

Clearing Desktop Report CPS 818

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Western Australia.*

Bridge 475 Maintenance Repairs and Widening
Donnybrook Kojonup Road M013
Southwest Region
3245

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1 PROPOSAL

1.1 Purpose and Justification

The proposed works are required to maintain and improve the structural condition, functionality and safety of Bridge 475. The bridge will have maintenance work undertaken and will be widened from its current overall width of 7.82 m to 10.24 m to meet the minimum width requirements specified in the Main Roads WA (MRWA) *Bridge Branch Design Information Manual* and to accommodate future upgrades to Donnybrook–Kojonup Road. These works are required to ensure the bridge remains fit for purpose, improve road user safety, and supports the ongoing operation and future upgrade of Donnybrook–Kojonup Road.

1.1.1 Main Roads Approach to Road Safety and the Environment

Main Roads is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of all of its activities and manages the State road network to achieve balanced economic, social, safety and environmental benefits for the community. Main Roads recognises that Western Australia's environment is significant from a global perspective and the unique conservation values that are contained within its road reserve. Main Roads road network often adjoins natural areas, and, in some locations, the reserve itself hosts remnant vegetation with high environmental values. Although the reserves were not established for this purpose, Main Roads recognises that it has a responsibility to conserve the environmental values that occur within the State's road network and minimise the impact its proposals have on the environment. In addition to providing a safe and efficient road network for all people using the roads under its control, Main Roads is also committed to protecting the natural environment.

In accordance with National and State Government road safety policies, Main Roads is also committed to substantially reducing road trauma on the road network through Safe System principles. The Safe System approach acknowledges that more than two thirds of all serious crashes are due to human error rather than deliberate risk taking (e.g. speeding or drink driving) and seeks to improve behaviour through education and enforcement while managing the safety of vehicles, speeds and the road and road infrastructure. It is shown that improving sub-optimal road formation will substantially reduce the likelihood and severity of road crashes. For example, according to the Road Safety Management Guideline, increasing the sealed shoulder from 0.5 m to 2 m will reduce Killed and Seriously Injured numbers by more than 50%.

As the statutory authority responsible for providing and managing a safe and efficient main road network in Western Australia, Main Roads focuses on improving road safety by thoroughly considering all environmental, economic and community benefits and impacts. It operates on a hierarchy of avoiding, minimising, reducing and then, if required, offsetting our environmental impacts. This has been achieved through changes in proposal scope and design. Main Roads regularly reduces its clearing footprint by restricting earthworks limits for proposals, steepening batters, installing barriers, establishing borrow pits in cleared paddocks and avoiding temporary clearing for storage, stockpiles and turn around bays to avoid and minimise its impacts.

Further details on measures to avoid, minimise and reduce are provided in Section 1.5.

1.2 Proposal Scope

The proposal involves maintenance and widening of Bridge 475 to maintain and improve the structural condition, functionality and safety of the structure.

Bridge 475 will be widened from 7.82m (overall) to 10.24m (overall) to meet minimum width requirements under *MRWA Bridge Branch Design Information Manual* to enable future widening of Donnybrook Kojonup Road, and to facilitate construction with a single lane in operation.

1.3 Proposal Location

The Proposal is located on Donnybrook-Kojonup Road between 74.5 to 75.1 SLK in the Shire of Boyup Brook as shown in **Figure 1**. The Study Area is a 5-kilometre (km) radius of the Clearing Area as shown in **Figure 2**.

1.4 Clearing Details

Proposed Clearing to be undertaken using CPS 818: approximately 0.016 (ha).

Type and Areas of Native Vegetation Clearing: The native vegetation proposed to be cleared under CPS 818 is two *Eucalyptus Rudis* (flooded gum) trees. The areas are shown in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Native Vegetation Clearing Area

