

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	South Western Highway Sightline Clearing (SLK 498.49-498.59)		
Region/Directorate:	Great Southern Region		
Local Government Authority:	City of Albany		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	South Western Highway (H009)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 498.49-498.59 (clearing 15 individual trees)		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#551032		
EOS No:	2739		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	28 June 2022		
Project No:	21114034	Task Code:	741.05
LISC TRIM No:	D22#545526	HRA TRIM No:	D22#559897

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

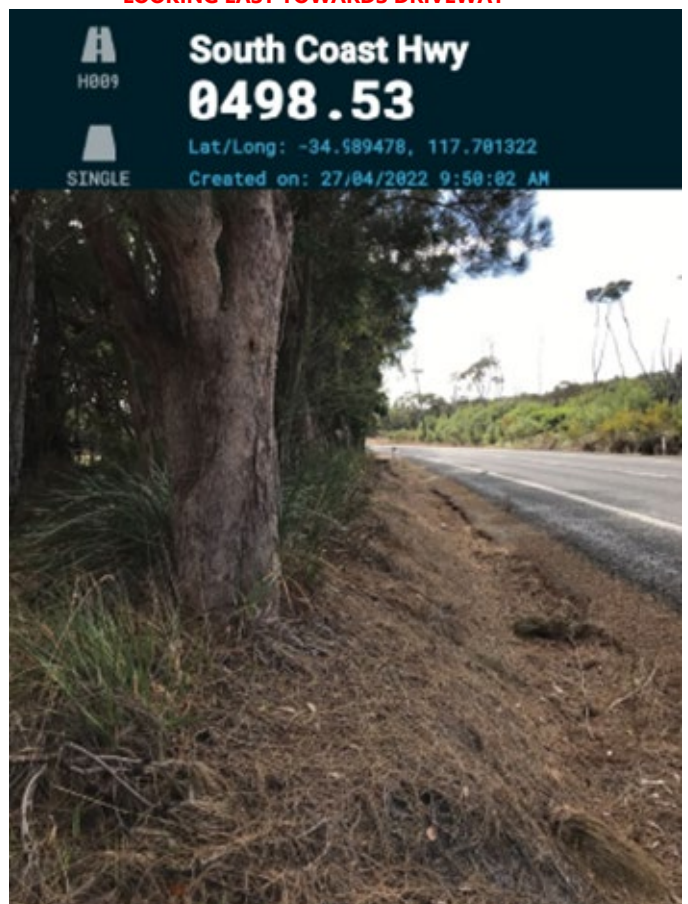
GSR received a landowner request from 48954 South Western Highway (H009 SLK 498.59) regarding poor sight distance from his driveway. A site visit confirmed there is insufficient line of sight to eastbound traffic from the driveway and that pruning the vegetation within the maintenance zone will be inadequate to achieve an acceptable line of sight – thirteen individual *Allocasuarina* Sheoak trees and two individual *Eucalyptus pilularis* Blackbutt trees (one of which is dead) located beyond the Maintenance area require removal instead (as shown in **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

When cleared, the stumps of the trees will be left in place, minimising ground disturbance. Mulch/spoil from the cleared vegetation will be spread evenly into the road reserve and any excess removed from site and disposed of by the subcontractor at their private mulch pile.

LOOKING WEST FROM DRIVEWAY



LOOKING EAST TOWARDS DRIVEWAY



3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no reasonable alternatives, since pruning and clearing of the trees is required to achieve an acceptable line of sight for eastbound traffic and vehicles exiting the landowner's driveway.

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

The impact of the Works has been reduced to as low as reasonably practicable by undertaking multiple environmental site inspections with suitably qualified officers to confirm and refine the minimum line of sight that needs to be achieved to minimise clearing of native vegetation.

