i>Macrozamia riedlei</i>
Shrubs > 2m	<i>Acacia pulchella</i> , <i>Acacia saligna</i> , <i>Xanthorrhoeae preissi</i>
Shrubs 1-2m	<i>Daviesia divaricata</i> subsp. <i>divaricata</i> , <i>Hibbertia hypericoides</i> , <i>Petrophile axillaris</i>
Shrubs 0.5-1m	<i>Phyllanthus calycinus</i>
Herb	<i>Conostylis candicans</i> subsp. <i>Candicans</i> , <i>*Gladiolus caryophyllaceus</i> , <i>*Sonchus oleraceus</i> , <i>Waitzia suaveolens</i> var. <i>suaveolens</i>
Creepers	<i>Hardenbergia comptoniana</i>
Grasses	<i>*Avena barbata</i> , <i>*Bromus diandrus</i> , <i>*Briza maxima</i> , <i>*Ehrharta calycina</i> ,
Sedges	<i>Mesomelaena pseudostygia</i>

SUMMARY

Actions:

- No further actions required.

Approvals Required:

- Approval under CPS 818/15 for native vegetation clearing.

REFERENCES

GHD (2019). Mitchell Freeway Extension Hester Avenue to Romeo Road Biological Survey, June 2019. Prepared for Main Roads Western Australia.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998–) *FloraBase* - The Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Available online from: <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> Accessed 22/10/2021.



Figure 1. Project Area

Site Photos



Photo 1: South-western edge of the project area and looking North. Photo shows the Degraded condition of the vegetation. The tuart tree shown in the photo is located outside of the project area and will not be impacted by the service relocation works.



Photo 2: Looking west from the eastern edge of the project area. Photo shows isolated individuals of *Banksia attenuata*, *Macrozamia riedlei* and *Hibbertia hypericoides* over exotic grasses.



Photo 3. Looking south-west towards the project area. Photo shows the scattered shrubs of *Banksia attenuata*, *Hibbertia hypericoides* and *Xanthorrhoeae preissi* over exotic grasses in a disturbed habitat.



Photo 4. Looking north-east towards the northern border of the project area. The Tuart woodland located beyond the construction site is approximately 83 m away.



Photo 5. Looking south-east towards the project area. Photo shows the Tuart tree that will be avoided. This area consists mainly of *Hibbertia hypericoides* and *Xanthorrhoeae preissi* over exotic grasses.



Photo 6. Looking south-west towards the southern edge of the project area. Photo shows the clump of six small trees of *Eucalyptus tottiana* that are located within the project area. Other species present in that area are, *Allocasuarina fraseriana*, *Daviesia divaricata* subsp. *divaricata*, *Waitzia suaveolens* var. *suaveolens*, *Mesomelaena pseudostygia* and exotic grasses.



Photo 7. Looking south-east towards the northern border of the project area. Photo shows mid to low native shrubs over exotic herbs and grasses.



Photo 8. Looking west and showing a cleared area near the south-western edge of the project area and a clump of Tuart trees in the northern area. Real estate development can be seen in the background along Pateley Street.

Appendix 2



APPENDIX 3: Recent Clearing for Mitchell Extension Project



Image 1: shows the most recent clearing for Romeo Road and Benenden Road

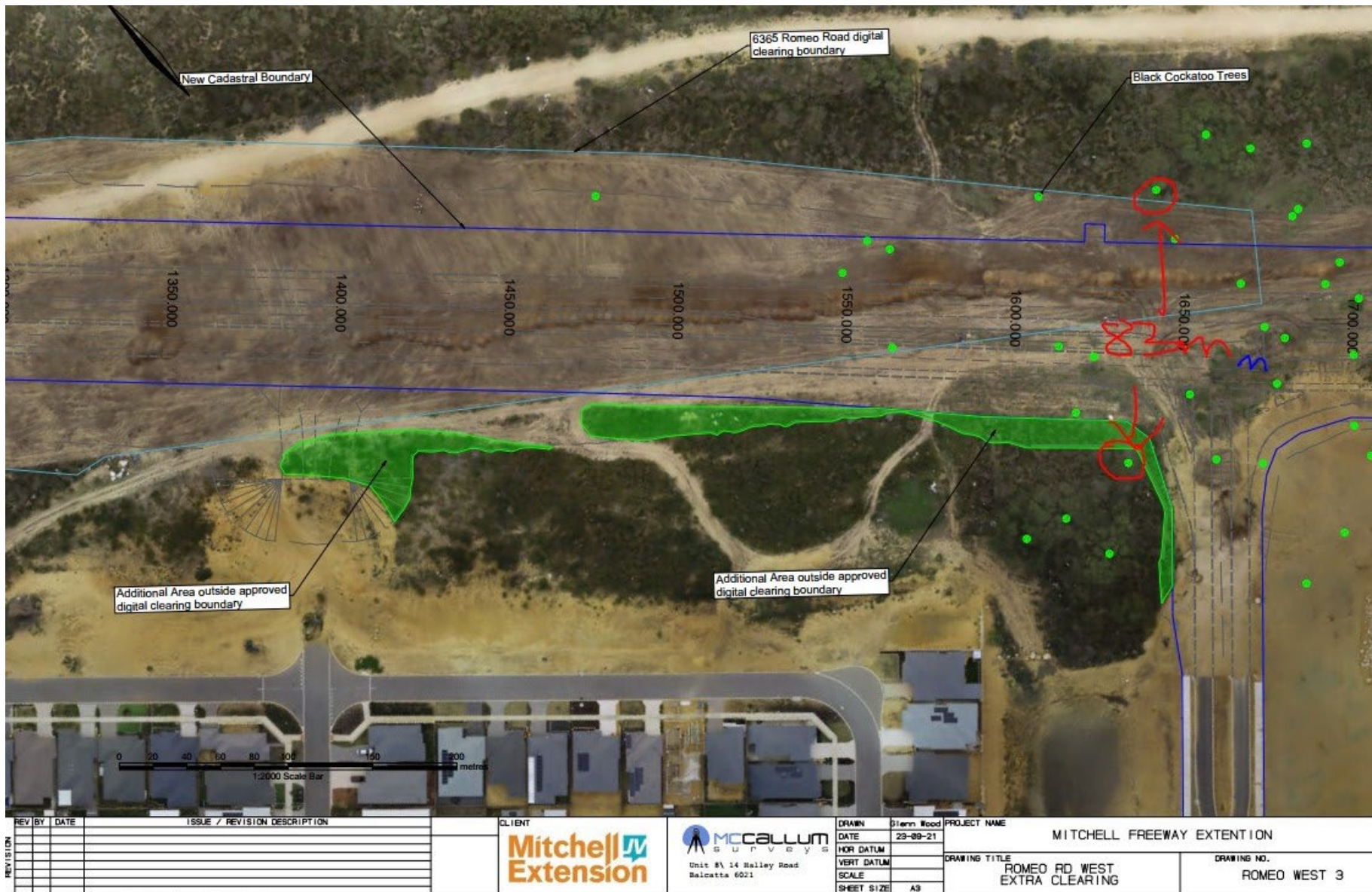


Image 2: shows that the estimated distance between the Tuart tree located just outside of the project area to the nearest one across the construction site of Romeo Road is approximately 83 m.