

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Construction of Overtaking Lanes on Great Northern Highway between Auski and Port Hedland – OTL 31-35 Drainage and Turnarounds		
Region/Directorate:	Pilbara		
Local Government:	Town of Port Hedland		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Great Northern Highways (H006)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	OTL 31 (SLK 1524.04 to 1527.48), OTL 33 (SLK 1544.84 to 1546.21), OTL 34 (SLK 1543.00 to 1539.85) and, OTL 35 (SLK 1577.63 to 1581.01)		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#728379		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	Approved Clearing Shapefile D26#729591		
EOS Number:	2602		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	10 June 2026		
Oracle Project No:	30001560	Task Code:	19401
LISC TRIM Number:	D26#680581	HRA TRIM Number:	D26#680582

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Main Roads is constructing Overtaking Lanes on Great Northern Hwy to facilitate safe vehicle movement on a section of the network which is utilised by heavy vehicles.

The Contract defined an Approved Clearing Boundary at tender; however, during execution it became evident that the prescribed limits were insufficient to enable constructability of the Works.

Proposal seeks to revise the clearing boundary to include additional areas required for

1. Construction of drainage (including offshoot / Type A drains) to meet design requirements and construct sufficient drainage to accommodate the overtaking lanes.
2. Provision of safe plant access to accommodate tie-in works in the overtaking lanes.

The clearing is necessary to meet the scope of works and address constructability constraints associated with operating plant within limited spatial areas. Insufficient working room currently exists across portions of the site, thus affecting the ability to deliver the design in accordance with safety and traffic management requirements.

Approximately 1ha of clearing is required to deliver the works.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no feasible alternatives to clearing. Clearing is required to safety access portions of the GNH OTL2 project site to deliver the design in accordance with safety and traffic management requirements.

The proposed sites avoid areas of higher quality vegetation and utilises disturbed land where practicable.

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

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

- The site selected for construction of drainage and tie-ins proposes to utilise previously disturbed land where possible. Visual inspection of the aerial imagery shows cleared portions, disturbance and edge effects from proximity to the highway. The use of disturbed land reduces the clearing required.

- Where areas of disturbed and unvegetated land could not be selected, aerial imagery and visual inspection were utilised to select the Clearing Area to avoid vegetation of higher quality and avoid conservation significant flora species and communities.
- Main Roads retains frangible vegetation where a clear zone is to be established for road projects. However, or this project 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.

5. APPROVED POLICES AND PLANNING INSTRUMENTS

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.3), Main Roads has also had regard to the following documents.

Environmental Protection Policies:

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

Other legislation of relevance for assessment of clearing and planning/other matters:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (WA) (RIWI Act)
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) (AHA)
- *Town Planning and Development Act* (WA) 1928

Relevant other policies and guidance documents:

- Environmental Offsets Policy (Government of Western Australia, 2011)
- A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation (DEC, December 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, October 2019)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, August 2014)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)
- Approved conservation advice under section 266B of the EPBC Act for threatened flora/fauna/vegetation communities
- Approved Recovery Plans for threatened species
- EPBC Act Referral guidelines for the three threatened black cockatoo species
- Strategic advice - EPA

6. CLEARING AREA

Clearing Area (ha):	Approx. 1 ha within a Development Envelope (DE) of 1.18 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	-
Species Name(s):	<i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea</i> spp.		

	Eucalyptus spp.
Easting and Northing:	118.6386969°E 20.9998758°S 118.6235560°E 20.9720333°S 118.5643368°E 20.8780035°S 118.5478419°E 20.8547881°S 118.5422752°E 20.8396763°S 118.5381356°E 20.8272674°S 118.4410240°E 20.5635760°S 118.4429921°E 20.5601549°S 118.4524376°E 20.5418885°S 118.4531695°E 20.5403301°S 118.4542214°E 20.5382621°S
7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION	
Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Desktop assessment indicates the DE is mapped as the following Vegetation Associations (VA): - VA 589, characterised as <i>Mosaic short bunch grassland - savanna / grass plain (Pilbara) / Hummock grasslands, grass steppe; soft spinifex</i> makes up 0.81 ha of the DE. - VA 93, characterised as <i>Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee, Triodia spp. Acacia spp., Grevillea spp. Eucalyptus spp.</i> makes up the remaining 0.37 ha of the DE. Pilbara Environmental (2023) mapped a portion (0.66 ha) of the DE (1.18). The vegetation types consisted of: - VT07 - <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>X. lautifolia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.07 ha) - VT08 - <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i>, <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia colei</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.22 ha). - VT10 - <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.02 ha) - VT11 - <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i>, (<i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>) tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia lanigera</i>, <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.07 ha) - VT12 - <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low open shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.01 ha) - VT13 - <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.09 ha) - VT14 - <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia lanigera</i> open hummock grassland (0.08 ha) - VT17 - <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i>, <i>Grevillea wickhamii</i> tall sparse shrubland to shrubland over <i>Triodia lanigera</i>, (<i>Triodia epactia</i>) open hummock grassland (0.10 ha) The remaining 0.52 ha of the DE was mapped through extrapolation using aerial imagery and Pilbara Environmental (2023) vegetation descriptions. - VT07 - <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>X. lautifolia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.47 ha) - VT08 - <i>Acacia ancistrocarpa</i>, <i>Acacia inaequilatera</i>, <i>Acacia colei</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Acacia stellaticeps</i> low sparse shrubland over <i>Triodia epactia</i> open hummock grassland (0.05 ha).