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:



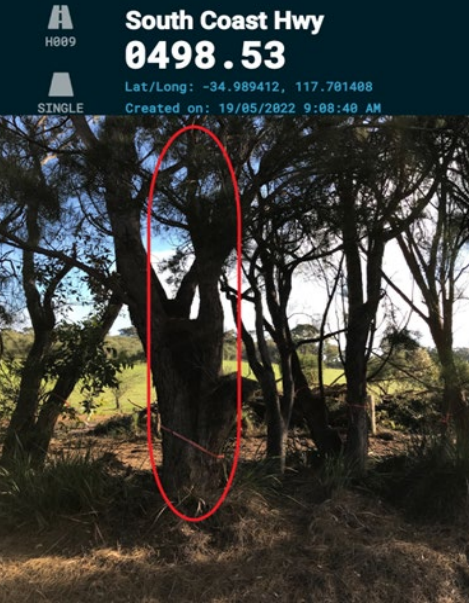

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DEC, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, 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

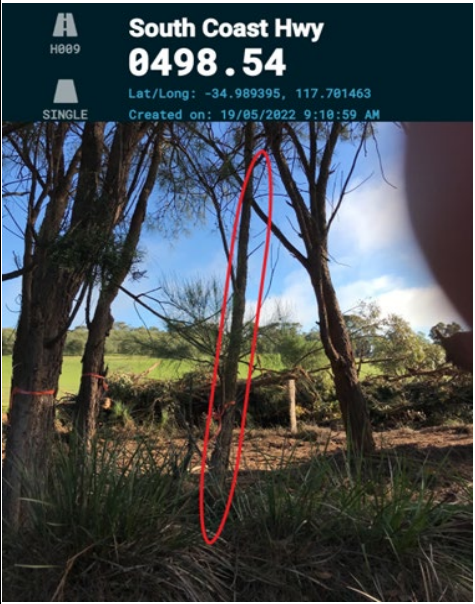





Figure 1: Location of Project – South Western Highway (H009) Sightline Clearing (SLK 498.49-498.59)

Table 1: Details of 15 trees that require removal – South Western Highway (H009) Sightline Clearing (SLK 498.49-498.59)

TREE_ID	RHS of South Western Highway (H009) SLK	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPECIES	PHOTO
1	498.51	-34.989443	117.701175	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	
2	498.52	-34.98945	117.701327	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	
3	498.52	-34989314	117.701392	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	

TREE_ID	RHS of South Western Highway (H009) SLK	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPECIES	PHOTO
4, 5, 6, 7	498.53	-34.989384	117.70137	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.53 Lat/Long: -34.989314, 117.701392 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:05:17 AM</p>
8	498.53	-34.98412	117.701408	Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.53 Lat/Long: -34.989410, 117.701404 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:07:28 AM</p>
9	498.53	-34.989389	117.701455	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH possibly >30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.53 Lat/Long: -34.989412, 117.701408 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:08:40 AM</p>
10, 11	498.54	-34.989395	117.701463	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.54 Lat/Long: -34.989389, 117.701455 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:10:19 AM</p>

TREE_ID	RHS of South Western Highway (H009) SLK	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	SPECIES	PHOTO
12	498.54	-34.989396	117.701464	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.54 Lat/Long: -34.989395, 117.701463 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:10:59 AM</p>
13	498.54	-34.989342	117.701508	Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.54 Lat/Long: -34.989342, 117.701508 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:11:48 AM</p>
14	498.55	-34.989397	117.701598	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH possibly >30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.55 Lat/Long: -34.989342, 117.701508 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:14:03 AM</p>
15	498.55	-34.989258	117.701641	Allocasuarina (Sheoak) DBH <30cm	 <p>South Coast Hwy 0498.55 Lat/Long: -34.989397, 117.701598 Created on: 19/05/2022 9:14:54 AM</p>