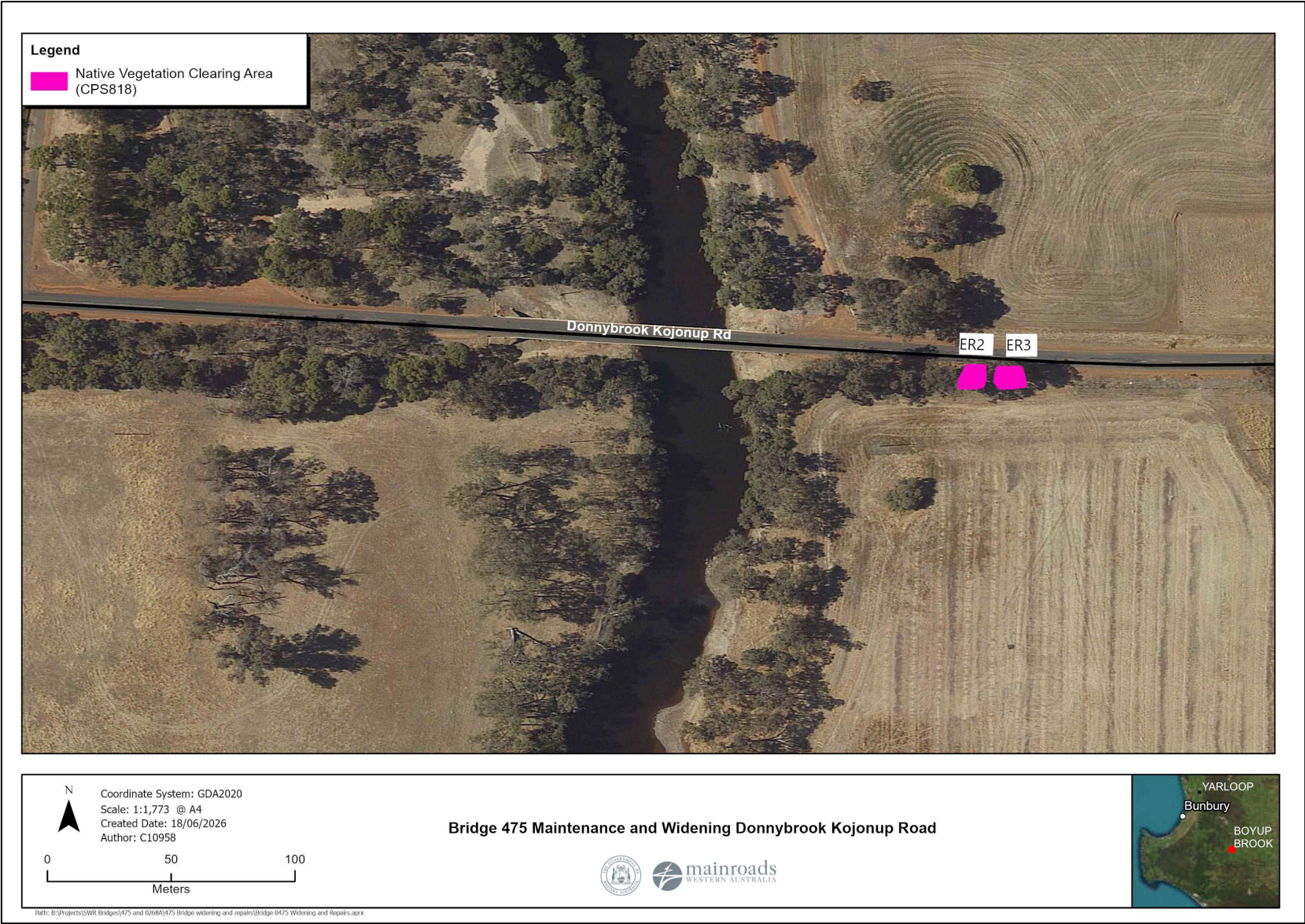
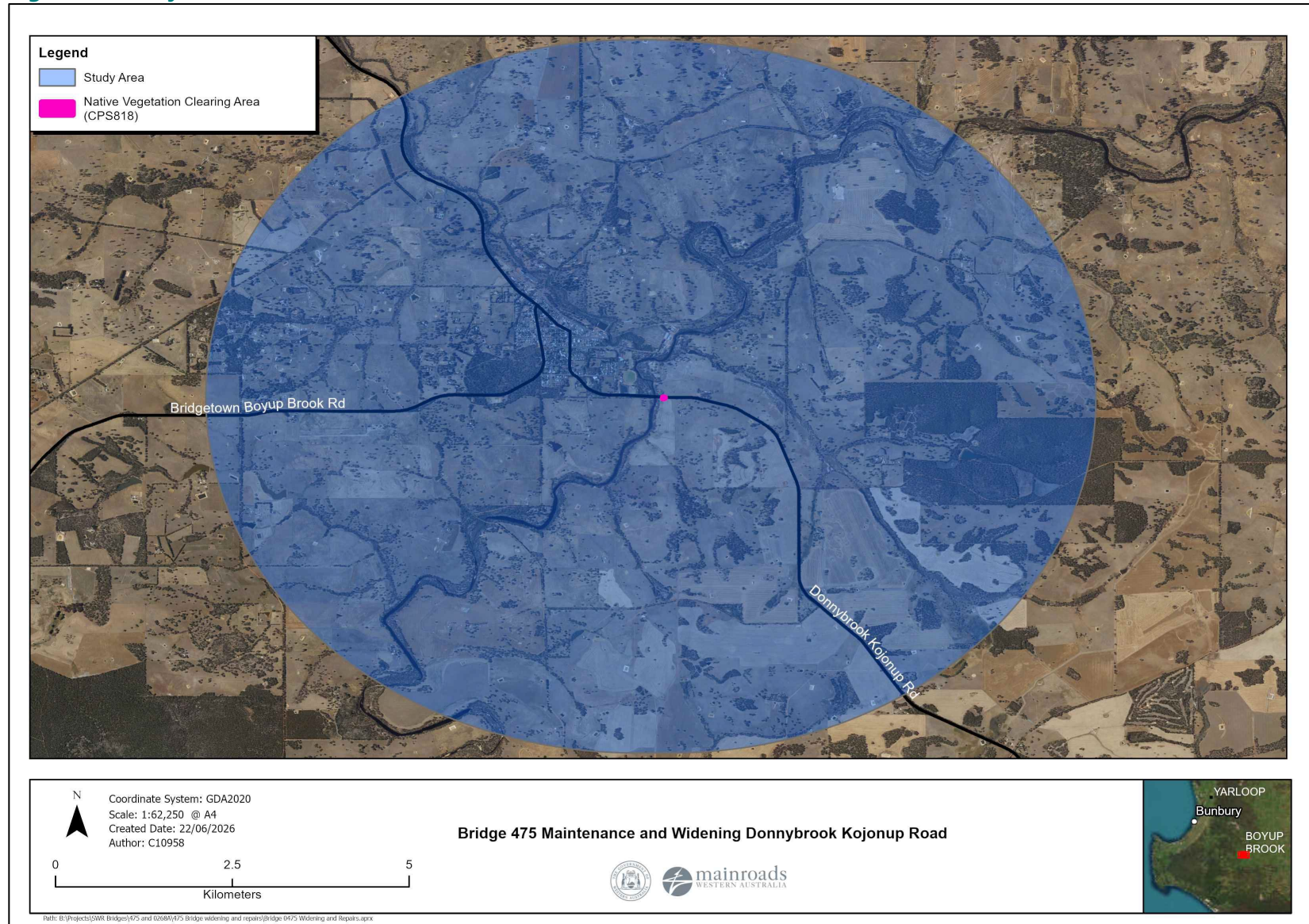


