

# Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

## 1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	T4 Widening - M052 – Brookton Hwy – SLK 261 – SLK 277		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Kondinin		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Brookton Hwy M052		
Proposal Location (SLK):	261 – 277		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	Project Area (10m buffer) - D22#851639 CPS 818 - D22#916503		
EOS No:	2691		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	October 2022		
Project No:	2111814	Task Code:	417.01
LISC TRIM No:	D22#611504	HRA TRIM No:	D22#720544

## 2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The proposed works include:

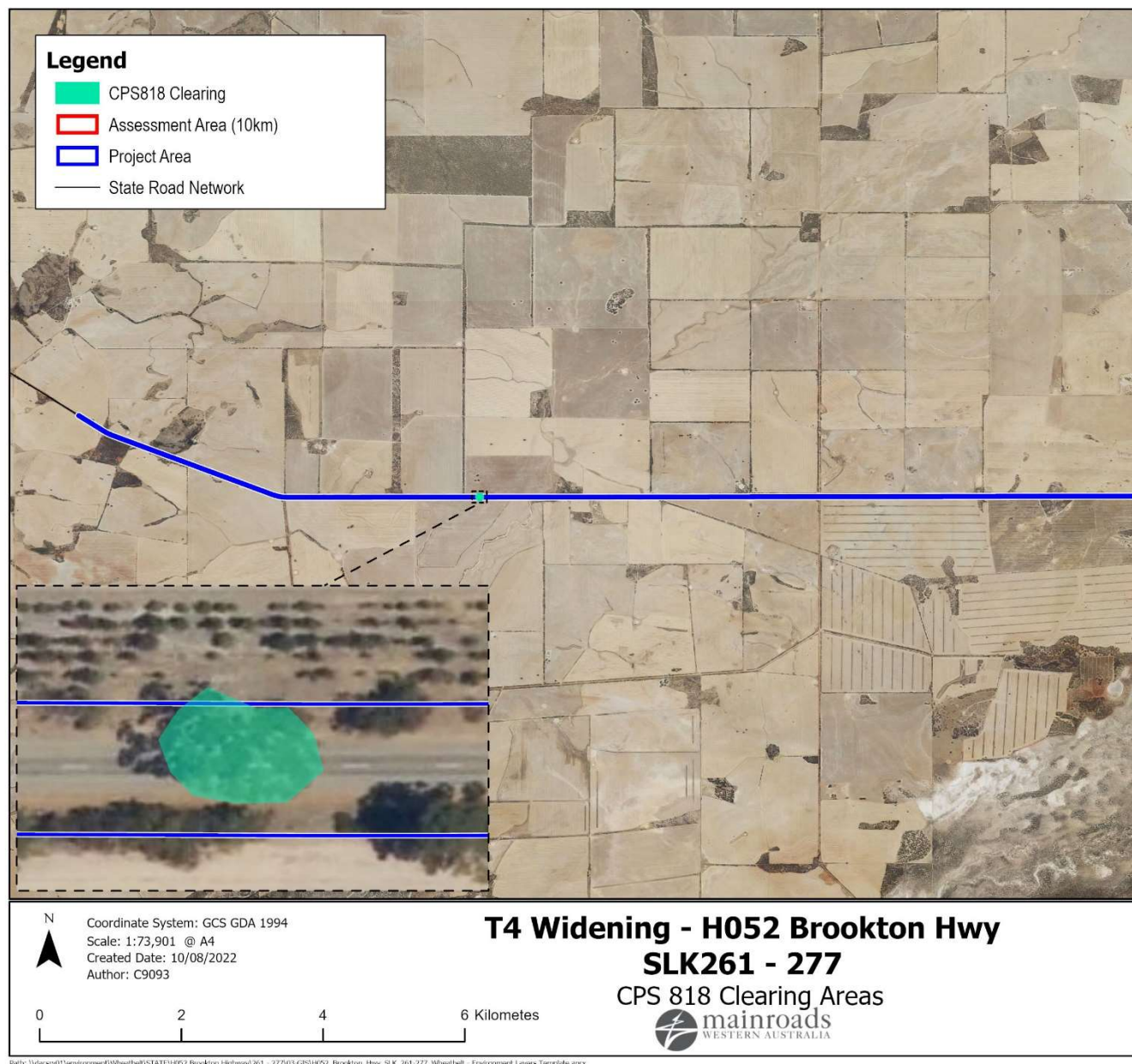
- the repair of several sections of road surface
- Seal widening to 9.0 m on existing formation.
- Clean and reshape drains within the maintenance corridor.