Site Vegetation Condition:	Pilbara Environmental identified vegetation condition as Very Good within the portion of the DE they surveyed. Analysis of aerial imagery shows the unsurveyed portion of the DE is in similar condition.
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	The proposal is in the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Roebourne. Over 99% of the pre-European extent of VA 589 and VA 93 remains across all levels.
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 vegetation association mapped within the DE (VA 589 and VA 93) retains over 99% of its pre-European extent. The DE has been subject to previous disturbance as observed through desktop analysis of aerial imagery. The small area of clearing proposed will not significantly reduce the vegetation extent of VA 589 or 93. No Commonwealth or State-listed Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) occur within the DE (Pilbara Ecological, 2023) The restricted DBCA and WA Herbarium flora databases identify no Threatened or Priority taxa have previously been recorded within the DE. Furthermore, no conservation significant flora were recorded in the DE during the on-ground survey (Pilbara Ecological, 2023) The restricted DBCA fauna database identified no Threatened or Priority Fauna have been previously recorded within the DE. Pilbara Environmental (2023) did not record any conservation significant fauna species in the DE. Pilbara Environmental mapped three fauna habitats over the DE, they were: • HT01 – Low open shrubland on sandy plain (0.01 ha) • HT02 – Tall open shrubland on sandy/sandy loam plain (0.46 ha) • HT05 – Low open woodland on sandy/sandy loam plain (0.15 ha) The unsurveyed portion of the DE is associated with fauna habitat HT03 Open woodland on lower stony slope (0.52 ha). The vegetation and habitat types are well represented in the survey area and across the wider Roebourne Bioregion. The small extent of these habitat areas within the DE which have been previously disturbed and often do not contain key habitat features is not expected to comprise a high level of faunal diversity in comparison to other areas locally or regionally. The fauna habitats are common and widespread beyond the DE and there are large, intact areas of higher quality habitat nearby in the surrounding areas. Based on the above, the DE does not comprise a high level of biological diversity. 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	Four habitat types occur across the DE:

is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

- HT01 – Low open shrubland on sandy plain (0.01 ha)
- HT02 – Tall open shrubland on sandy/sandy loam plain (0.46 ha)
- HT03 – Open woodland on lower stony slope (0.52 ha)
- HT05 – Low open woodland on sandy/sandy loam plain (0.15 ha)

All fauna habitats extend well beyond the DE. The DE has also been impacted by previous disturbance.

The restricted DBCA fauna database identified no significant fauna recorded from within the DE. There are many instances of significant fauna occurring within a 50km radius of the DE with the closest records being:

- *Dasyurus hallucatus*, Northern Quoll (EN)
- *Pseudomys chapmani*, Western Pebble-mound Mouse (P4)
- *Rhinonictis aurantia*, Pilbara leaf nosed bat (V)
- *Glareola maldivarum*, Oriental Pratincole (MI)

Pilbara Environmental (2023) recorded no significant fauna during their survey. Three species of significance were considered likely to occur, these were:

- *Glareola maldivarum*, Oriental pratincole (MI)
- *Dasyercus blythi*, Brush-tailed mulgara (P4)
- *Pseudomys chapmani*, Western Pebble-mound Mouse (P4)

One record of Northern Quoll, listed as Endangered under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC) and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* (EPBC), is located 300m from the DE. This species utilises rocky areas for denning and foraging and may disperse along creek to reach favourable habitat. The DE does not contain suitable habitat which comprises preferred denning or foraging habitat for this species.

Two records of Western Pebble-mound mouse occur 500 m from the DE. The Western Pebble-mound Mouse, listed as Priority 4 (P4) by DBCA, occupies stony plains and low rises with hummock grasses, habitat that is present within the DE. The small, disturbed extent of the DE is unlikely to represent preferred habitat when areas surrounding the DE are undisturbed and of higher quality.