Figure 2 : Study Area



1.5 Alternatives to Native Vegetation Clearing Considered During Proposal Development

The following alternatives to clearing were considered during the development of the Proposal:

- Widening equally on both sides of the Bridge meant that the works cannot be staged in two halves due to the limited width. This means a full bridge closure with a side track was required for public access (in addition to a construction access track). This was not feasible due to the additional temporary works required and further impact in the riverbed and potentially increased clearing for the two temporary tracks. The current design allows for single lane operation to stage the works in two halves.
- Widening on the left-hand side (northern) was considered to avoid clearing of the two *Eucalyptus rudis* on the southern side however, there is a 240 mm diameter water main that is currently attached to the left-hand side (LHS) of the structure. Widening on this side would require relocation of the service, which is difficult, costly and presents challenges.
- Do not upgrade the bridge, however this will potentially result in a poorer safety outcome and may result in future fatalities or serious injuries and further degradation of the structure.
- Main Roads retains frangible vegetation where a clear zone is to be established for road projects. For this project, however, clearing will only be required to accommodate the road widening, with no clear zone being established. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- Reducing the speed limit to minimise clearing requirements, while still balancing safety (driver fatigue) and freight efficiency. Speed Limits are an essential mechanism to ensure the safe and efficient operation of road networks. The application of appropriate speed limits and other traffic management measures is a key mechanism in managing vehicle speeds to achieve desired safety, mobility, traffic management, local amenity, and road user expectations. There are several factors involved in road safety, including road conditions, driver behaviour and overall road design. Except in special situations, reducing speed limits below national standards on state and national roads is not typically supported as it has the potential to contribute to driver frustration, impatience, tiredness and recklessness. The environmental values protected by reducing the speed limit, do not justify the impacts on freight efficiencies nor road user safety. Accordingly, the reduction of the speed limits to avoid clearing of native vegetation for this proposal is not proposed.

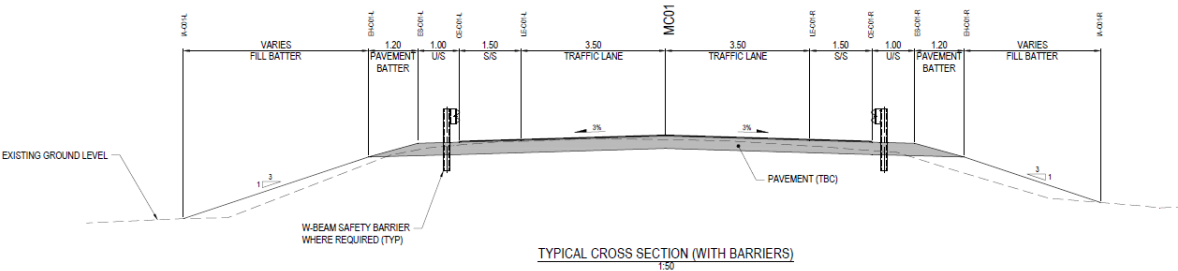
1.6 Measures to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage Proposal Clearing Impacts

The design and management measures implemented to avoid and minimise the potential clearing impacts of the Proposal are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Measures Undertaken to Avoid, Minimise, Reduce and Manage the Proposal Clearing Impacts

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Widening on the opposite side or both sides of the existing bridge/road.	Widening on the northern side of the bridge (i.e. the left-hand side of the structure) was not considered feasible for the following reasons: Construction staging and traffic management constraints An option involving equal widening on both sides of the bridge would not provide sufficient width to safely stage the works in two halves while maintaining traffic flow. Consequently, this option would necessitate a full bridge closure and construction of a temporary side-track to maintain public access, in addition to a separate construction access track. This approach was not preferred as it would require substantially greater temporary works and result in increased disturbance within and adjacent to the riverbed and surrounding vegetation. The adopted design (widening on the southern side) enables the works to be staged in two halves under single-lane traffic operation, thereby maintaining traffic access during construction and significantly reducing the extent and duration of environmental disturbance, including impacts to the watercourse and surrounding vegetation. Existing service infrastructure constraints A water main is currently attached to the northern (left-hand) side of the existing bridge structure. Widening on this side would require relocation and/or modification of the water main, which presents significant technical and operational challenges, including service interruption risks and additional construction complexity. Avoiding relocation of this utility infrastructure was therefore a key consideration in development of the preferred design option.
Alternative alignment located within pasture or degraded areas	The bridge and road are already in fixed locations, significantly limiting the design options. Widening on the opposite side has been evaluated but is not feasible due to the outlined constraints above. Relocating the bridge entirely to avoid the trees would render the existing bridge and road redundant, requiring the purchase of additional land and potential clearance of more trees. Such an option would incur significant costs, making it financially and logistically impractical. Therefore, the decision to clear the two trees is necessary to proceed with the safety improvements while staying within the constraints of the current infrastructure alignment.

