Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Albany Hwy 308-316 Gordon South - Culvert Outlet Clearing		
Region/Directorate:	Great Southern Region		
Local Government Authority:	Shire of Cranbrook		
Road/Bridge Name and No:	Frankland-Cranbrook Road		
Proposal Location (SLK):	0.23 SLK		
TRIM Link to Spatial Data:	D22#14862		
EOS Number:	941		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	10-Jan-2022		
Project No:	21111834	**Task Code:**	13.06

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Albany Hwy 308-316 Gordon South is currently being upgraded.
A part of this upgrade is to realign Frankland-Cranbrook Road further north. Although a 5m buffer was used downstream of a proposed culvert on Frankland-Cranbrook Road, this is insufficient to allow for drainage waters to be effectively directed down hydraulic gradient.
After the culvert had been set out onsite, the existing approved footprint did not line up with the culvert outlet. Because of this, there is a need to clear an additional tree to allow for the culvert outlet.
LISC (D22#15107)

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

As this Proposal is a culvert extension, then there is limited scope to alter the footprint. Only one tree is proposed to be cleared in a Completely degraded condition. The remaining culvert extension footprint Is already cleared.

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

As part of the design, the new culvert was located in an existing drainage line, where the vegetation was predominantly cleared. To ensure appropriate flow (and prevent damage to the road), the culvert outlet needs to be extended to link to drainage along the existing Frankland Cranbrook Road. Due to the difference in soil height, the culvert outlet needs to be excavated which will involves the removal of one tree and one bush.

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):	0.002	**No. Trees Cleared:**	1
Species Names:	*E. occidentalis*		
Easting and Northing:	117° 30′ 20.654 -34° 17′ 11.656		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 967 described as a Medium woodland; wandoo & yate.
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	36,536 ha (16.86%) remains at a Statewide level with 15,137 (19.64%) 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.	Clearing of one medium sized tree (*E. occidentalis and one 0.5m bush*), parkland cleared, and no understorey except introduced grasses and weeds. GHD, Great South Bio Logic, Southern Ecology and Ecologia undertook flora, vegetation and fauna surveys of the adjacent areas between 2017-2020, for the proposed Albany Hwy 308-316

	Gordon South Proposal. Detailed below is the survey area covered by past surveys, in relation to the Proposal area (teal coloured line) being assessed and the larger Gordon South Proposal area (blue coloured line). Yellow sharing is mapped as cleared, whilst the green shading is mapped as Open Wandoo woodland.  Past surveys did not record any Threatened or Priority Flora, TECs/PECs or DBH trees (or any with hollows) nor evidence of Black Cockatoo foraging, roosting or nesting in the survey area close to the Proposal under assessment, No DBH trees (or any with hollows) were observed by Main Roads staff in the Proposal area The vegetation is a medium sized Flat Topped Yate (*E. occidentalis*) paddock tree a possible young Eucalypt in a Completely degraded condition. Limited biodiversity value.
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.	Clearing of 1 medium sized tree (*E. occidentalis*), parkland cleared, and no understorey except introduced grasses and weeds. GHD, Great South Bio Logic, Southern Ecology and Ecologia undertook flora, vegetation and fauna surveys of the adjacent areas (refer to image in principle (a)) between 2017-2020, for the proposed Albany Hwy 308-316 Gordon South Proposal. The following five species were identified following multiple biological surveys (GHD 2017; Southern Ecology 2018, Great Southern Bio Logic 2019a; Ecologia 2020a) as either occurring or being likely or possible to occur within or adjacent to the larger Gordon South Proposal area: • Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) – Vulnerable • Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii naso*) – Vulnerable • Baudin's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudinii*) – Endangered • Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*) – Endangered. GHD, Great South Bio Logic, Southern Ecology and Ecologia did not record any Threatened or Priority Fauna in the Survey area close to the Proposal area. They did not identify any DBH trees (or any with hollows) in the Survey area close to the Proposal area, nor evidence of Black Cockatoo foraging, roosting or nesting. The vegetation is a medium sized Flat Topped Yate (*E. occidentalis*) paddock tree and a possible young Eucalypt in a Completely degraded condition,

