

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Pinjarra Williams Road widening – single tree removal SLK 59.45		
Region/Directorate:	South West Region		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Boddington		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Pinjarra Williams Road M053.		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 59.45		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#1120728		
EOS No:	2875		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	24/10/2022		
Project No:	21113668	Task Code:	11.01
LISC TRIM No:	D22#1120770	HRA TRIM No:	D22#1121540

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

An existing project is currently under construction to widen sections of Pinjarra Williams Road between SLK 59.25 and SLK 61.75. The project comprises:

- Seal widening (from approximately 7-8m to 10m) to improve road safety,
- Provide 1.5 m sealed shoulders on both sides including adjacent to kerbing,
- Minor culvert extension works at existing culvert locations,
- Install road safety barrier typically where batters are steeper than 1:3 or are higher than 1.5m,
- Overlay of the existing road pavement.

The works were also previously assessed and endorsed internally by the MRWA CRSP Team. Relevant TRIM references to endorsements include:

- PERA (B20#25629) – Endorsement (B20#25629)
- Clearing Impact Assessment (B20#25626) – Endorsement (B20#27208)

It has been identified that a tree not included in the projects original clearing footprint cannot be avoided during the construction works. Removal of a 75-100cm DBH tree, with no hollows (SLK 59.45) is required to progress the works. Clearing required will be less than 0.03 ha in total taken as the drip line of the tree in question. Tree removal will be undertaken by cherry picker with chainsaw/pole saw and stump grinder. No native understory clearing will be undertaken.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

It has been identified that a tree not included in the projects original clearing footprint actually cannot be avoided during the construction works.

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

A range of management measures have implemented across the larger road widening project in order to avoid and minimise project clearing impacts and these have been detailed in Section 5.1 of the previously endorsed Clearing Impact Assessment (B20#25626). The tree in question was previously excluded from required clearing but during construction it has been determined that cannot be avoided.

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):	Up to 0.03 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	1
Species Name:	Jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>)		
Easting and Northing:	441618 E; 6363801 N GDA 2020 MGA Zone 50		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 3 described as a Medium forest: jarrah-marri
Site Vegetation Condition:	Good (EPA 2016; Ecoedge 2020)

Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	67.76
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>The tree proposed for removal is a Jarrah (<i>E. marginata</i>) with DBH of 75-100cm (D22#1122300). The vegetation within the proposal area was rated as Good condition (EPA 2016; Ecoedge 2020), presenting as a narrow strip of roadside remnant adjacent to cleared farmland which Ecoedge (2020) described as vegetation unit JW:</p> <p><i>'Woodland to open forest of Eucalyptus wandoo, E. marginata and Corymbia calophylla over tall shrubland of Acacia celastrifolia and Hakea prostrata over open shrubland of Allocasuarina humilis, Hakea lissocarpa, Macrozamia riedlei, Phyllanthus calycinus and Xanthorrhoea preissii and open sedgeland of Lepidosperma leptostachyum and open grassland of Rytidosperma spp. on yellow-brown gravelly loam.'</i></p> <p>The JW vegetation unit did not resemble a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (TEC/PEC).</p> <p>The larger survey undertaken by Ecoedge (2020) [SLK 51.98 to 65.8] identified 126 flora taxa of which two Priority species <i>Gastrolobium</i> sp. Prostrate Boddington (M. Hislop 2130) (P1) and <i>Goodenia katabudjar</i> (P3) were found to occur. Five individuals of <i>Goodenia katabudjar</i> (P3) were found to occur directly adjacent to the tree proposed for removal. These individuals were approved for removal under the previously endorsed clearing envelope (endorsement [B20#27208]; clearing footprint shapefile [B20#27340]) and therefore no further approval is being sought under this clearing assessment. Given the methodology proposed to remove the tree by cherry picker with chainsaw/pole saw and stump grinder, no impacts to these Priority flora or other native understory species are proposed or expected.</p> <p>A total of 48 native fauna species were observed (or positively identified from foraging evidence, scats, tracks, skeletons or calls) in the wider survey area (Harewood 2017). Harewood noted that with respect to native vertebrate fauna, 22 mammals (including nine bat species), 126 bird, 44 reptile, 17 frog and three fish species have previously been recorded in the general area. Four Threatened or Priority fauna species were identified including the three Threatened black cockatoo species and Western Brush Wallaby.</p> <p>Black Cockatoo</p> <p>The proposal will require removal of one Jarrah tree (DBH 75-100cm, containing no hollows) (Harewood 2017). Three species of Threatened black cockatoo (Carnaby's Cockatoo; Baudin's Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo) are considered likely to occur within the proposal area (Harewood 2017).</p>