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Simplification of design	Bridge 475 is required to be widened from an existing overall width of 7.82 m to 10.24 m to achieve the minimum width requirements specified in the <i>Main Roads WA (MRWA) Bridge Branch Design Information Manual</i> and to provide a safe and compliant road cross-section for all road users. The widening is also necessary to integrate with the planned future seal widening of Donnybrook Kojonup Road, ensuring consistency in lane and shoulder widths through the bridge section and avoiding the creation of a constrained “pinch point” within the road network. Retaining the existing bridge width, or undertaking a lesser widening extent, would not meet current design standards or the long-term operational and safety objectives of the road upgrade. Accordingly, the proposed bridge widening footprint has been developed as the minimum practicable extent necessary to achieve the required engineering, safety and network functionality outcomes, and the scope of works cannot be further reduced or simplified without compromising these objectives.
Steepen batter slopes	Steepening of the batter slopes was considered during the design process as a potential measure to avoid impacting the two <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (flooded gum) trees. The tree located closest to the bridge is situated within the required guardrail deflection zone and therefore cannot be safely retained. Retention of the tree would compromise the effective operation of the safety barrier system and create an unacceptable roadside hazard. The second tree, located further from the bridge, would remain in very close proximity to the widened traffic lane even if batter slopes were steepened. Due to the horizontal road alignment, vehicles travelling towards Boyup Brook would be directed toward the tree on approach to the bridge, increasing the likelihood and consequence of vehicle strike. As such, retaining the tree in this location would not meet road safety requirements for roadside clear zones and hazard management. In addition, both <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (flooded gum) trees are located immediately adjacent to the proposed pavement widening area, and it is highly likely that substantial portions of their root zones extend into the excavation and construction footprint. Consequently, even if the trunks themselves could physically remain, the required earthworks and pavement construction would result in significant root disturbance likely to compromise the long-term structural stability and viability of the trees. Given the above, steepening of the batter slopes would not reduce impacts or avoid the requirement to remove the two trees, and the proposed clearing is considered necessary to safely construct and operate the upgraded road and bridge infrastructure.

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Installation of barriers	Barriers are being installed however due to unavoidable conflicts with their roots and the proximity of the deflection zone, the removal of the two <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (flooded gum) trees is required. The two <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (flooded gum) trees are situated too close to the barrier's required fill area to comply with safety regulations. See typical cross section below. Given that the primary objective of this project is to enhance road and bridge safety, the clearing of these trees is imperative to ensure compliance and the effectiveness of the safety measures being implemented.  TYPICAL CROSS SECTION (WITH BARRIERS) 1:50
Installation of kerbing	This is a rural road and installation of kerbing will not change the fact that the two <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> (flooded gum) trees are in the way of the barrier (as mentioned above). Kerbing sits just in front of the barrier posts and would not result in a different outcome for the required removal of the trees.

Design or Management Measure	Discussion and Justification
Use of existing cleared areas for access tracks, construction storage and stockpiling	All existing cleared areas and access tracks have been incorporated into the Proposal Area (limit of activity) as much as possible to maximise the use of these spaces and minimise the vegetation clearing footprint. As previously mentioned, the bridge and road are in fixed positions, which significantly restricts the design options.

1.7 Approved Policies and Planning Instruments

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the 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, Main Roads has also had regard to the below instruments where relevant.

Other Legislation potentially relevant 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 and D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (WA) (RIWI Act)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA).

Environmental Protection Policies:

- Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet - Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992
- Environmental Protection (Western Swamp Tortoise Habitat) Policy 2011.

Other relevant policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, 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.
- EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, 2022).

2 SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF CLEARING

Native vegetation will be cleared to accommodate this Proposal. This clearing will be undertaken using the Main Roads Statewide Clearing Permit (CPS 818).

To comply with CPS 818, Main Roads must prepare a Clearing Desktop Report (CDR).

The CDR outlines the key activities associated with the Proposal, the existing environment and an assessment of native vegetation clearing under CPS818. This assessment provides an evaluation of the vegetation clearing impacts associated with the Proposal using the ten Clearing Principles listed under s51 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and strategies used to manage vegetation clearing.

2.1 Report Terminology and Sources

The following terms are used in this CDR:

- **Native Vegetation Clearing Area (Clearing Area)** – The maximum amount of native vegetation to be cleared for the Proposal that will accommodate the designed earthworks and typically, a nominal buffer to allow for the safe movement of machinery during construction. The Clearing Area for this Proposal comprises two *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees (0.016 ha).
- **Study Area** – Area covered by the Desktop Assessment. The Study Area for the Proposal is confined to a local area of a 5 km radius.

2.2 Desktop Assessment

A desktop assessment of the Proposal was undertaken by viewing internal datasets and other government agency managed databases, and consulting with relevant stakeholders where necessary.

GIS layer viewing and mapping is done using ArcMap and/or Main Roads corporate mapping system known as iMaps. Referencing of the GIS layers accessed is done under the relevant methodology section of each clearing principle. Government managed databases were searched to locate additional information, which are found under References in Section 10.

2.3 Surveys and Assessments

A Site Inspection was conducted by a Main Roads Environmental Officer in November 2025.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Summary of Environmental Site Inspection

An Environmental Site Inspection was undertaken by a Main Roads Environmental Officer in November 2025 to assess the proposed design footprint (pegged onsite) and identify the vegetation that required clearing. Two *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees in the road reserve on the southern side of Donnybrook Kojonup Road (SLK 74.9 to 75), were identified as remnant native vegetation which require clearing under CPS 818 (**Photo 1** and **Figure 1**). These two trees (~ 0.016 ha) are interchangeably referred to as the Clearing Area herein.

A summary of the vegetation description in the Clearing Area is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Clearing Area (two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees) – Vegetation Description

ID	Diameter Breast Height (m)	Condition	Hollows	Evidence of fauna habitat
<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> 2 (ER2)	Single Stemmed >1.5	Degraded	None	None
<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> 3 (ER3)	Single Stemmed >1.5	Degraded	None	Vacant bird nest possible crow

Photo 1: ER2 and ER3 facing east Donnybrook-Kojonup Road



4 DESKTOP ASSESSMENT OF VEGETATION

4.1 Desktop Vegetation Description

Based on the desktop assessment, the Clearing Area is located within the Pre-European Bridgetown (992) Vegetation System Association (DPIRD-006) and Newgalup 1 (NWf1) Vegetation Complex (SW forest subregion – Darling Plateau) described as “*Woodland of Eucalyptus rudis-Eucalyptus patens on footslopes on valley slopes in the subhumid zone*”.