6. CLEARING AREA																													
Clearing Area (ha):	0.0375 (15 trees, assuming an average of 0.0025ha per tree – 5m x 5m)	No. Trees Cleared:	15																										
Species Name:	13 x <i>Allocasuarina</i> (Sheoak) 2 x <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> (Blackbutt)																												
Easting and Northing:	Central GPS co-ordinate @ H009 SLK 498.54SLK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latitude/Longitude: -34.989485, 117.701498 Easting/Northing: 564021.59 E, 6127898.26 N 																												
7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION																													
Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 51 - Sedgeland; reed swamps, occasionally with heath																												
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	<p>> 30% (from Vegetation Statistics Statewide 2018 Full Report; Sheet 1a Column D)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Pre-European Vegetation Association No. 51 Scale</th> <th>Pre-European (ha)</th> <th>Current Extent (ha)</th> <th>% Remaining</th> <th>% Remaining in DBCA reserves</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Statewide</td> <td>59,085.59</td> <td>33,057.98</td> <td>55.95</td> <td>68.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IBRA Bioregion <i>Jarrah Forest</i></td> <td>19,962.06</td> <td>7,187.97</td> <td>36.01</td> <td>32.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IBRA Sub-region <i>Southern Jarrah Forest</i></td> <td>19,899.01</td> <td>7,124.92</td> <td>35.81</td> <td>31.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Local Government Authority <i>City of Albany</i></td> <td>17,586.13</td> <td>5,751.05</td> <td>32.70</td> <td>21.54</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Pre-European Vegetation Association No. 51 Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA reserves	Statewide	59,085.59	33,057.98	55.95	68.81	IBRA Bioregion <i>Jarrah Forest</i>	19,962.06	7,187.97	36.01	32.26	IBRA Sub-region <i>Southern Jarrah Forest</i>	19,899.01	7,124.92	35.81	31.66	Local Government Authority <i>City of Albany</i>	17,586.13	5,751.05	32.70	21.54
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Site Vegetation Condition: <i>Based on Env Site Inspection</i>	Predominantly <i>Allocasuarina</i> Sheoaks and <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> Blackbutt trees Limited weed cover < 10% with 80% leaf litter. Degraded vegetation condition rating (EPA 2016) based on site Inspections by SNC and MRWA Vegetation Control Officers (D22#678665)																												
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 Project proposes to remove 15 isolated trees (13 x <i>Allocasuarina</i> Sheoaks and 2 x <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> Blackbutt trees).</p> <p>As shown in Figure 2, the Project is not located within a mapped boundary of a Priority or Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). MRWA flora and herbarium GIS searches identified no known threatened or priority flora species within 300m of the Project and MRWA fauna GIS layers identified no known threatened fauna occurrences or Black Cockatoo breeding, roosting or foraging areas within 700m of the Project. The Project is within the Western Ringtail Possum Management Zone; however, given clearing of only 15 trees is proposed, long-term fauna habitat impacts are unlikely and the clearing will be undertaken in accordance with the Main Roads WA Fauna PEMR.</p> <p>The remnant vegetation condition is classified as good, with low weed cover and minimal understorey, but the clearing of 15 trees is unlikely to have a significant impact on the level of biodiversity of the 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>The PMST report identified the following conservation significant fauna as potentially occurring within 10km of the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i> (Critically Endangered, Western Ringtail Possum), - <i>Parantechinus apicalis</i> (Endangered, Dibbler) and - <i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i> (Vulnerable, Chuditch / Western Quoll). <p>Furthermore, the Project is within the Western Ringtail Possum Management Zone.