	<p>Although the proposal is located within a known breeding area, the tree proposed for removal does not contain hollows suitable for breeding/roosting and the nearest known roosting area is approximately 2.4 km to the north west. The closest DBCA reserve, the Dwellingup State Forest, is located approximately 1.1 km to the south and is over 50 ha in size.</p> <p>The tree represents approximately 0.03 ha of foraging habitat which will be removed as part of the proposal. This area of foraging habitat is of low significance being well under the one hectare criteria identified in the Commonwealth EPBC Act referral guidelines (DAWE 2022). In a local context, there are reserved areas available within 5 km with quality foraging and breeding resources as well as large patches of remnant vegetation which would likely provide breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos. The proposal to remove one DBH tree (no hollows) and 0.03 ha of foraging habitat is not likely to have a significant impact of any of the Threatened black cockatoo species.</p> <p>There are no local nor regional ecological linkages that will be impacted by the removal of one tree. There are no environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) within the vicinity of the proposal area.</p> <p>Western Brush Wallaby</p> <p>The Western Brush Wallaby is known to occur in the local area but is expected to mostly rely on the larger areas of suitable habitat nearby that will not be impacted. Therefore, the proposed removal of one tree adjacent to the existing road is not expected to impact on significant habitat for the species.</p> <p>Works are unlikely to have a significant impact on biodiversity and are not likely to be at variance with this clearing 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>The tree proposed for removal is a Jarrah (<i>E. marginata</i>) with DBH of 75-100cm (D22#1122300). The vegetation within the proposal area was rated as Good condition (EPA 2016; Ecoedge 2020), presenting as a narrow strip of roadside remnant adjacent to cleared farmland which Ecoedge (2020) described as vegetation unit JW:</p> <p><i>'Woodland to open forest of Eucalyptus wandoo, E. marginata and Corymbia calophylla over tall shrubland of Acacia celastrifolia and Hakea prostrata over open shrubland of Allocasuarina humilis, Hakea lissocarpa, Macrozamia riedlei, Phyllanthus calycinus and Xanthorrhoea preissii and open sedgeland of Lepidosperma leptostachyum and open grassland of Rytidosperma spp. on yellow-brown gravelly loam.'</i></p> <p>A total of 48 native fauna species were observed (or positively identified from foraging evidence, scats, tracks, skeletons or calls) in the wider survey area (Harewood 2017). Harewood noted that with respect to native vertebrate fauna, 22 mammals (including nine bat species), 126 bird, 44 reptile, 17 frog and three fish species have previously been recorded in the general area. Four Threatened or Priority fauna species were identified including the</p>

	<p>three Threatened black cockatoo species and Western Brush Wallaby.</p> <p>Black Cockatoo The proposal will require removal of one Jarrah tree (DBH 75-100cm, and no hollows) (Harewood 2017). Three species of Threatened black cockatoo (Carnaby's Cockatoo; Baudin's Cockatoo and Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo) are considered likely to occur within the proposal area (Harewood 2017). Although the proposal is located within a known breeding area, the tree proposed for removal does not contain hollows suitable for breeding/roosting and the nearest known roosting area is approximately 2.4 km to the north west. The closest DBCA reserve over 50 ha in size is approximately 1.1 km to the south and is associated with the Dwellingup State Forest.</p> <p>The tree represents approximately 0.03 ha of foraging habitat which will be removed as part of the proposal. This area of foraging habitat is of negligible significance being well under the one hectare criteria identified in the Commonwealth EPBC Act referral guidelines (DAWE 2022). In a local context, there are reserved areas available within 5 km with quality foraging and breeding resources as well as large patches of remnant vegetation which would likely provide breeding and foraging habitat for black cockatoos. The proposal to remove one DBH tree (no hollows) and 0.03 ha of foraging habitat is not likely to have a significant impact of any of the Threatened black cockatoo species.</p> <p>There are no local nor regional ecological linkages that will be impacted by the removal of one tree. There are no environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) within the vicinity of the proposal area.</p> <p>Western Brush Wallaby The Western Brush Wallaby is known to occur in the local area but is expected to mostly rely on the larger areas of suitable habitat nearby that will not be impacted. Therefore, the proposed removal of one tree adjacent to the existing road is not expected to impact on significant habitat for the species.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with this Principle.</p>
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	<p>No Declared Rare (Threatened) Flora were identified or considered likely to occur in the proposal area (Ecoedge 2020). Regardless the tree removal will be undertaken by cherry picker with chainsaw/pole saw and stump grinder and no understory clearing will be undertaken.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is therefore not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Principle (d) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or	<p>The vegetation within the proposal area was rated as Good condition (EPA 2016; Ecoedge 2020), presenting as a narrow strip</p>