	which is not considered to be suitable habitat for Red-tailed Phascogale and poor quality foraging habitat for Black Cockatoos. Of the 21 conservation significant species recorded within the 10 km Study area, the closest three records were Carnaby's Cockatoo, observed at 1.8, 2.3 and 2.8 km west of the Proposal area. The closest mammals were vouchered specimens of a Chuditch and a Quenda recorded 2.9 km south east of the Proposal area in 1900. The Proposal area is within the known distribution and predicted breeding range of Carnaby's Cockatoo (DSEWPaC, 2011). According to the DBCA GIS layer, 27 records of Carnaby's Cockatoo within the 10km Study area. DPaW (2011) report that Carnaby's feed on Marri and Jarrah, but not on *Eucalyptus occidentalis* The Proposal area is situated on the eastern edge of the modelled distribution of the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, and in an area where Baudin's Cockatoos are likely to occur. 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 usually occur in heavily forested areas dominated by Marri, Jarrah and Karri.. The single tree is highly unlikely to be significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	GHD, Great South Bio Logic, Southern Ecology and Ecologia undertook flora, vegetation and fauna surveys of the adjacent areas between 2017-2020, for the proposed Albany Hwy 308-316 Gordon South Proposal. No conservation significant plant species, were recorded close to the Proposal area during the targeted surveys.
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.	Main Roads GIS Layer indicates one mapped EPBC Act listed TEC / DBCA Listed PEC occurs within the 10 km Study area: 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' (Wheatbelt Woodlands) (Critically Endangered / P3). Ecologia (2020) undertook a TEC assessment for the Gordon South Proposal (refer survey area under Principle (a)). Ecologia did not identify any TEC in the survey area close to the Proposal area under assessment but did map TEC approximately 190 m east of the Proposal area. Due to the Completely Degraded condition of the roadside vegetation in the Proposal area, it is not considered TEC.
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.	GHD, Great South Bio Logic, Southern Ecology and Ecologia undertook flora, vegetation and fauna surveys of the adjacent areas (refer to image in principle (a)) between 2017-2020, for the proposed Albany Hwy 308-316 Gordon South Proposal. They mapped the vegetation either side of the Proposal area as Good to degraded E. wandoo, *E. occidentalis* Woodland or E. wandoo, *E. occidentalis* Woodland. Based on photographic assessment, the vegetation in the Proposal area is considered to be *E. occidentalis* in a Completely degraded condition. One vegetation association of Beard (1976) has been mapped over the Survey area, namely:

	• Vegetation Association 967 described as a Medium woodland; wandoo & yate The pre-European extent remaining of this Vegetation Association is 36,536 ha (16.86%) at a Statewide level with 15,137 (19.64%) remaining at a LGA level The removal of 1 medium sized tree and one 0.5m bush (approximately 0.002 ha) in a Completely degraded condition is not likely to represent the Beard Vegetation Association and is not likely to represent an area that is significant as a remnantt of native vegetation.
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.	*E. occidentalis* is not representative of riparian vegetation. The closest waterway is approximately 80 m to the south west of the Proposal area.
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has: • 0% high to extreme hazard water erosion hazard • 34% high to extreme wind erosion hazard • 35% very poor to poor site drainage potential • 87% moderate salinity hazard The Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) has been used to determine the likelihood of Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS) occurring within the Proposal area. The ASRIS database (accessed 10-Jan-2022) indicates there is a low probability of occurrence within the Proposal area. The removal of 1 medium tree and 1 small bush in a completely degraded condition in unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation, especially as the majority of the land where the vegetation is located will be covered with road infrastructure.
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.	A search of Main Roads GIS shapefiles layers indicates that closest nature reserve, conservation areas or Bush Forever Sites is located 16.4 km south west of the Proposal area. Therefore, no impacts to these areas are anticipated.
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 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 *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act), or a catchment proclaimed under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (CAWS Act). Being a culvert extension, a portion of the Proposal area is located on non-mapped drainage channel. Construction is scheduled to occur during the summer months when the channel will be dry. No mapped wetland/riparian vegetation will be removed as part of the Proposal. The construction of the culvert extension will require some minor excavation below the surface, but as the Proposal is planned to occur over the summer months, no dewatering will be required, hence no change to surface or groundwater level or quality is expected.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to	The removal of 1 medium tree and one 0.5 m bush in a completely degraded condition in unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.