</p> <p>All the above listed species are highly transitory and unlikely to rely on the individual trees proposed for removal. In addition, the trees are located in exposed roadside areas that are unlikely to provide the necessary habitat for these species, which prefer habitats with significant vegetative cover/understorey.</p> <p>The trees proposed for removal do not contain any hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos and occur in exposed roadside areas with sparse vegetation. As such, the trees proposed to be cleared are considered to represent limited fauna habitat value.</p> <p>The removal of the 15 trees 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>As shown in Figure 2, MRWA flora and herbarium GIS layers database searches identified no known Threatened or priority flora species within 300m of the Project. Based on the highly modified nature of the vegetation proposed to be cleared and the absence of priority flora within 300m of the Project, and the Project requiring the removal of 15 individual trees, impacts to rare flora are highly unlikely.</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>As shown in Figure 2, a search of state (DBCA) databases did not identify the presence of any State-listed TECs within 350m of the Project. Furthermore, no vegetation associated with TECs were observed during the Environmental Site Inspection.</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 is within the Pre-European Vegetation Association No. 51 - Sedgeland, which has more than 30% remaining State-wide. Given the small-scale nature of clearing (removal of 15 isolated trees) and that the vegetation is not under-represented, the proposed clearing is not considered to have a significant impact on 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 Project is not located within an area that contains riparian vegetation and the desktop assessment confirmed there are no wetlands within 1.5km of the Project.</p> <p>Furthermore, the felling of isolated trees is unlikely to disturb or interrupt any natural drainage or surface run-off patterns and is unlikely to impact any bed or banks of a 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>The Project is in an area classified as extremely low risk of occurrence of acid sulphate soils (DPRD), and the proposed removal of 15 isolated trees is unlikely to significantly change flood risk and salinity, waterlogging, water erosion and wind erosion risk. The methodology (felling of individual trees and leaving stumps in place) does not involve significant disturbance to the soil profile.</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>As shown in Figure 2, there are no reserves, conservation areas or Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESAs) within 1.9km of the Project.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed removal of 15 isolated trees 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 is not located within 10km of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • surface water catchments proclaimed under the <i>WA Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) Act 1914</i>; • catchments proclaimed under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> (CAWS Act); or • wetlands or watercourses. <p>As shown in Figure 3, the Project is within the Priority 2 PDWSA Marbellup Brook Catchment Area. However, no dewatering is proposed and no impact to groundwater quality is anticipated from the Works.</p> <p>In addition, the felling of isolated trees is unlikely to disturb or interrupt any natural drainage or surface run-off patterns and will not impact any bed or banks of a watercourse. Given the nature and scale of the proposal clearing (i.e. removal of 15 isolated trees), the risk to surface water and groundwater is considered minimal/negligible.</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 ground disturbance associated with the proposed removal of 15 isolated trees is minor in nature and scale and is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>