<p>is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.</p>	<p>of roadside remnant adjacent to cleared farmland which Ecoedge (2020) described as vegetation unit JW:</p> <p><i>'Woodland to open forest of Eucalyptus wandoo, E. marginata and Corymbia calophylla over tall shrubland of Acacia celastrifolia and Hakea prostrata over open shrubland of Allocasuarina humilis, Hakea lissocarpa, Macrozamia riedlei, Phyllanthus calycinus and Xanthorrhoea preissii and open sedgeland of Lepidosperma leptostachyum and open grassland of Rytidosperma spp. on yellow-brown gravelly loam.'</i></p> <p>The JW vegetation unit did not resemble a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (TEC/PEC). No other Threatened Ecological Communities were found in proximity to the proposal area (Ecoedge 2020).</p> <p>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>Within the Jarrah Forrest IBRA region and Shire of Boddington Vegetation Association 3 is well represented and retains 67.1 % and 73.55% of its pre-European extent respectively (Government of Western Australia 2022). Vegetation Association 3 is therefore well above the 30% statewide representation threshold.</p> <p>Given the above, the small extent of clearing proposed (0.03 ha), the proposed clearing is not likely to comprise a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance with 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 Hotham River at SLK 61.5 (approximately 1.2km east of the proposal area) and a small ephemeral drainage line (tributary of the Hotham River) at SLK 60.88 are the only waterways in the vicinity of the proposal area (SLK 59.45). No clearing vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland is proposed.</p> <p>Given the above, the proposed works are not likely to be at variance with 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>ASRIS ASS risk mapping shows the proposal area as having an 'extremely low probability of occurrence', with '1-5% chance in small localised areas' of the project area. No excavation is proposed for the removal of the tree which will be removed by cherry picker with chainsaw/pole saw and stump grinder.</p> <p>Soil salinity is unlikely to increase in the project area (on or off-site) by the removal of one tree. Due to the small scale of the proposed clearing (0.03 ha), the proposal is also unlikely to result in increased wind or water erosion, particularly since removal of native understory is not proposed.</p> <p>The proposal is not within or adjacent to land managed by DBCA. Dieback will be managed through existing controls within the existing CEMP (B20#26130).</p>

	On the basis of the above and considering the small scale of clearing (0.03ha), the proposed clearing is not expected to cause appreciable land degradation. Therefore, the Project clearing is not likely to be 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.	<p>All works will take place within the M053 road reserve. No conservation areas will be impacted directly by the proposal. Adjacent tenure consists of mining leases, local road reserves and freehold land. The closest DBCA managed land (Dwellingup State Forest) is located approximately 1.1 km to the south of the proposal area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation areas and is therefore not at variance to this Principle.</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>The proposal is located within the proclaimed Murray River System. However, no licenses under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (RiWI Act) are required as no water extraction, dewatering or significant modifications to the existing drainage patterns are proposed.</p> <p>The Project does not intersect any Public drinking water source areas (PDWSAs). The Hotham River at SLK 61.5 and a small ephemeral drainage line at SLK 60.88 are the only waterways in the vicinity of the Project area (approximately 1.2 km to the east). No clearing is proposed at the Hotham River.</p> <p>Considering the above and the small scale of the proposed clearing (0.03 ha), the proposal is not expected to cause any change to the quality of surface or groundwater. Therefore, the Project 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 or intensity of flooding.	<p>The small-scale vegetation clearing for the proposal (one tree) will not alter existing drainage or change drainage volumes in the local area. Consequently, the proposal will not cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Methodology Used and References:	<p>Addendum to Level 1 Flora and Vegetation Survey (Ecoedge 2020, B20#7851)</p> <p>Habitat tree assessment (Harewood 2020; B20#845)</p> <p>Photographs of the tree (D22#1122300)</p> <p>Shapefile of clearing area/tree (D22#1120728)</p> <p>Main Roads GIS shapefiles</p>
Completed By:	
Name	
Signature	
Job Title	Environment Officer
Date	20/10/2022

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	<p>I note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal involves the clearing of one Jarrah tree (0.03ha). • The tree is between DBH 75cm and 100cm and contains no hollows. • Due to the clearing methodology proposed (cherry picker, chainsaw/ pole saw and stump grinder) the tree is able to be removed without impacting the understory • The tree is not located within a TEC/PEC • The clearing of a single tree is unlikely to pose a significant impact to MNES 	
Name		
Signature		
Job Title	CRSP	
Date	20/10/2022	

Appendix 1



Plate 1: Photo of tree to be removed