

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	M037 127.95 SLK Tree Removal for Driveway 56 Sightline		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government Authority:	West Arthur		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	M037 Collie Lake King Rd		
Proposal Location (SLK):	127.95		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#191407		
EOS Number:	2639		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	May 2022		
Project No:	21114026	Task Code:	741.16

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The single tree (Wandoo) is blocking the sightline of traffic exiting a farming property at 127.9 SLK (50m to the west of the tree) and needs to be removed to allow safe access onto Collie Lake King Rd.

A 24m Elevated Work Platform (EWP), Truck and Chipper will be used to remove the tree. The stump will also be ground down to below soil level as it is located within the maintenance zone. Mulch will be blown back into road reserve if possible, or removed to approved spoil area. The Proposal area is void of understorey and no vegetation will be impacted from vehicle machinery movements.

LISC (D22#209072)

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

As this Proposal is a single tree removal in the maintenance zone for safety reasons, then there is limited scope to alter the clearing. Only one tree is proposed to be cleared in a Degraded condition.

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

There are limited measures to avoid, mitigate clearing impacts, being a single tree removal due to sightline issues.

The tree will be removed progressively using an EWP, minimising the impact of surrounding vegetation using other felling techniques. The tree will be mulched, with chip being used as mulch on the adjacent cleared road reserve. If there is no cleared road reserve adjacent to the tree, the chip will be removed offsite.

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):	0.018	No. Trees Cleared:	1
Species Names:	<i>E. wandoo</i>		
Easting and Northing:	117° 2' 37.875 -33° 20' 45.643		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 1023 described as Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>).
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	172,875 ha (10.79%) remains at a Statewide level with 2,567 (18.62%) remaining at a LGA level

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 large tree (<i>E. wandoo</i>), located in maintenance zone, with no understorey. According to Main Roads GIS WA Herbarium layer, the closest records were <i>Calytrix pulchella</i> ,(P3), <i>Synaphea brachyceras</i> (P3), <i>Thelymitra sp. Ongerup</i> (P3), <i>Lasiopetalum cardiophyllum</i> (P4) km of the Proposal area.

	<p>According to Main Roads GIS Rare Flora layer, the closest record was <i>Thomasia julietiae</i> (P1) m of the Proposal area.</p> <p>According to EcoEdge (2021), the closest conservation significant flora observation within its (road reserve) survey area between SLK 127.34 – 155.99 was more than 10 km to the east of the Proposal area.</p> <p>EcoEdge (2021) mapped the vegetation unit in the Proposal area as Mid <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. wandoo</i> (and isolated <i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) woodland to open woodland over low <i>Acacia acuminata</i>, <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> woodland over <i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>sedifolia</i>, <i>Acacia pulchella</i> var. <i>glaberrima</i> very open low shrubland. The vegetation was considered to be in a Degraded condition.</p> <p>The Proposal area was mapped by EcoEdge as not containing PEC/TEC.</p> <p>DBCAs Managed Lands (Arthur River Nature Reserve) are located more than 4 km north west of the Proposal area.</p> <p>The Proposal area is not located within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).</p> <p>Western Ecological (2021) undertook a basic terrestrial vertebrate survey (fauna survey) for a section of the Collie-Lake King Road between SLK 127.34-155.99 and mapped the Proposal area tree as being DBH, but it did not contain any hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos. Furthermore, Western Ecological found no evidence of Black Cockatoo foraging, roosting or nesting in the Proposal area. The closest record of foraging evidence (Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo) was in the form of chewed Marri nuts under a small Marri tree 340m east of the Proposal area.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposal area has limited biodiversity value and the proposed clearing is not 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>According to Main Roads GIS Threatened Fauna layer, the closest record was a <i>Phascogale calura</i> (red tailed phascogale) 4.8 km east of the Proposal area.</p> <p>Western Ecological undertook a basic terrestrial vertebrate survey (fauna survey in 2021) for a section of the Collie-Lake King Road between SLK 127.34-155.99. The following five species were identified as either occurring or being likely or possible to occur within the wider survey area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) - OS - possible • Carnaby's Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>) – En - likely • Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>) – Vu – recorded • Western Rosella (<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>) – P4 – recorded • Red-tailed Phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>) – Vu/CD - possible <p>As the Proposal area does not contain mature Rock Sheoak, it is not suitable habitat for Red-tailed Phascogale.</p> <p>The Proposal area is within the mapped range of all three Black Cockatoo species. Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo commonly occur in Jarrah, Karri and Marri forests and also in a range of other forest and woodland types, including Blackbutt, Wandoo, Tuart, Albany Blackbutt, Yate and Flooded Gum (DotEE, 2012). Baudin's Cockatoo is listed as Threatened under the BC Act and Endangered under the EPBC Act. This species usually occurs in heavily forested areas dominated by Marri, Jarrah and Karri. Edith Cowan University & Department of Environment and Conservation (2008) report that Carnaby's have been predominantly observed foraging on the seeds of 52 native species, including <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> (Jarrah) and Marri and the flowers of Marri and</p>

