

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

This Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form is required for proposals 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) Team, 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 proposal 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.

Delete all guidance notes once CDR is complete and update the footer with the TRIM number of the form.

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	M038 Narrogin/Kondinin Rd Gnarming East Rd Sightline Clearing		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government Authority:	Kulin		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	M038 Narrogin Kondinin Rd/Gnarming East Rd Intersection		
Proposal Location (SLK):	148.96 – 149.16		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#49589		
EOS No:	2615		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	Upon receipts of approval		
Project No:	21114026	Task Code:	741.16
LISC TRIM No:	D22#49437	HRA TRIM No:	D22#52750

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Removal of four trees to allow safe access onto Narrogin-Kondinin Road from Gnarming East Rd.

Main Roads Wheatbelt region is proposing to improve sightlines for road users from Gnarming East Rd onto Narrogin-Kondinin Road (M038) at SLKs 148.96, 149.12, 149.15 and 149.16. The project will involve the removal of three *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York Gum) and one *Eucalyptus salubris* (Gimlet). All trees are located within the road reserve.

The proposed clearing is required to improve sightline distance and road user safety.

Photographs showing the three trees to be cleared are provided in Appendix 1.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no alternatives to the clearing proposed as only a minimal number of trees will be removed to allow the sightline improvement for the safety of road users.

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

The trees to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to these spot locations. This approach will prevent accidental over-clearing. It should be noted that only the four trees 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):	0.04	No. Trees Cleared:	Four
Species Name:	<i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> and <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i>		
Easting and Northing:	GDA2020 MGA Zone 50 Tree 1: 50H; Easting: 614031.48, Northing: 6391875.26 Tree 2: 50H; Easting: 614073.23, Northing: 6392023.84 Tree 3: 50H; Easting: 614087.04, Northing: 6392046.71 Tree 4: 50H; Easting: 614092.86, Northing: 6392056.77		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Isolated <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> over exotic grasses (weeds) and some native regrowth. Isolated <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> over cleared land located in culverts
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Pre-European Vegetation Association 131 Current Remaining Extent (Statewide): 8.21%

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.	<p>A desktop assessment did not identify any known records of Threatened or Priority species at the location of these four trees. The vegetation is in Completely Degraded/ Degraded condition as evidenced by photographs provided in Appendix 1, and is therefore unlikely to support significant flora.</p> <p>Fauna habitat provided by the four trees is minimal. No significant fauna species are expected to be impacted by the removal of these four trees.</p> <p>The four trees lie within the Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt TEC mapped buffer. However, the existing vegetation assemblage does not correspond to the TEC as the habitat is highly disturbed and the vegetation is in Completely Degraded / Degraded condition.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</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>There are multiple opportunistic records for Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) in 2002 in Gnarning Reserve with the closest record 54m northwest from SLK 148.96. However, the proposed trees to be removed do not provide any breeding habitat for the species as they rely on sandy substrate and abundance of leaf litter for the construction of the birds' incubator-nests. Malleefowl also feed on seeds, flowers and fruits of shrubs (especially legumes), herbs, invertebrates, tubers and fungi. The proposed removal of four trees is not expected to have any adverse impacts to the species.</p> <p>The Red-necked stint (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>) was also identified using DBCA records within 5 km from the proposed clearing; however, this record was from 1978 and is not recent.</p> <p>Carnaby Cockatoo records are located outside the 5 km buffer however, the proposed clearing is not located within the known distribution for Carnaby's Cockatoo. There are no known breeding or roosting locations within proposed clearing location. Nearest confirmed roost/ breeding area (buffer) is 16km west of the proposed clearing. York Gums provide some foraging and breeding habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo. None of the trees have suitable hollows, and only one tree at SLK 149.12 has a suitable DBH (Appendix 1). Carnaby's Cockatoo is not expected to be</p>