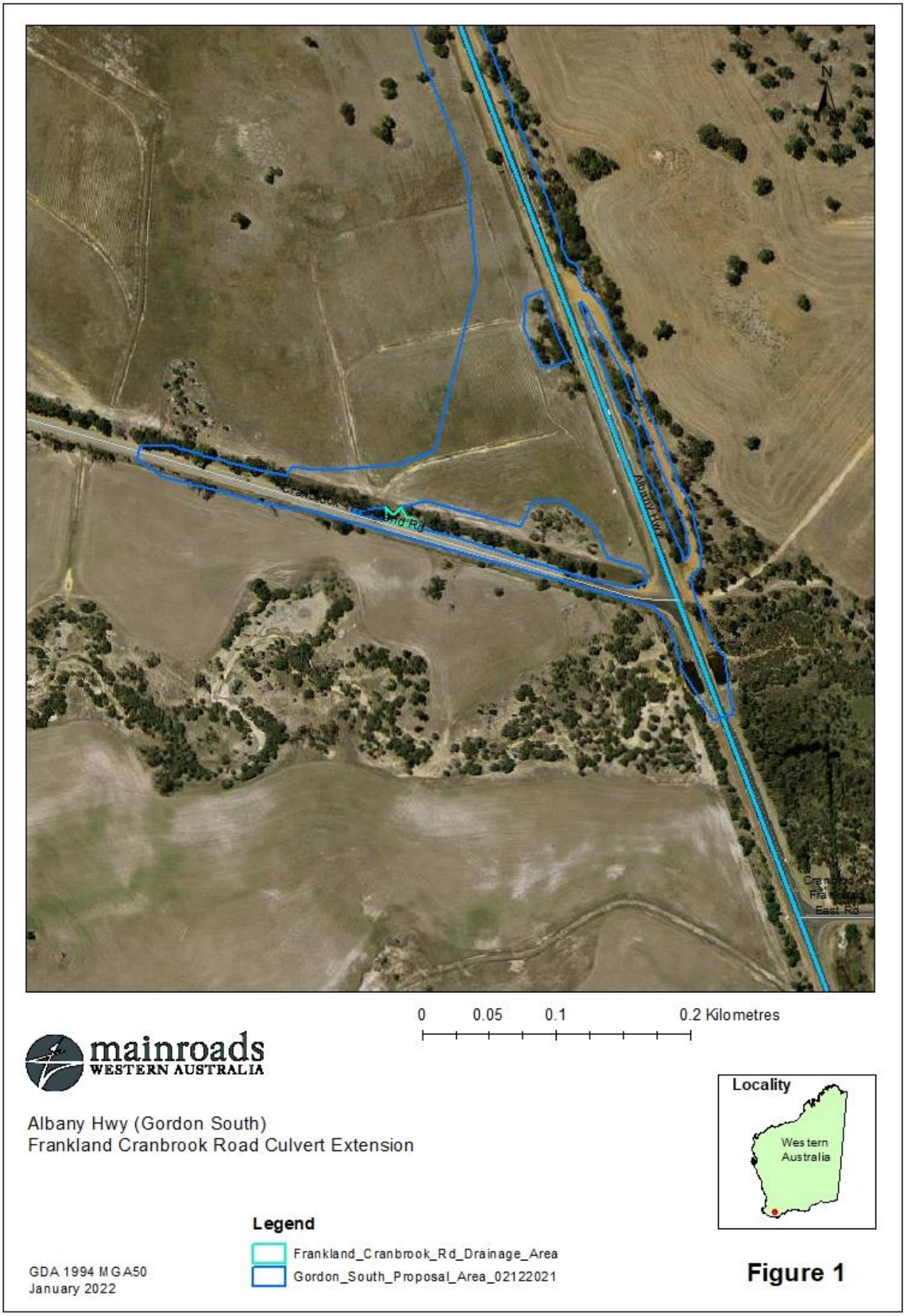
cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has: • 0% moderate to high flood hazard • 87% waterlogging and inundation risk A review of ArcGIS shapefiles has confirmed that the proposed works will not disturb or interrupt any natural drainage and surface run-off patterns. Being a culvert extension, a portion of the Proposal area is located on a non-mapped drainage channel. Construction is scheduled to occur during the summer months when the channel will be dry. The works are designed to maintain existing drainage patterns.
Methodology Used and References:	Proposal Area (Figure 1) Photographs of the clearing area (Figure 1) GHD Report (D17#62759) Southern Ecology Report (D18#825317) Great Southern Bio Logic Report (D19#296322) Ecologia Reports (D20#297712/ D20#328320) Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) Mapping (http://www.asris.csiro.au/mapping/viewer.htm) DPIRD mapping (https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/) Main Roads GIS Shapefiles

Completed By:	
Name	
Signature	
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	10-Jan-2022

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT		
Clearing Assessment	**ENDORSED ☒**	**REFUSED ☐**
Comments	CDR (Short form) is approved as it involves clearing of one tree and a shrub in completely degraded condition and is unlikely to be at variance to the 10 clearing principles.	
Name		
Signature		
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer	
Date	11 January 2022	

Appendix 1:


N
Albany Hwy
East Rd
0
0.05
0.1
0.2 Kilometres
mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Albany Hwy (Gordon South)
Frankland Cranbrook Road Culvert Extension
Locality
Western Australia
Legend
Frankland_Cranbrook_Rd_Drainage_Area
Gordon_South_Proposal_Area_02122021
GDA 1994 MGA50
January 2022
Figure 1

View looking south (tree and small bush (Eucalypt?) visible)

View looking west

View looking north

StreetView image looking north west from Frankland Cranbrook Road (existing informal drainage channel visible)