Methodology Used and References:	<p>A desktop assessment of the Project Area and an assessment of native vegetation clearing were undertaken by reviewing a number of government agency managed databases, viewing MRWA GIS shapefiles, viewing site notes and photographs and cross-referencing results against a GHD (2013) field survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Inspections by SNC Vegetation Control Officer: D22#678665 • Photographs and location of each tree: Table 1 • PMST Search Report (10km buffer) D22#679281 • Shapefile of Project: D22#551032 • GHD (2013) <i>South Western Highway SLK 498 - 512.65 – Rutherwood Road to Cull Road Flora and Fauna Assessment</i> D15#535251
Completed By:	
Name	Senior Environment Officer
Signature	Senior Environment Officer
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	27 June 2022

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
Clearing Assessment	ENDORSED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	REFUSED <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments	<p>It is noted 15 trees are proposed to be cleared for the purpose of improving line of sight and overall road safety. It is noted the trees are located in an area that identified no significant values following biological survey although two trees were potentially DBH size trees. Condition of the vegetation is rated as Degraded.</p> <p>An assessment of proposed clearing against the ten clearing principles identified the clearing to be not at variance.</p>	
Name	Senior Environment Officer	
Signature	Senior Environment Officer	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	27/06/2022	

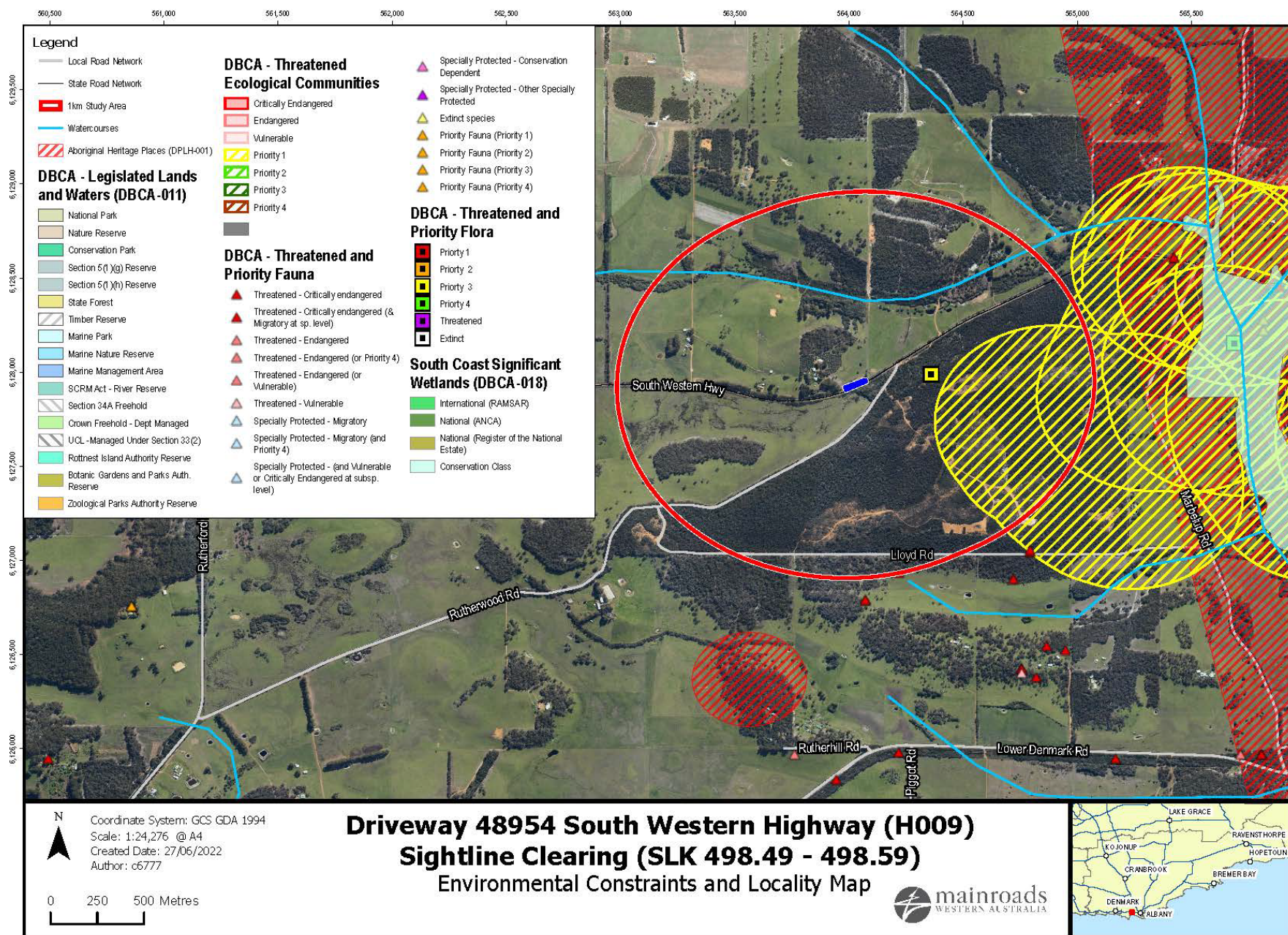


Figure 2: Environmental Constraints within 1km of Project – South Western Highway (H009) Sightline Clearing (SLK 498.49-498.59)