	<p>adversely impacted by the removal of three isolated York Gums, and one Gimlet.</p> <p>Chuditch (<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>) and Red-tailed Phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>) records were not identified within 5 km of the proposed clearing. Fauna habitat is highly degraded and comprises of roadside vegetation. This habitat is not critical to the survival of chuditch or phascogales. The removal of four trees immediately adjacent to the Northam-Kondinin Road will not result in any adverse impacts to these species.</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>There are no records of rare flora at the proposed tree removal locations.</p> <p>The vegetation assemblage at the four trees consists of isolated <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i> over exotic grasses (weeds) and native regrowth and isolated <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i>. Threatened flora species are unlikely to occur at this location due to the highly degraded nature of the site. Due to this and as only the four trees are proposed to be removed, 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>Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community has buffers over the proposed clearing location. The vegetation at these four trees is in Completely Degraded/ Degraded condition and is therefore not representative of any State listed TECs.</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 131 (Mosaic: Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet / Shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood & black marlock) (Government of Western Australia 2019).</p> <p>Vegetation Association 131 has less than 30% of their pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA bioregion, IBRA subregion and Shire of Kulin levels. However, vegetation at the proposed clearing location consists only of isolated trees over exotic grasses (weeds) and native regrowth or bare ground in a Completely Degraded / Degraded condition. Therefore the vegetation present is no longer considered representative of the original vegetation type or Vegetation Association 131. The vegetation also does not form a significant linkage across the landscape. Overall the four trees to be removed are not considered significant as a remnant of vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be 