

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	H052 - Brookton Highway Aldersyde to Corrigin 150 – 155.75 SLK Widening and Overlay		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Shire of Brookton		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Brookton Highway (H052)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK150.0 -155.5		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#934384		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	Approved Clearing Area: D26#891332		
EOS Number:	3900		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	01/09/2026		
Oracle Project No:	30003479	Task Code:	720.18.01
LISC TRIM Number:	D26#827698	HRA TRIM Number:	D26#543301

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Up to 0.151 ha of native vegetation clearing is required to facilitate the widening and pavement rehabilitation of Brookton Highway between Straight Line Kilometre (SLK) 150-155.75. The project aims to improve road user safety by improving the quality and width of the road pavement. The current road formation is narrow, and the quality of the pavement has degraded to a point that it is now a safety concern. Brookton Highway is a major freight route for agricultural production. The proposed clearing is unavoidable to facilitate the essential safety upgrades of the road.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

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

- Preferentially locating the new alignment in cleared pasture areas over the existing road reserve, however this was considered cost prohibitive e.g. due to cost of resumption of farmland and construction of a completely new road rather than widening the existing alignment and premature redundancy of State Road asset, lack of adequate funding, stakeholder engagement and resource requirements. Under this option, clearing would still be required for tie-ins to the existing road network.
- Do not upgrade the road, however this will potentially result in a poorer safety outcome and may result in future fatalities or serious injuries and further degradation of the State Road asset.

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

The following measures have been considered and will be applied where applicable to avoid, minimise, mitigate, and manage clearing impacts:

- 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 formation, 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.
- Vegetation to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to identified locations. This approach aims to prevent accidental over-clearing. No understorey or ground

layer native vegetation is present in the area and consequently, only 0.151 ha of vegetation will be impacted during clearing.

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 (DER, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- 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):	0.151	No. Trees Cleared:	
Species Name(s):	<i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp.		
Easting and Northing:	Easting 539907.35, Northing 6422257.67		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Veg Association 1023 (Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo, & salmon gum) Veg association 1147 (shrublands; scrub-heath in the southeast Avon-wheatbelt region)
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	Two Pre European Vegetation Associations were mapped historically to occur in the Clearing Area. The pre-European and current extent of these vegetation associations is available from the Statewide Vegetation Statistics dataset. Percentage of Pre-European vegetation remaining at state, regional, local government and IBRA level is summarised in Tab 1 below.

Table 1 – Pre European Vegetation Extent

Veg association	Description	Remaining within State (%)	Remaining within IBRA region (%)	Remaining within IBRA sub region (%)	Remaining within LGA (%)
1023	Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo, & salmon gum	10.79	10.84	12.32	9.65
1147	shrublands; scrub-heath in the southeast Avon-wheatbelt	9.51	9.51	9.45	5.59

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.	The Clearing Area consists of 38 <i>Acacia acuminata</i> trees and 19 <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp. trees, none of which are conservation significant flora species. The vegetation does not form part of a Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community (Ecologia, 2021). The Clearing Area is not within, or providing connectivity to, a conservation area, nor is it growing in association with a watercourse or wetland. The vegetation proposed for clearing is not representative of a high level of biological diversity. The vegetation offers little in the way of habitat for native fauna given the fragmented and degraded nature of the vegetation to be cleared. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
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.	The Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped records of Threatened or Priority fauna. The Clearing Area is within the modelled distribution for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo (DAWE, 2022). However, the nearest mapped breeding site is over 30 km south and the nearest mapped roosting site is over 60 km west. The Proposal involves the clearing of approximately 0.151 ha of low to moderate quality, scattered roadside foraging vegetation for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The vegetation proposed for clearing (<i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp.) provides no breeding or roosting habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo. Within the 20 km project Study Area there is only three mapped records of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The three mapped occurrences are situated approximately 15 km south of the Clearing Area. There has