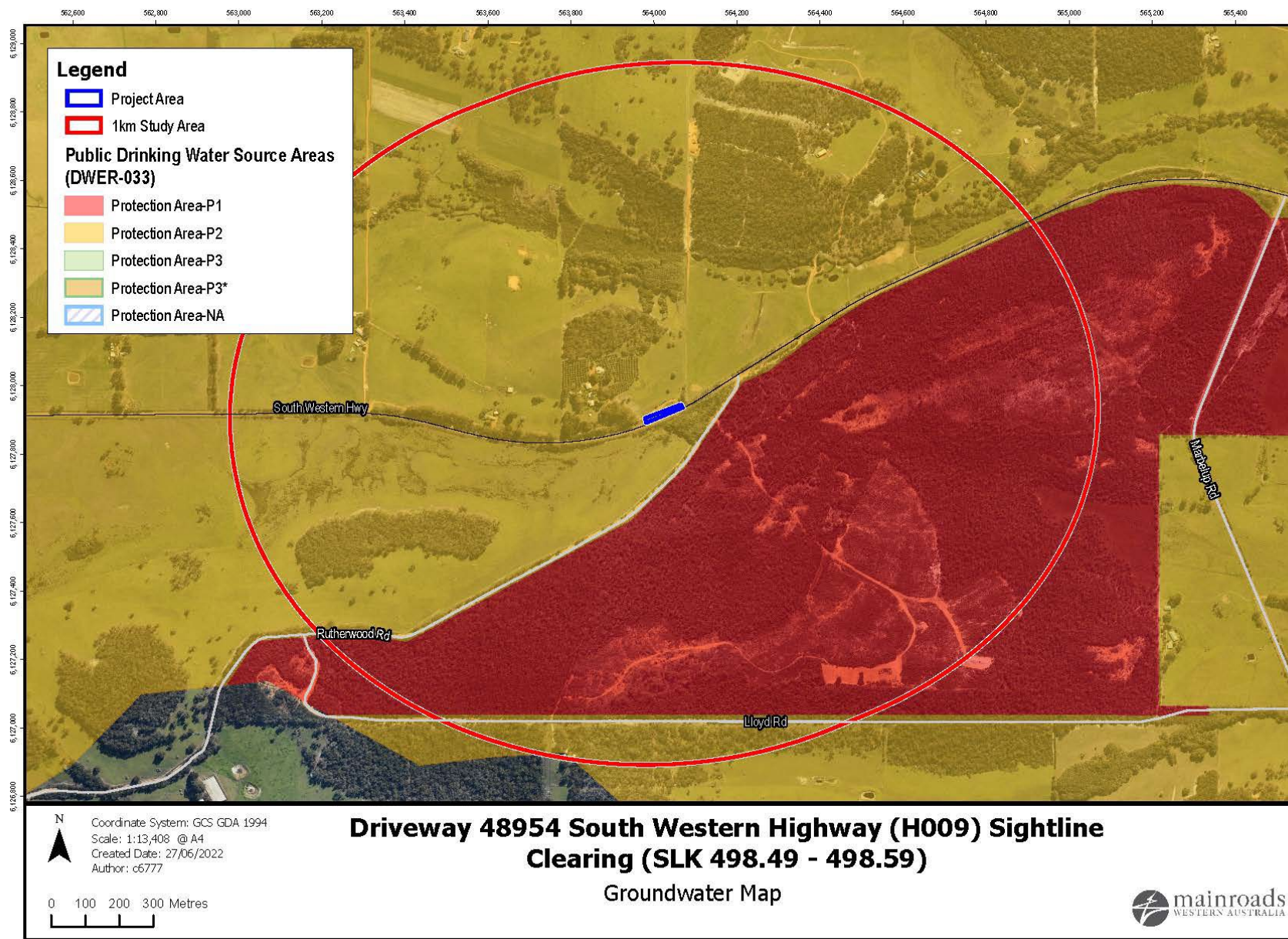


Figure 3: Public Drinking Water Source Areas within 1km of Project – South Western Highway (H009) Sightline Clearing (SLK 498.49-498.59)