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 four trees proposed to be cleared are not species typically associated with watercourses or wetlands and do not intersect any mapped watercourses or wetlands. The nearest one, which is minor and non-perennial is located 1.8 km south. Therefore, the three trees are not associated with any watercourse or wetland.</p>

	Based on the above, 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.	It is unlikely that this project will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the works and the fact that only four trees found in already disturbed habitat will be cleared. 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.	There are no reserves or conservation areas where the proposed clearing will occur. Nearest DBCA Reserve is R 18311 located 420 m southwest from SLK 149.15. Given the distance to the site, it is unlikely that this project will impact any reserves or conservation areas. 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 project area is not located within a Proclaimed Groundwater Area. It also does not occur on any Public Drinking Water Source Area or within a proclaimed surface water area (Murray River System). Considering this and the very minor scale of the clearing, it is not expected to 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.	Based on the presence of deep sandy duplex, duplex sandy gravel & loamy gravel soils and small area of native vegetation to be removed, it is unlikely the proposed clearing of four isolated trees 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:	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: 31/01/2022) Photographs of each tree: Appendix 1 Shapefile of clearing area/trees D22#90758
Completed By:	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer (A)
Date	31/01/2022

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

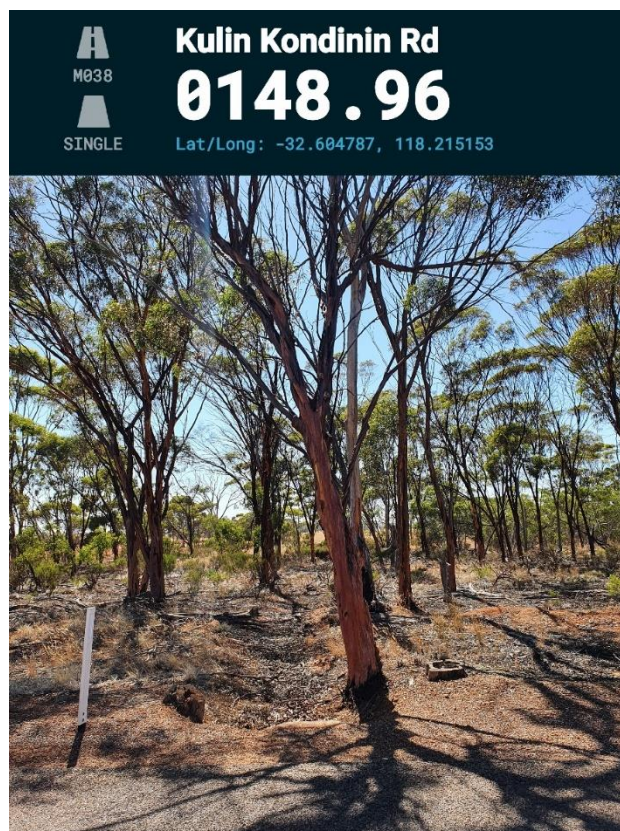
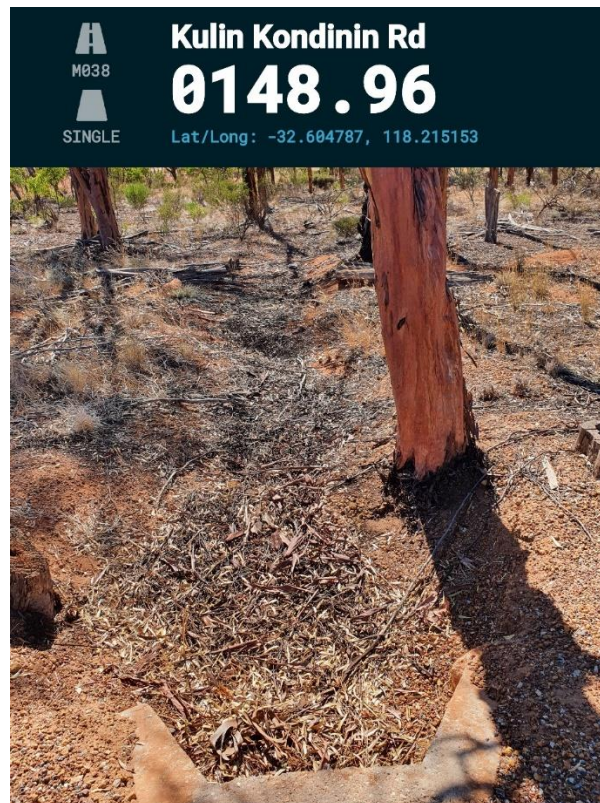
DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
Clearing Assessment	ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments	I agree that the proposed clearing under CPS 818 is not at variance to any of the clearing principles as it involves clearing four trees in degraded condition. Therefore we will not be submitting to DWER.
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	10/02/2022