The total project footprint is 7.5m each side of the road centreline.

A single standing tree located at SLK 265.78 (LHS) is displayed in **Appendix 1**.

The proposal will involve the clearing of **0.01 ha** native vegetation.

- This assessment will focus on the one tree identified as being impacted by this Proposal. Photographs and descriptions of proposed clearing are provided in **Appendix 1**, and the locations of proposed clearing are displayed in **Appendix 2: Figures**



**Figure 1 (Appendix 2).**

#### Required Clearing:

IDENTIFIER	SLK	PROPOSED WORKS
Tree 1	265.78 - LHS	Remove – One tree ( <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> ) Height approx. 12m. No hollows. Diameter at breast height (DBH) >500 Contained within completely degraded vegetation with understory dominated by introduced weed species to the exclusion of native vegetation.

### 3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

This section is to be widened on both sides as part of the Blackspot programme following several fatalities and serious crashes along this section in recent years. Where possible, clearing has been avoided and pruning of branches has been employed. As the project will require the clearing to achieve a 9.0 m wide sealed formation on an alignment, no alternatives to clearing exist.

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

The design and management measures implemented to avoid and minimise the clearing impacts by the project are:

- Steepen batter slopes - The widened seal is proposed to stay within the existing road formation. Batters will be steepened as required to achieve the target seal width.
- Installation of safety barriers - The single tree is too close to the road to allow for the safe and effective use of safety barriers.
- Alignment to one side of existing road - The widened seal is proposed to stay within the existing road formation which occurs on either side of the seal.

In addition, impacts to vegetation will be minimised through the implementation of the following measures:

- the clearing area will be demarcated prior to the commencement of native vegetation clearing;
- where possible vegetation will be pruned as opposed to removed;
- further Project clearing will be avoided as the site office, materials storage areas, construction vehicles/machinery and access tracks will be located on previously disturbed or cleared areas; and
- development and implementation of a site-specific CEMP which will establish the following vegetation management actions including:
  - clearing and access control measures (such as demarcation of clearing boundaries);
  - weed and dieback management;
  - erosion and sediment control;
  - waste and fire management;
  - topsoil management;
  - dust control; and
  - tree and vegetation retention where possible.

## 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

<b>Clearing Area (ha):</b>	0.01 ha	<b>No. Trees Cleared:</b>	1
<b>Species Name:</b>	Tree 1 - <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>		
<b>Easting and Northing:</b>	Tree 1 – GDA 94 MGA Zone 50 631473mN 6401748mE		

## 7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

<b>Site Vegetation Description/Association:</b>	Vegetation within the proposed clearing area comprises an isolated individual of <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> in a narrow road reserve adjacent to farmland, with an understory comprised of introduced weed species, to the exclusion of native species. No conservation significant flora species were noted.
<b>Site Vegetation Condition:</b>	Vegetation proposed to be cleared is in a completely degraded condition.
<b>Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):</b>	Vegetation Association Hyden (131) retains 8.21% of its representation at the State-wide scale, 8.99% at the IBRA Subregion scale and 8.34% within the Shire of Kondinin.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

<b>Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:</b>	<b>Justification or Evidence:</b>
<b>Principle (a)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	<p>Vegetation within the clearing area is Completely degraded and comprises a single isolated tree located within the road reserve, adjacent to historically cleared farmland. The understory is dominated by introduced weeds to the exclusion of native species.</p> <p>As the understory is comprised entirely of introduced weed species, no clearing of native understory vegetation is proposed. Analysis of GIS Flora databases reveal that no known Threatened or Priority flora species occur within 200m of the tree to be cleared (<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>). Removal of a single tree will not impact the biological diversity of the area.</p>