Table 3 and Table 4 provide details of the remaining extent of vegetation in this Vegetation Association and Complex respectively.

Table 3. Pre-European Vegetation Representation

Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Current Extent in DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European Extent)
Veg Assoc No. 992 - Medium forest; jarrah & wandoo (<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>)	Statewide	122,049	28,492	23	2.71
	IBRA Bioregion Jarrah Forest	2,448	1,475	60	22.92
	IBRA Sub-region Southern Jarrah Forest	108,768	24.5	22.55	2.20
	Local Government Authority Shire of Boyup Brook	72,922	16,756	23	2.59

Table 4. Vegetation Complexes (Hedde/Mattiske) within Clearing Area

Hedde/Mattiske Veg Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining
Newgalup 1 (NWf1)	2,363.36	431	18.24

5 ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE TEN CLEARING PRINCIPLES

In assessing whether the Proposal's proposed clearing is likely to have a significant impact on the environment, the Proposal was assessed against the ten Clearing Principles (EP Act, Schedule 5).

Each principle has been assessed in accordance with the former Department of Environment Regulation (now Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) '[A Guide to the Assessment of Applications to Clear Native Vegetation](#)' (Department of Environment Regulation, 2014) and other relevant clearing permit application decision reports prepared by DWER.

The proposed clearing is not at variance, or not likely to be at variance, to any of the ten Clearing Principles.

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

The Clearing Area consists of two *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees.

Study Area

A search of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Threatened and Priority Flora and Western Australian Herbarium GIS databases identified five conservation significant flora species in the 5 km Study Area:

- *Caladenia dorrienii* (5 records)- Threatened
- *Diuris drummondii* -Threatened
- *Commersonia erythrogyna* -Threatened
- *Calochilus* sp. *Boyup Brook*- Priority 1
- *Caladenia perangusta* (6 records)- Priority 2

The Commonwealth Protected Matters Search Tool (PMST) identified three threatened flora species (one of which was also identified in the DBCA database search) that are likely or may occur in the 5 km Study Area:

- *Caladenia dorrienii*
- *Caladenia hoffmanii*
- *Diuris micrantha*

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) were identified within the 5km Study Area per the DBCA database search.

The Commonwealth PMST identified one TEC that may occur within the 5 km Study Area:

- *Empodisma* peatlands of southwestern Australia (Endangered)

Clearing Area

The closest known PEC to the Clearing Area is approximately 7 km northeast: Priority 2 Blackwood Alluvial Flats and the closest known TEC is > 50 km west north-west: Critically Endangered: SCP10b – Shrublands on the Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones.

The two *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees proposed for clearing are not considered conservation significant tree species. *Eucalyptus rudis* is common and widespread, and this species is not representative of the Commonwealth TEC: *Empodisma* peatlands of southwestern Australia that has been identified as potentially occurring in the Study Area.

The two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are in the road reserve and assessed to be in a Degraded vegetation condition (Site Inspection 2025) in accordance with the Keighery (1994) scale. While the trees represent remnant native vegetation, the vegetation structure is highly modified due to the two trees being isolated, the absence of native understorey, lack of canopy connectivity, and surrounding disturbance associated with infrastructure and cleared agricultural land (Photo 1).

The two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees do not form part of a Bush forever site and are not associated with, or near, conservation land.

As discussed further under Principle (b), the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are not considered to represent typical habitat for the three conservation significant Black Cockatoo species. The trees do not contain hollows, there is no evidence to suggest use as a roost, and they are unlikely to provide significant foraging resources as flooded gum is not a known foraging species (ABCS, 2025). Apart from a vacant bird nest (possibly belonging to a crow) there were no other signs or evidence of fauna using the two trees at the time of the Site Inspection in November 2025.

As discussed further under Principle (b), the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are not considered typical habitat for conservation significant fauna species.

There is a Southwest Regional Ecological Linkage (SWREL) mapped along the Blackwood River in association with the riparian vegetation. SWRELs represent regional-scale ecological corridors that are considered important for maintaining landscape connectivity and facilitating fauna movement between habitat patches. The two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are located outside the Blackwood River riparian/foreshore, approximately 80–100 m east of the mapped SWREL. The proposed clearing does not intersect the mapped SWREL and is separated from the corridor.

Given the above, a summary of the attributes of the Clearing Area is as follows:

- located within the road reserve of an existing rural road
- isolated (stand-alone) and devoid of native understorey (Degraded condition)
- not connected with a local or regional ecological linkage (~80-100 m away).
- does not provide a high local/regional ecological value
- does not represent conservation significant flora species
- is not considered to be or in association with TEC/PEC
- is not considered typical habitat for the three conservation significant Black Cockatoo species

- is not considered typical habitat for conservation significant fauna
- is minor and comprises a lower level of biological diversity compared to that within the greater Study Area.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- ABCS (2025)
- DCCEW (2026a)
- DCCEW (2026b)
- Keighery (1994)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - DBCA Threatened and Priority Ecological Community database search (Accessed May 2026)
 - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (Accessed May 2026)
 - Bush Forever (Region Scheme - Special Areas) (Accessed May 2026)
 - Ecological Linkages (Accessed June 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

The Clearing Area comprises two *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum) trees.