APPENDIX 1:



SLK 148.96 – Removal of Tree x1

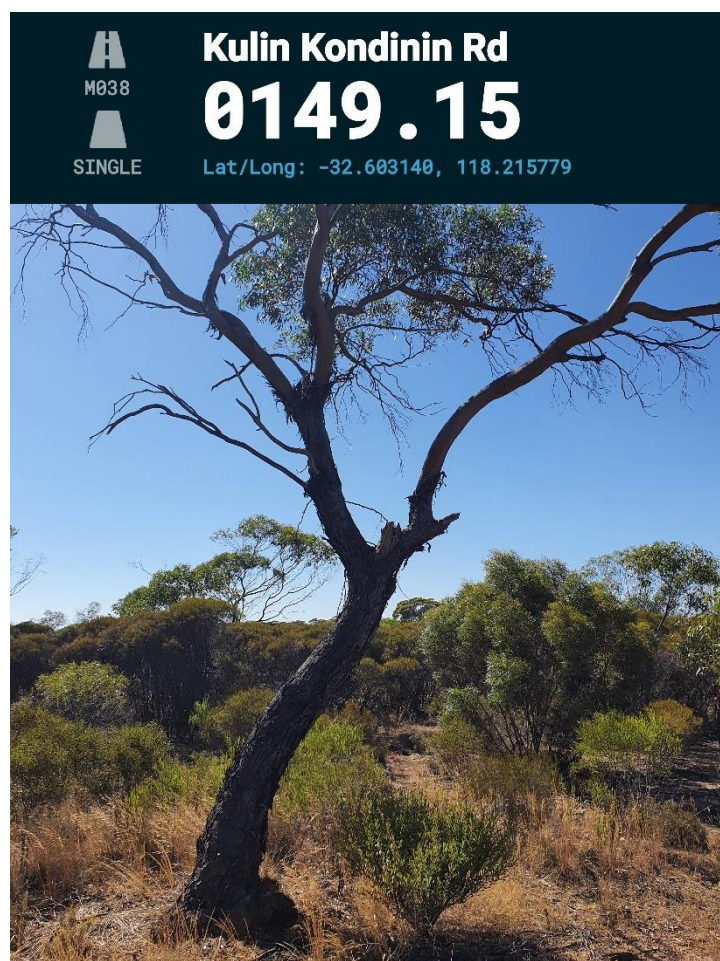
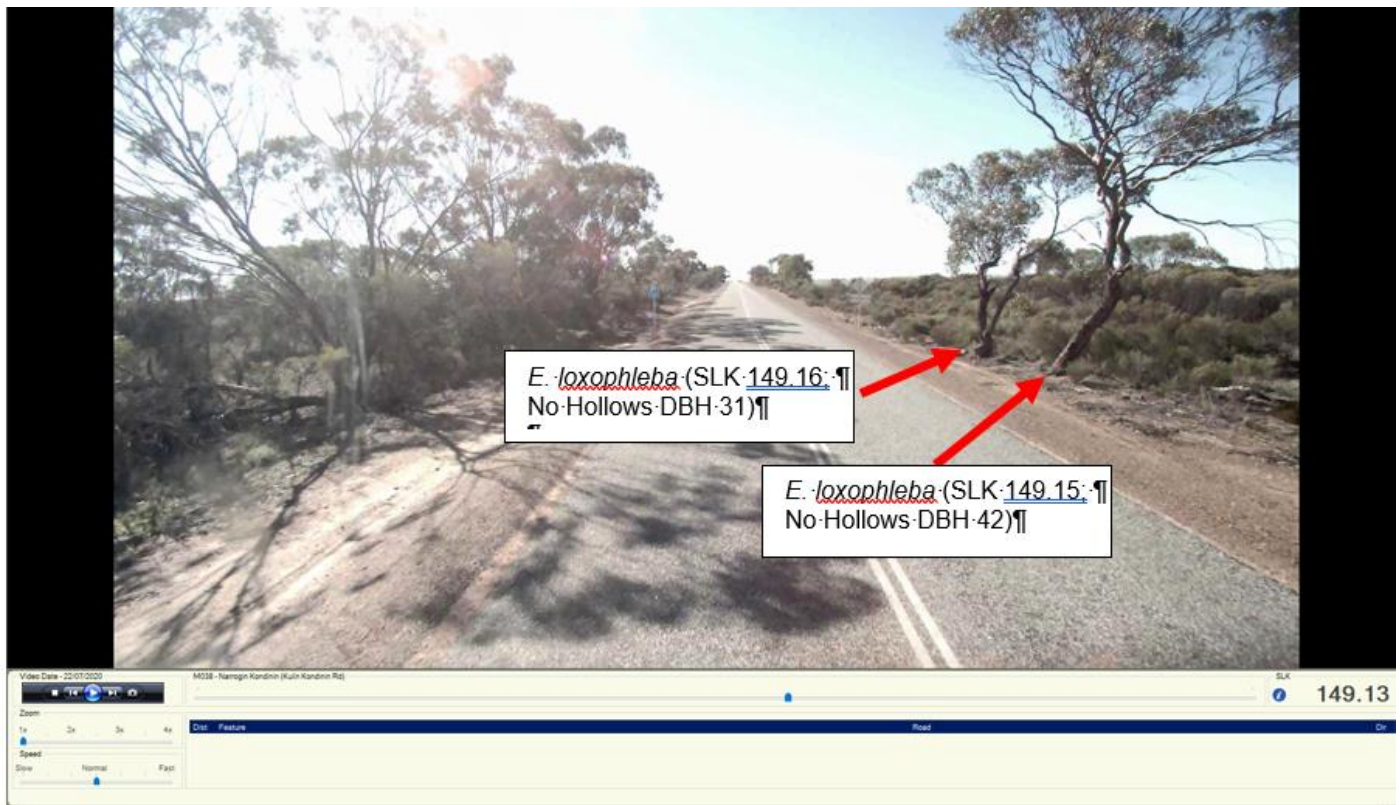