	<b>Not at variance</b>
<b>Principle (b)</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>Analysis of Main Roads GIS Threatened Fauna layer reveal that no known Threatened or Priority fauna species within 4kms of the tree to be cleared</p> <p>The isolated vegetation within the Completely degraded and sparsely vegetated road corridor provides very limited habitat for any fauna and no functional habitat linkage for native fauna.</p> <p>The tree proposed to be cleared does not provide significant habitat for fauna species and is unlikely to provide significant foraging or roosting habitat for black cockatoo species (specifically Carnaby's cockatoo). The removal of one individual of Wandoo containing no hollows is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the species.</p> <p>Removal of a single tree will not impact vegetation necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (c)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	<p>MRWA flora and herbarium GIS layers database searches identified no known Threatened or priority flora species within 200m of the proposal development envelope (<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>). As the understory is comprised entirely of introduced weed species, no clearing of native understory vegetation is proposed.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (d)</b> – 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>Analysis of GIS datasets suggest that the Commonwealth listed TEC <i>Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt</i> may occur within 1,500m of the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>No proposed clearing areas intersect these mapped areas of TEC. Furthermore, the vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represented the TEC in accordance with the criteria listed in "<i>Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt: a nationally protected ecological community</i>" (Commonwealth of Australia 2016).</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (e)</b> – 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>The proposed clearing is located within the Western Mallee subregion of the Mallee Bioregion, and within the Hyden Vegetation Association.</p> <p>Vegetation Association Hyden (131) retains 8.21% of its representation at the State-wide scale, 8.99% at the IBRA Subregion scale and 8.34% within the Shire of Kondinin.</p> <p>Although there is not a high proportion of the vegetation association remaining, the clearing of one standing tree within a Completely degraded area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (f)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with,	<p>The proposed clearing is not located within or in association with a watercourse or wetland and the species proposed to be removed are not 'wetland/riparian' species.</p>




an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	<b>Not at variance</b>
<b>Principle (g)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	<p>Given the very small area (0.01 ha) and isolated nature of the clearing it is not likely to lead to an appreciable increase in land degradation. Standard erosion and dust management control measures will be implemented during construction to reduce the incidence of wind erosion.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (h)</b> – 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>A search of ArcGIS shapefiles indicates no nature reserves, conservation areas, Environmentally Sensitive Areas or Bush Forever Sites are located within 100 metres of the clearing area.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (i)</b> – 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>The proposed clearing is not located within a watercourse. Analysis of GIS databases show that the Clearing Area is not located within a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RIWI Act Surface Water or Irrigation district;</li> <li>• Public Drinking Water Source Area; or</li> <li>• CAWSA Clearing Control Catchment.</li> </ul> <p>Although the Clearing area is mapped to be within a ground water area proclaimed under the RIWI Act, dewatering no drainage modifications are required, hence no change to groundwater level or quality is anticipated.</p> <p>Standard operational controls will be implemented with regards to potential spill risks.</p> <p>Given no dewatering or major drainage modifications are likely to be required and the scale of clearing is very minor (one tree), no deterioration of surface or underground water levels or quality is expected to result from clearing.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>
<b>Principle (j)</b> – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	<p>Online data from the Bureau of Meteorology was analysed for annual rainfall data at the closest weather station to the Project, Kondinin, located 7.5km to the west of the project area. Mean annual Rainfall for Kondinin is 370mm per annum (BOM 2022).</p> <p>According to DPIRDs Natural Resource Soil Information, the Clearing Area has a low flood hazard risk. The Clearing Area is located in the following soil landscape map units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corrigin System: Gently undulating rises to undulating low hills in the southern wheatbelt, with laterite, sandy and loamy gravels, duplexes, loamy earths and clays over mixed mafic rock. Heath, Mallee and Salmon Gum vegetation.</li> </ul> <p>The above map units has been assessed as exhibiting a very low risk of poor drainage potential.</p> <p>The proposed clearing involves the removal of one tree (0.01ha) adjacent to an existing road corridor. Given the very small, isolated patch of clearing proposed within a largely vegetated local landscape, clearing is unlikely to exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p><b>Not at variance</b></p>

<b>Methodology Used and References:</b>	<p>Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) 2022. Climatic Statistics for Australian Locations: Monthly climate statistics, [Online], Australian Government, Available from: <a href="http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/">http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/</a></p> <p>Commonwealth of Australia (2016) '<i>Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt: a nationally protected ecological community</i>' Department of Environment and Energy</p> <p>Photographs of the tree: <b>Appendix 1</b></p> <p>Google Street view imagery</p> <p>Main Roads IRIS reporting centre Video Player</p> <p>Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D22#916503</p> <p>Natural Resource Management in WA. 2021 SLIP portal, Soil-Landscape Mapping. Available online from: <a href="http://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrminfo/framesetup.asp">http://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrminfo/framesetup.asp</a>. Accessed 2022.</p>
<b>Completed By:</b>	
<b>Job Title</b>	Environmental officer
<b>Date</b>	13/09/2022

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
<b>Clearing Assessment</b>	<b>ENDORSED</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>REFUSED</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Comments</b>	Sufficient evidence and justification have been included in the CDR short form to demonstrate that the removal of a single tree is not at variance with the 10 clearing principles.	
<b>Job Title</b>	Senior Environment Officer	
<b>Date</b>	16/09/2022	