Study Area

A search of the DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna database identified 10 conservation significant fauna species in the 5 km Study Area:

Common Name	Scientific Name	WA listing
Woylie	<i>Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi</i>	Threatened - Critically Endangered
Carnabys Black Cockatoo	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Threatened - Endangered
Numbat	<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>	Threatened - Endangered
Chuditch	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Threatened - Vulnerable
Bilby	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Threatened - Vulnerable
Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksia</i>	Threatened - Vulnerable
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Specially Protected Migratory
Masked Owl	<i>Tyto novaehollandiae</i>	Priority 3
Barking Owl	<i>Ninox connivens</i>	Priority 3
Muir's Corella	<i>Cacatua pastinator</i>	Conservation Dependent

The Commonwealth PMST identified the following threatened fauna species in the 5km Study area:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Threatened Category
Western Ringtail Possum, Ngwayir, Womp, Woder, Ngoor, Ngoolangit	<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>	Critically Endangered
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Critically Endangered
Numbat	<i>Myrmecobius fasciatus</i>	Endangered
Baudin's Cockatoo, Baudin's Black-Cockatoo, Long-billed Black-cockatoo	<i>Zanda baudinii</i>	Endangered (listed as <i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>)
Carnaby's Black Cockatoo, Short-billed Black-Cockatoo	<i>Zanda latirostris</i>	Endangered (listed as <i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>)
Quokka	<i>Setonix brachyurus</i>	Vulnerable
Forest Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, Karrak	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>	Vulnerable
Southern Whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Vulnerable
Chuditch, Western Quoll	<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Vulnerable
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Vulnerable

Clearing Area

No signs or individual fauna (except a vacant bird nest) were observed to be using the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees during the Site Inspection in November 2025. A search of the DBCA Threatened/Priority Fauna database also found no records in the Clearing Area.

Given the Clearing Area comprises two isolated *Eucalyptus rudis* trees with no understory vegetation, no direct connectivity to adjacent habitat, or ground cover resources, it is unlikely to provide significant habitat value for ground-dwelling fauna such as Woylie, Chuditch, Bilby or Numbat, which have been historically recorded within the broader Study Area. These species typically rely on larger areas of intact habitat that provide suitable shelter, foraging resources and movement opportunities.

Although the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees have a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 1.5 m, exceeding the threshold of >0.5 m DBH for trees that may potentially provide habitat for Black Cockatoo species, *Eucalyptus rudis* is not considered a typical breeding or foraging species for Black Cockatoos (ABCS, 2025). Furthermore, the absence of hollows and the isolated nature of the trees reduce their suitability for providing significant habitat resources for Black Cockatoo species.

A Black Cockatoo roost site is recorded approximately 150–200 m north-west of the Clearing Area within a reserve adjacent to the Blackwood River. While the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees may potentially be used opportunistically by Black Cockatoo species as temporary resting sites, there is no evidence to indicate that they are utilised as active roosting habitat. No DBCA records identify the trees as a roost site, and no evidence of Black Cockatoo use (such as whitewash) was observed during the Site Inspection. Furthermore, the trees are in an exposed road reserve environment between a road and cleared agricultural land, which may reduce their suitability for regular roosting use. Given the above, it is concluded that the Clearing Area is unlikely to represent significant roosting habitat for Black Cockatoo species.

According to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Species Profile and Threats Database, the Clearing Area is located near the eastern extent of the broader historical distribution range of the Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*) (WRP). The current distribution of WRP is primarily associated with the Swan Coastal Plain, Warren and Southern Forest regions. Boyup Brook is located east of the Swan Coastal Plain near Bunbury/Collie and north of the Warren region, with WRP records in this area being relatively sparse compared to core areas of the species distribution.

No DBCA records of WRP were identified within the Clearing Area or broader Study Area, and no evidence of WRP presence (including scats or dreys) was observed during the November 2025 Site Inspection. Furthermore, the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are not considered typical forage species for WRP, do not contain hollows, and lack canopy connectivity with surrounding vegetation. Given the isolated nature of the trees, absence of key habitat features and the range distribution, it is considered unlikely that the Clearing Area provides significant habitat for WRP.

The two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees may potentially be used opportunistically by conservation significant birds such as the Masked/Barn Owls and Muirs Corella, which have been recorded in

the greater Study Area. However, all three of these species nest in hollows and since there are no hollows in the two trees, it is unlikely they represent significant breeding habitat for these birds. While the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees may potentially be used opportunistically by these bird species from time to time, considering there is higher quality habitat close to the river and other trees with similar characteristics within the road reserve, it is unlikely that these two trees represent significant habitat for these species.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- ABCS (2025)
- DCCEW (2026a)
- DCCEW (2026b)
- Main Roads (2025)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - DBCA Threatened and Priority Ecological Community database search (Accessed May 2026)
 - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (Accessed May 2026)
 - Bush Forever (Region Scheme - Special Areas) (Accessed May 2026)
 - Ecological Linkages (Accessed June 2026)

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

DBCA threatened flora/WA Herbarium and PSMT database searches identified five threatened flora species in the 5km Study Area:

- *Caladenia dorrienii* (6 records)
- *Caladenia hoffmanii*
- *Commersonia erythrogyna*
- *Diuris drummondii*
- *Diuris micrantha*

The Clearing Area is limited to two individual *Eucalyptus rudis* trees. *Eucalyptus rudis* is common and widespread and is not listed as threatened flora. Given that the total clearing footprint of the two trees is minor (approximately 0.016 ha), the trees are isolated (standalone), lack native understorey and connectivity with other vegetation and are in the road reserve, it is unlikely that threatened flora is present and unlikely that the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are necessary for the existence of threatened flora.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- DCCEEW (2026a)
- Main Roads (2025)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - DBCA Threatened and Priority flora database search (Accessed May 2026)
 - WA Herbarium (Accessed May 2026)

(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.

Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Study Area

No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified within the 5 km Study Area per the DBCA database search.

The Commonwealth PMST identified one TEC that may occur within the 5 km Study Area:

- *Empodisma* peatlands of southwestern Australia (Endangered)

Clearing Area

The Commonwealth listed TEC: *Empodisma* peatlands is characterised by peat-forming wetlands dominated by *Empodisma gracillimum* and occurs within south-western Australian peatland systems (Department of the Environment and Energy, 2015). The Clearing Area which comprises two individual *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are not a species or in a locality that is representative of or in association with this Peatland TEC.

The nearest mapped BC Act TEC is located on the Swan Coastal Plain, >50 km west north-west of the Clearing Area: *Critically Endangered: SCP10b – Shrublands on the Swan Coastal Plain Ironstones*.

Given that the two individual *Eucalyptus rudis* trees are not a representative species of any BC Act or EPBC Act TECs mentioned above, nor growing in association with any other vegetation, it can be concluded that the does not comprise the whole or a part of or is necessary for the maintenance of a TEC. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- DCCEEW (2026a)
- Department of the Environment and Energy (2015)
- Main Roads (2025)
- Government GIS shapefiles:
 - DBCA Threatened Ecological Community database search (Accessed June 2026)

(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.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation recognise that the retention of 30% or more of the pre-clearing extent of each ecological community is necessary if Australia's biological diversity is to be protected (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001) except in constrained areas (Perth and Peel) where 10% representation should be maintained.

The Clearing Area is located within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion and Southern Jarrah Forest subregion. On a local scale, there is approximately 1,900 ha of native vegetation (DPIRD-005) remaining in the Study Area. The Clearing Area is restricted to approximately 0.016 ha comprising of two individual *Eucalyptus rudis* trees. The Clearing Area therefore constitutes a very small proportion (0.0008%) of the remaining native vegetation extent within the Study Area. The Clearing Area is therefore unlikely to represent a significant loss of native vegetation at the local scale.

In addition to the above, the Clearing Area is isolated, comprising of two individual *E.rudis* trees in a highly modified landscape (road reserve). The trees are not part of a continuous native vegetation community since they lack mid to understory vegetation, have no canopy connectivity and are in a degraded condition. It is therefore considered that they are not significant as a remnant of native vegetation.

Eucalyptus rudis is not a species which is a dominant vegetation type mapped for the area (Veg Assoc. No. 992) and is more commonly associated with seasonally wet areas, drainage lines and floodplain environments. The two trees occur outside regular flood inundation areas of the Blackwood River and are separated from intact riparian vegetation, limiting their value to broader ecological connectivity.

The Clearing Area is not significant as remnant due to:

- Two individual trees proposed to be cleared
- Clearing Area makes up 0.0008% (0.016 ha) of the total native vegetation extent remaining in the Study Area (1,900 ha).
- No mid-understory native vegetation or connectivity to other vegetation
- The degraded condition of these trees located in a highly modified environment (road reserve)
- Retention of vegetation in surrounding local area.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

OFFICIAL

BRIDGE 475 MAINTENANCE REPAIRS AND WIDENING DONNYBROOK KOJONUP ROAD M013 CLEARING DESKTOP REPORT – JUNE 2026

Methodology

- Aerial photography
- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- Government of Western Australia (2019a)
- Main Roads (2025) Government GIS shapefiles:
 - Pre-European vegetation (Accessed June 2026)
 - Vegetation complexes (Accessed June 2026)
 - Native vegetation extent (Accessed June 2026)

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

There are no mapped Geomorphic, Ramsar or Directory of Important Wetlands in the Clearing Area or greater Study Area. There are no natural watercourses immediately adjacent to or intersecting the Clearing Area. Neither of the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees proposed for clearing are growing on the bed and banks of a watercourse and they are isolated and not growing in association with any wetland dependent/riparian vegetation. The nearest natural watercourse is the Blackwood River, located approximately 80-100 m east of the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees.

Eucalyptus rudis is commonly associated with riparian areas, floodplains and seasonally wet habitats; however, it is widespread in south-western WA and is not restricted to watercourses and wetlands. *Eucalyptus rudis* may occur as isolated individuals in modified landscapes where the original hydrology has changed and they can be found away from defined creek lines and in isolated paddocks and road reserves.

A review of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) floodplain mapping indicates that the two *Eucalyptus rudis* trees occur outside regular flood inundation areas of the Blackwood River and the mapped 1:25-year Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extent. Under the 1:100-year AEP flood event, one of the two trees is located on the mapped floodplain boundary, while the other is outside the mapped floodplain area. Based on this information, the trees are unlikely to experience regular inundation or direct interaction with floodwaters from the Blackwood River. Any potential hydrological influence from the river is therefore likely to occur only during large, infrequent flood events. The trees are more likely to be influenced by local surface water inputs, such as sheet flow from road runoff and adjacent cleared paddock areas, rather than regular riverine inundation.

Given the above, it is not considered that the two *Eucalyptus rudis* are associated with or have impact on, the values of the Blackwood River. As such the proposed clearing is considered not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Aerial Photography
- Government GIS shapefiles:
 - Geomorphic Wetlands (Accessed June 2026)
 - Ramsar Wetlands (Accessed June 2026)
 - Important Wetlands (Accessed June 2026)
 - Watercourses (Accessed June 2026)
 - RIWI Act Rivers (Accessed June 2026)
 - Flood Plain Mapping (Accessed June 2026)
- Main Roads (2025)

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

The Clearing Area is mapped within a Land Instability risk (DPIRD-042) area classed as *L1: <3% of map unit has a moderate to high hazard* and Water Erosion risk (DPIRD-013) area classed as *L2: 3-10% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk*.