	<p><i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> (Wandoo). The removal of one tree is unlikely to have a significant impact on Black Cockatoo foraging or roosting, especially when there are approximately 4850 ha of similar or better remnant vegetation within the 10km study area. Further evidence and justification to support the unlikely impact on black cockatoo is provided under Principle (a).</p> <p>The single tree is highly unlikely to be significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia. 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>EcoEdge (2021) undertook a targeted flora and vegetation survey of the Collie Lake King road reserve between SLK 127.34 – 155.99.</p> <p>No conservation significant plant species were recorded in or close to the Proposal area during the targeted survey.</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>EcoEdge (2021) undertook a targeted flora and vegetation survey of the Collie Lake King road reserve between SLK 127.34 – 155.99.</p> <p>The Proposal area was mapped by EcoEdge as not containing PEC/TEC.</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>EcoEdge (2021) undertook a targeted flora and vegetation survey of the Collie Lake King road reserve between SLK 127.34 – 155.99.</p> <p>EcoEdge (2021) mapped the vegetation unit in the Proposal area as Mid <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. wandoo</i> (and isolated <i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) woodland to open woodland over low <i>Acacia acuminata</i>, <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> woodland over <i>Acacia lasiocarpa</i> var. <i>sedifolia</i>, <i>Acacia pulchella</i> var. <i>glaberrima</i> very open low shrubland. The vegetation was considered to be in a Degraded condition.</p> <p>One vegetation association of Beard (1976) has been mapped over the Survey area, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation Association 1023 described as a Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo & salmon gum (<i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i>). <p>The pre-European extent remaining of this Vegetation Association is 172,875 ha (10.79%) at a Statewide level with 2,567 (18.62%) remaining at a LGA level.</p> <p>The removal of one large tree (approximately 0.018 ha) in a Degraded condition within the maintenance zone, equates to 0.0007% of this vegetation association at a LGA level, and is not likely to represent vegetation that is significant as a remnant.</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><i>E. wandoo</i> is not representative of riparian vegetation. The closest waterway is approximately 1.2 km east of the Proposal area.</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>DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1% very high to extreme water erosion hazard • 43% high to extreme wind erosion hazard • 0% very poor to poor site drainage potential • 1% moderate salinity hazard <p>The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) has been used to determine the likelihood of Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) occurring within the</p>