Appendix 1: Photographs and Descriptions of Tree Proposed to be Cleared

IDENTIFIER	COMMENT	PHOTOS
Tree 1 (SLK265.78 – LHS)	<p>1 x Mature <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>.</p> <p>DBH &gt;50cm</p> <p>Height 12m</p> <p>No hollows</p> <p>Contained within completely degraded vegetation with understory grass species to the exclusion of native vegetation.</p> <p><b>To be cleared under CPS 818</b></p>	<div><div><div>A</div><div>H052</div><div></div><div>SINGLE</div></div><div><div>Kondinin Hyden Rd</div><div>0265.78</div><div>Lat/Long: -32.513773, 118.399813</div></div></div> 



Appendix 2: Figures

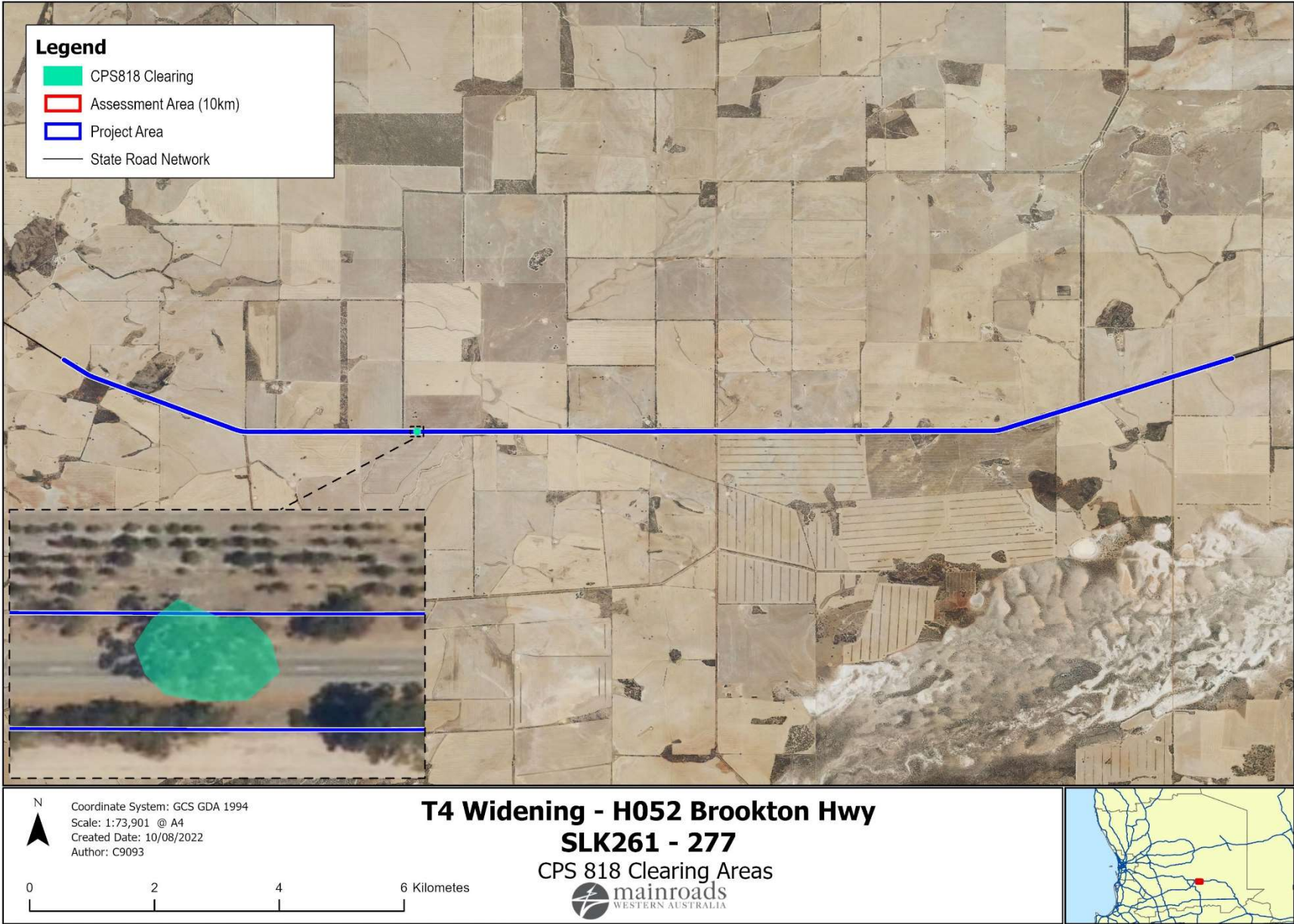


Figure 1: Proposed Clearing locations