Given that only two trees (approximately 0.016 ha) are proposed to be cleared in a highly modified roadside environment, it is unlikely the works will cause appreciable land degradation (waterlogging, erosion, salinisation, nutrient export or soil acidification).

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - CSIRO Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map (Accessed June 2026)
 - Soil landscape land quality – Water Erosion Risk (Accessed June 2026)
 - Soil landscape land quality – Waterlogging Risk (Accessed June 2026)
 - Soil landscape land quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007) (Accessed June 2026)

(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.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

Based on DBCA database searches, there are no conservation areas within or adjacent to the Clearing Area. As discussed in Principle (f), there are no mapped Geomorphic, Ramsar or Directory of Important Wetlands in the Clearing Area or greater Study Area.

The nearest DBCA managed land is the Nollajup Nature Reserve, located approximately 6.5 km SW of the Clearing Area. The nearest Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) is approximately 1.75 km north-west of the Clearing Area.

The proposed clearing will not impact on conservation areas due to:

- Only 0.016 ha comprising of two individual trees is proposed to be cleared
- the absence of conservation areas close to the Clearing Area with the nearest DBCA managed land and ESA approximately 6.5km and 1.75 km away respectively.
- the two trees are isolated in the road reserve and there are no ecological linkages associated with these trees.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters & Lands of Interest (Accessed June 2026)
 - Geomorphic Wetlands (conservation category wetlands only) (Accessed June 2026)
 - Ramsar Wetlands (Accessed June 2026)
 - Important Wetlands (Accessed June 2026)

(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.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

A desktop review of GIS data has determined that the Clearing Area is not within a Proclaimed Groundwater or Surface Water area, a Public Drinking Water Source Area or Country Areas Water Supply Clearing Control Catchment.

Ground disturbance associated with clearing will be minor, considering only two trees are proposed to be cleared in the road reserve. Impacts of clearing on the quality of surface or ground water resources is unlikely due to the minor amount of clearing, the absence of proclaimed groundwater and surface water resources and the sufficient buffer of approximately 80-100m between the Clearing Area and Blackwood River.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Main Roads (2025)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (Accessed June 2026)
 - CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (Accessed June 2026)
 - RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas ((Accessed June 2026)
 - Acid Sulfate Soil risk mapping (Accessed June 2026)

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**Proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.**

The clearing works require the removal of two roadside trees (approximately 0.016ha) which will occur in a previously disturbed environment along the road, to facilitate widening works. There are no natural watercourses or wetlands that intersect or are adjacent to the Clearing Area. The proposed clearing will occur on flat topography in the road reserve and is approximately 80-100 m from the Blackwood River. The two trees proposed to be cleared are outside of the regular flood inundation levels of the Blackwood River. The two trees are isolated and not connected to any other vegetation.

Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology

- Aerial Photography
- Main Roads (2025)
- Government GIS Shapefiles:
 - Soil Mapping (Accessed June 2026)
 - Flood Mapping (Accessed June 2026)

6 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Main Roads will avoid clearing native vegetation where possible. Where clearing cannot be avoided then this clearing is kept to a minimum.

7 REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS

7.1 Revegetation and Rehabilitation

No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities and therefore no revegetation or rehabilitation will be conducted under CPS 818.

7.2 Offset Proposal

No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.

8 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Main Roads will undertake stakeholder consultation in accordance with CPS 818 Condition 8.

9 COMPLIANCE WITH CPS 818

The clearing associated with the proposal is not at variance with the Clearing Principles. Additional management actions under CPS 818 are detailed in Table 5.

Table 5. Summary of Additional Management Actions Required by CPS 818

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. The CDR indicates that the clearing is 'At Variance' or 'May be at Variance' with one or more of the Clearing Principles.	No	No further action required.
2. Clearing is at variance or may be at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality <u>or</u> (j) the incidence of flooding.	No	No further action required.
3. Clearing is at variance with Clearing Principle (g) land degradation, (i) surface or underground water quality <u>and</u> (j) the incidence of flooding.	No	No further action required.
4. The Proposal involves clearing for temporary works (as defined by CPS 818).	No	No further action required.
5a. Proposal is within a Region that: • has rainfall greater than 400mm; and, • is South of the 26th parallel; and, • works are necessary in 'Other than dry conditions'; and, • works have potential for uninfested areas to be impacted.	No	Standard Vehicle and Plant management actions from Annexure 204B (TABLE 204B.9.1), <u>Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669)</u> and <u>Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Register Template (D23#179551)</u> will be applied. Proposed works are to proceed using Main Roads Standard Dieback Principal Environmental Management Requirements in the Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
5b. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	No	No further action required.
6. Main Roads has been notified by DWER or an environmental specialist that the area to be cleared is susceptible to a pathogen other than dieback.	No	No further action required.
7. Weeds are likely to spread to and result in environmental harm to adjacent areas of native vegetation that are in good or better condition.	No	No further action required.
8. Did an environmental specialist conduct the survey or field assessment?	Yes	The Environmental Specialist undertaking the Site Inspection was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.
9. Did an environmental specialist prepare the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation including the VMP, Dieback Management Plan or Offset Proposal?	Yes	The Environmental Specialist preparing the Assessment Report and any other associated documentation was suitably qualified and had more than three years' experience.

10 REFERENCES

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