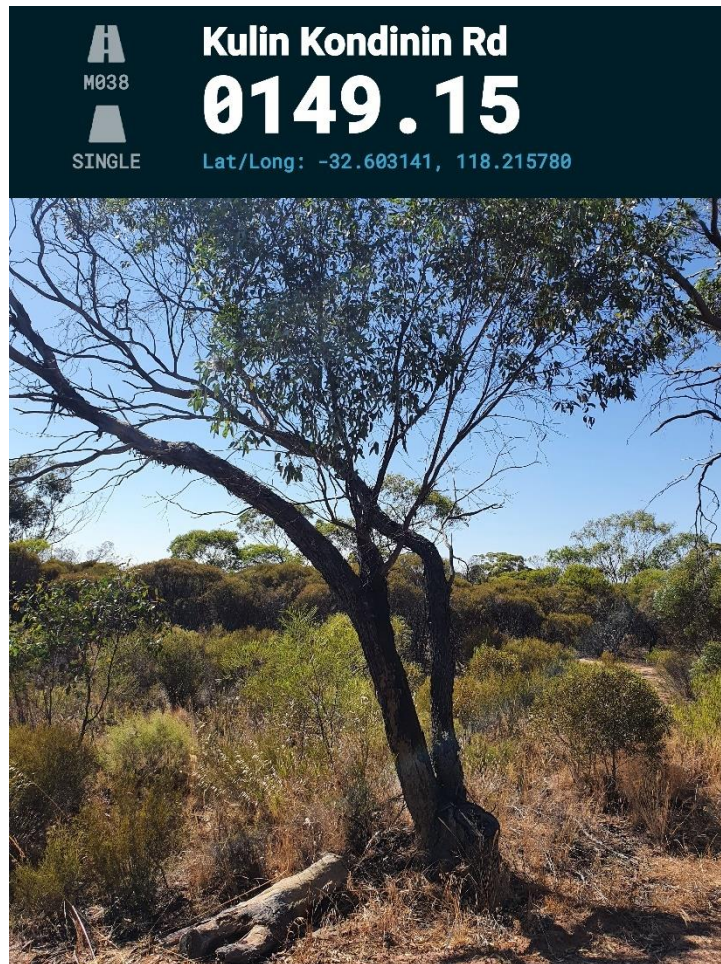
SLK 149.12 - Removal of Tree x1





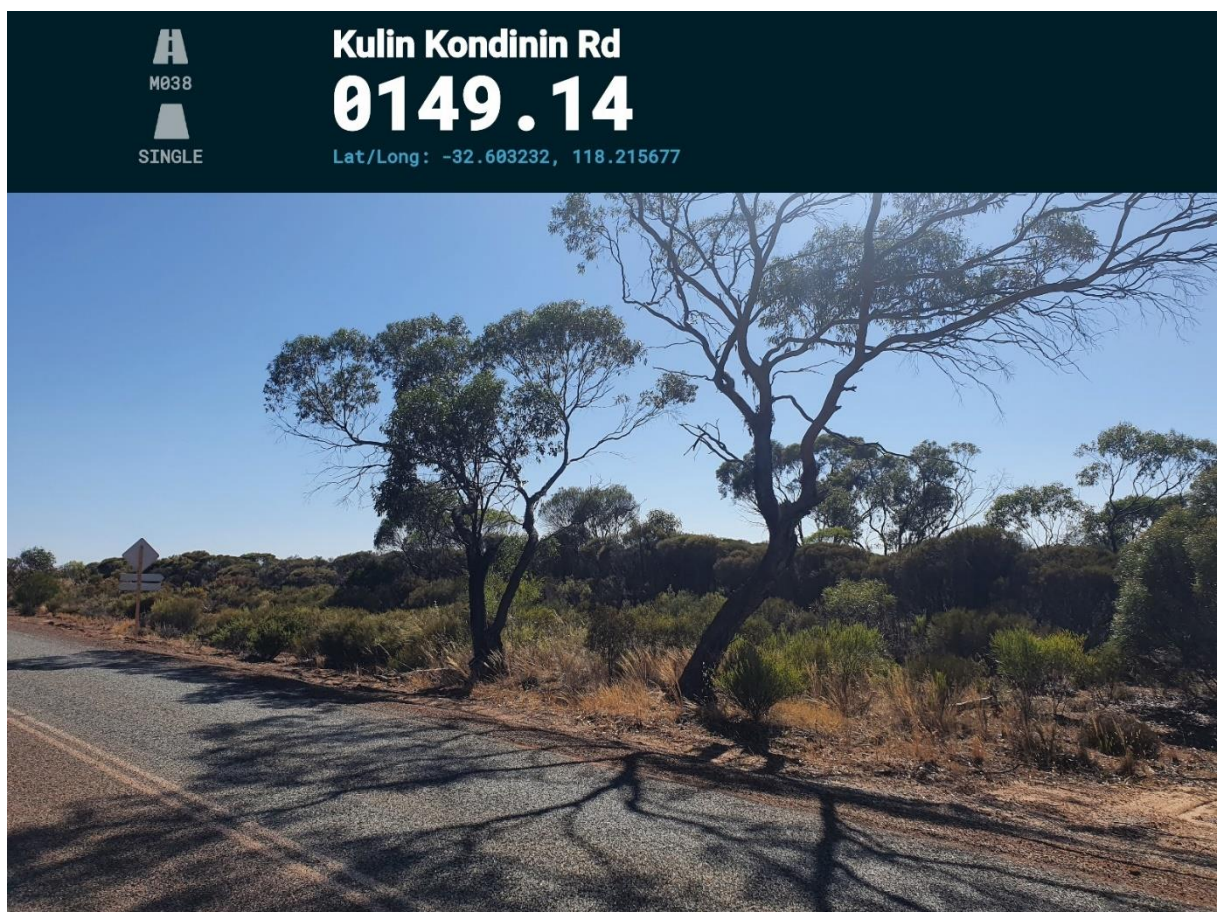
SLK 149.15 and 149.16 - Removal of Tree x2





M038
SINGLE

Kulin Kondinin Rd
0149.15
Lat/Long: -32.603141, 118.215780



M038
SINGLE

Kulin Kondinin Rd
0149.14
Lat/Long: -32.603232, 118.215677