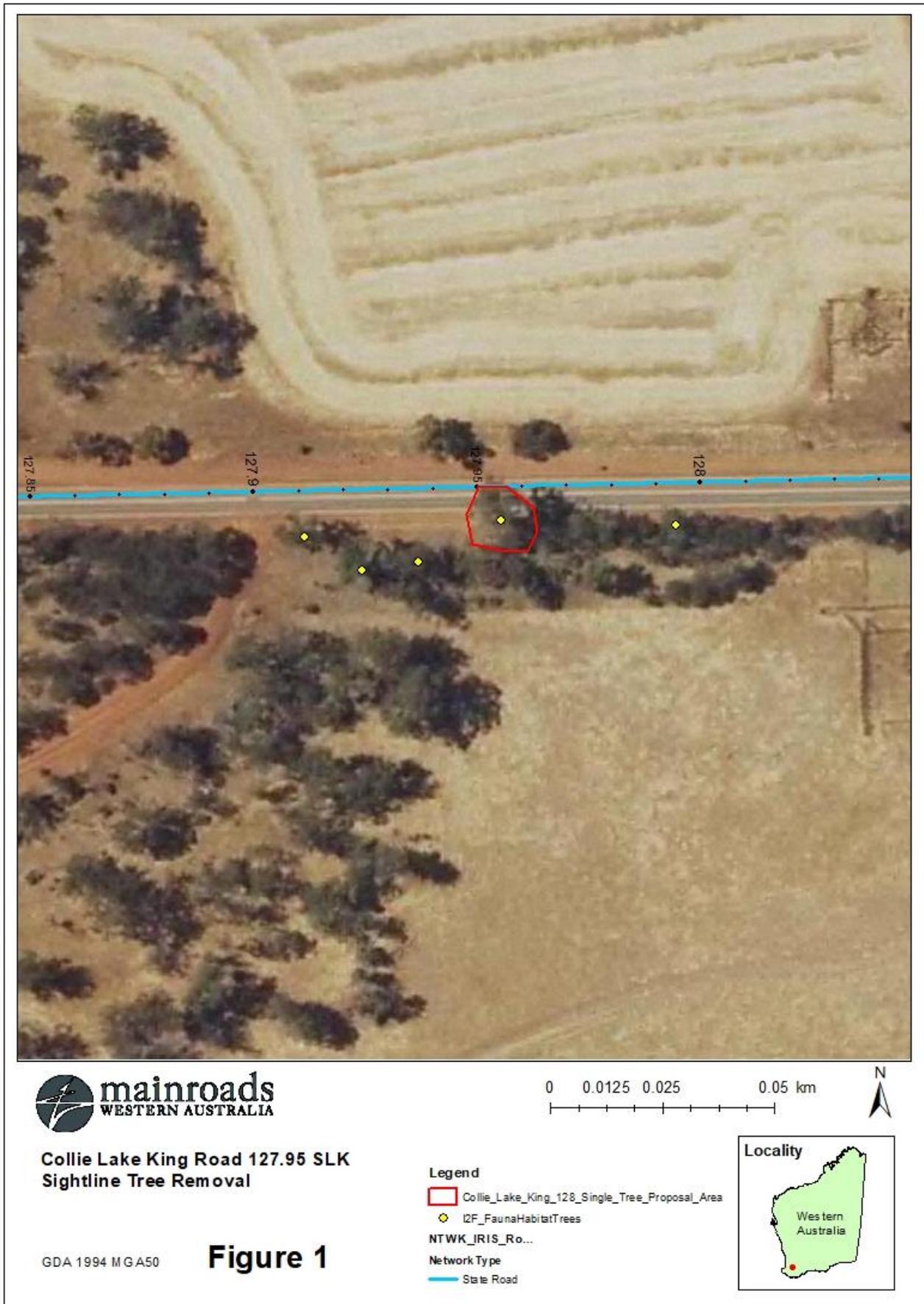
	<p>Proposal area. The ASRIS database (accessed 03-Mar-2022) indicates there is a low probability of occurrence within the Proposal area.</p> <p>The removal of one tree in a degraded condition is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, especially as the majority of the land where the vegetation is located will be covered with road infrastructure.</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>A search of Main Roads GIS shapefiles layers indicates that the closest nature reserve, conservation areas or Bush Forever Sites is the Arthur River Nature Reserve, located more than 4 km north west of the Proposal area. Therefore, no impacts to these areas are anticipated.</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 Proposal area and wider 10km Study area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) or a groundwater or surface water area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RIWI Act), or a catchment proclaimed under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> (CAWS Act).</p> <p>The removal of the tree may require some minor excavation below the surface, but as the Proposal is planned to occur over the summer months, will not intersect groundwater, will not require dewatering, no change to surface or groundwater level or quality is expected.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>The removal of one tree in a degraded condition is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% moderate to high flood hazard • 0% moderate to very high waterlogging and inundation risk <p>A review of ArcGIS shapefiles has confirmed that the proposed works will not disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface run-off patterns.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>Methodology Used and References:</p>	<p>Proposal Area (Figure 1)</p> <p>Contextual photographs of Proposal area (Appendix 1)</p> <p>Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) Mapping (http://www.asris.csiro.au/mapping/viewer.htm)</p> <p>DPIRD mapping (https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/)</p> <p>Main Roads GIS Shapefiles</p> <p>Western Ecological (2021) Fauna Survey – Collie-Lake King Road (D21#1249197)</p> <p>EcoEdge (2021) Detailed and Targeted Flora and Vegetation Survey, Collie-Lake King Road (SLK 58.5 – 64.9, SLK 127.34 – 155.99) (D21#1249331)</p>
<p>Completed By:</p>	
Name	
Signature	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	11-Mar-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	.	
Name		
Signature		
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	16/03/2022	

Appendix 1: Figures and Photographs




Arthur Rd
 M037

0127.91
 Lat/Long: -33.345982, 117.043311
 SINGLE



View of tree from the Driveway


Albany Hwy
 H001

0199.91
 Lat/Long: -33.369031, 117.043549
 SINGLE



View of tree isolated from other vegetation


Arthur Rd
 M037

0127.95
 Lat/Long: -33.345915, 117.043775
 SINGLE



View of tree within maintenance zone