	been no recorded sighting of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo within the 20 km Study Area since 2012. Ecologia (2021) undertook a biological survey that included the Clearing Area and noted "Given the appropriate time of the survey and absence of large trees within the survey area containing known breeding hollows, it is unlikely that Carnaby's Cockatoos are currently utilising the habitats identified within the Survey Area". The Clearing Area was resurveyed in 2025 by Ecologia and they concluded that "Carnaby's Cockatoo have the potential to overfly the survey area; however, usage represents transient visitation only as suitable foraging, breeding and roosting habitat was not identified within the Survey Area". Ecologia found no evidence of primary or secondary foraging from Carnaby's cockatoo across both the 2021 and 2025 biological surveys. Ecologia (2025) listed Carnaby's Cockatoo as unlikely to occur in their post survey Likelihood of Occurrence assessment. Given there are no known breeding trees within 30 km and no known roosting trees within 60 km, it is unlikely that Black Cockatoos are using the area for breeding or foraging. The Clearing Area is within the mapped distribution of Red-tailed Phascogale (<i>Phascogale calura</i>). There are no mapped records of Red-tailed phascogale within 16 km of the Clearing Area. The vegetation proposed to be cleared has limited canopy connectivity and is too fragmented to be considered appropriate Phascogale habitat. The vegetation proposed for clearing is scattered, isolated and too sparse and degraded to provide important shelter, foraging or dispersal habitat for any fauna species. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	The proposal is to clear 38 <i>Acacia acuminata</i> trees and 19 <i>Allocasuarina</i> trees. These species are not listed as threatened flora and the nearest threatened flora (<i>Banksia ionthocarpa</i> subsp. <i>chrysophoenix</i>) record occurs approximately 4.4 km southwest of the Clearing Area. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
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.	Based on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) restricted access Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) dataset, the Clearing Area does not intersect a mapped patch of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), listed as Critically Endangered under the <i>EPBC Act</i>. Structure of vegetation proposed to be cleared does not represent the description of a TEC. Analysis of aerial imagery shows the Clearing Area is within the degraded road reserve. The degraded road reserve does not meet the condition thresholds to be considered part of the TEC, nor does it provide an important buffer for nearby mapped patches of TEC. A biological survey over the Clearing Area was conducted by Ecologia in 2021. Ecologia (2021) didn't identify any patches of vegetation that classified as TEC.

	Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
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.	The Clearing Area is broadly mapped as: Beard Vegetation Association 1023 - Medium woodland; York gum, wandoo, & salmon gum: 10.79% remaining at state level, 10.84% at the regional level and 12.32% within the Katanning Subregion; and Beard Vegetation association 1147 - shrublands; scrub-heath in the southeast Avon-wheatbelt region: 9.51% remaining at state level, 9.51% at the regional level 9.45% within the Katanning Subregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The proposed Clearing Area consists of 38 <i>Acacia acuminata</i> trees and 19 <i>Allocasuarina</i> trees growing in the degraded road reserve over an understorey that is entirely dominated by agricultural weeds. Based on the structure and condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, it is no longer representative of the broad scale pre-European Beard Vegetation Associations. The Clearing Area does not contain any overstorey woodland species such as York gum, wandoo or Salmon gum. Agricultural grasses and weeds dominate the ground layer and there is no structural complexity or diversity of mid storey species, with the clearing area being limited to scattered, isolated <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina</i> sp. trees. The small and isolated pockets of vegetation proposed for clearing along this stretch of road do not form a significant linkage across the landscape and are too sparse to offer foraging, dispersal or shelter for native fauna species. As such, the vegetation proposed for clearing is not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation, despite being in an area that has been extensively cleared. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
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.	Based on hydrology GIS databases, a mapped minor non-perennial watercourse occurs near SLK 154.8 where several <i>Acacia acuminata</i> trees are proposed for clearing. However, the vegetation is not going in association with this mapped watercourse. The vegetation type within the Clearing Area is consistent throughout its SLK range and does not change with proximity to the watercourse. <i>Acacia acuminata</i> is not considered to be a riparian species (Atlas of Living Australia, 2025). Based in the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the clearing and the Completely Degraded condition of the area. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not 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.	There are no conservation areas within, or near, the Clearing Area. The nearest conservation area is located approximately 2 km south of the Clearing Area. Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas.

	Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
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 Clearing Area is located within the Avon River Catchment Area, a proclaimed Surface Water Area under the <i>RIWI Act</i>. According to desktop GIS datasets and analysis of aerial and Streetview imagery, the Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped major watercourses or wetlands. An existing culvert around SLK 154.8 enables a minor non-perennial surface water feature to pass beneath Brookton Highway. The proposed clearing of several <i>Acacia acuminata</i> near this location is unlikely to adversely affect flow or quality of surface water at this culvert. The Clearing Area is not located within a proclaimed Groundwater Area, Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) or Clearing Control Catchment under the CAWS Act (GIS Databases). The clearing of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Allocasuarina sp.</i> is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Based on the small area of native vegetation to be removed (0.151 ha), it is unlikely the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The Clearing Area does not include any mapped major watercourses or wetlands and does not occur within a mapped floodplain area (DWER-020). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Used and References:	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) (2022) Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's Cockatoo, Baudin's Cockatoo and the Forest Red-tailed Black cockatoo, DAWE, Canberra. Ecologia (2021). Brookton Hwy Widening Project (SLK155-250.91): Biological Survey Ecologia (2025). Brookton Hwy 151-202 SLK widening: Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey, Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey, and Black Cockatoo Habitat Assessment. Government of Western Australia (2019) – Statewide Vegetation Statistics - https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics Clearing Area Maps: Appendix 1. Photographs of each tree: Appendix 2. Shapefile of Clearing Area: Shapefile of clearing area/trees: GIS Datasets: - Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites - Buffered (DBCA-063) - Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - Buffered (DBCA-064) - Carnaby's Cockatoo Confirmed Roost Sites (DBCA-050) - Clearing Regulations – Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046) - DBCA – Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011) - DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012) - DBCA Restricted WA Herbarium Flora - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Fauna - DBCA Restricted Threatened and Priority Flora - DBCA Restricted Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - DBCA Restricted White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations - DBCA Restricted Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Site Locations - Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045) - EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976 – 1991 (DBCA-029) - FPM Floodplain Area (DWER-020) - Hydrography Linear (DWER-031) - Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA), Version 7 (Regions and Subregions) - Local Government Authority (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233) - Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018) - Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005) - Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006) - Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010) - Threatened Ecological Communities (DBCA-038) - TEC_PEC Actual Boundary
9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS	
Offset Proposal:	No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.
Revegetation and Rehabilitation:	No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH CPS818

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

Impact of Clearing	Yes/No or NA	Further Action Required
1. Proposal is within a Region that: - has rainfall greater than 400mm; and, - is South of the 26th parallel	No	Standard Vehicle and Plant Management Actions Hygiene Checklists (D17#859669) and Vehicle, Plant and Machinery Hygiene Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551) will be applied.
2. Do the proposed works require clearing within or adjacent to DBCA managed lands in non-dry conditions?	No	No further action required.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Completed By:

Name	Redacted
Signature	Redacted
Job Title	Environment Officer
Date	11/08/2026

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

Name	Redacted
Signature	Redacted
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer
Date	13 August 2026

Appendix 1. Clearing Area Maps



Figure 2. Clearing Area Map - SLK 154.7 to 155.1

Appendix 2. Photographs of trees proposed to be cleared



Plate 1. *Allocasuarina* sp. (SLK 153.3-153.4 LHS)



Plate 2. *Allocasuarina* sp. (SLK 153.35 RHS)



Plate 3. Four *Acacia acuminata* trees (two alive, two dead) (SLK 154.8 RHS)



Plate 4. Four *Acacia acuminata* trees (three alive, one dead) (SLK 154.82 RHS)



Plate 5. Four *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.82 LHS)



Plate 6. Eight *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.85 RHS)



Plate 7. Three *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.85 LHS)



Plate 8. Six *Acacia acuminata* trees (five alive and one dead) (SLK 154.86 LHS)



Plate 9. Four *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.88 LHS)



Plate 10. Two *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.98 LHS)



Plate 11. Two *Acacia acuminata* trees (SLK 154.07 LHS)