One record of Pilbara leaf-nosed bat occurs 450m from DE. This species is listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act and the EPBC Act, forages over a broad range of habitats including stony plains and low rises present in the survey area; however, requires specific conditions for roosting. Suitable caves for denning and roosting are not present within the DE and the habitat within the DE does not display features which suggest it contains a preferred foraging resource.

One record of Oriental Pratincole conservation status Migratory exists 800m from one of the Proposed Clearing Areas. The Oriental Pratincole is a migratory wader that winters in the Pilbara. The

	vegetation within the DE does not comprise significant habitat for this species. The Brush-tailed Mulgara (P4) inhabits spinifex grasslands on sandy plains where it lives in burrows. This habitat type is abundant within the survey area and is associated with fauna habitats HT01, HT02 & HT03. However, the small scale of the clearing proposed and the abundance of habitat in similar or better condition mean this species is unlikely to be impacted by the proposed works. Vegetation in the DE does not comprises the whole or a part of, and is not necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for fauna based on the absence of fauna records and key fauna habitat features; the small, footprint of the DE that has been subject to previous disturbance; and the extensive availability of fauna habitat in better condition in the surrounding area. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be 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.	Desktop assessment identified no Threatened flora within the DE or in proximity to the proposed works. Pilbara Environmental (2023) found no Threatened flora within the DE or the wider survey 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.	No Commonwealth or State-listed TECs occur within the DE or wider survey area (Pilbara, 2023). 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 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 proposed clearing area consists of Vegetation Associations 93 and 589 which retains over 99% of their pre-European extent locally and across the Pilbara region. The small amount of proposed clearing (approx. 1 ha) is not likely to significantly impact the remaining extent of VA 93 or 589 (or native vegetation more broadly) in the local area., The proposed clearing is not significant as a remnant 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.	According to GIS Government databases, no watercourses or wetlands occur within the DE. A review of aerial imagery substantiates this finding. Based on 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.	The DE is mapped within two soil landscape systems, they are: • Manilla Land System (0.78) characterised by <i>sandy surfaced alluvial plains supporting soft spinifex grasslands and minor hard spinifex and tussock grasslands</i> • Uaroo Land System (0.40 ha) characterised by <i>broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrubs</i> The CSIRO ASROS Acid Sulphate Soils mapping indicates a 'Low probability of Occurrence' within the DE. The proposed clearing is not anticipated to have an impact on soil acidity. The clearing of 1 ha of vegetation that has been previously subject to disturbance is not likely to exacerbate salinity, acidification, flooding or waterlogging, resulting in appreciable land degradation. 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.	A desktop assessment identified that the DE does not intersect lands classified for nature conservation. The closest is Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve over 65 km to the south. The proposed clearing will not sever any ecological linkages to 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 Proposal Area is located in the proclaimed Pilbara Surface Water Area and Pilbara Groundwater Area. The proposed works do not intersect a mapped watercourse or wetland (including RAMSAR or Nationally Important Wetlands) (DBCA-010, DBCA-045). Clearing of 1 ha of native vegetation from within the DE is not expected to alter salinity, pH of water tables or existing water regimes. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or groundwater.
Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	The Town of Port Hedland experiences low annual rainfall, with a yearly average of 313 mm. The majority of rainfall occurs between the months of November and March (BOM, 2026). The proposed clearing is a small area, with no intersection with perennial watercourses or wetlands (DBCA-010, DBCA-045). The proposed clearing of 1 ha of native vegetation which has been partially disturbed will not result in significant changes to the current drainage or surface water flows. and is unlikely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Used and References:

Pilbara Environmental (2023) GNH HV Parking Bay Biological Survey. Prepared for Main Roads D24#50121

Bureau of Meteorology, (2026) Climate Data Online. Port Hedland Airport 004032. Accessed at:
[Climate statistics for Australian locations](#)

Government GIS Shapefiles:

- Acid Sulfate Soil Risk Map (accessed June, 2026)
- Geomorphic Wetlands (accessed June, 2026)
- Ramsar Wetlands (accessed June, 2026)
- Important Wetlands (accessed June, 2026)
- Watercourses (accessed June, 2026)
- Pre-European vegetation (accessed June, 2026)
- IBRA Regions (accessed June, 2026)
- IBRA Sub-Regions (accessed June, 2026)
- DBCA Threatened Ecological Community database search (accessed June, 2026)
- DBCA Threatened flora database search (accessed June, 2026)
- WA Herbarium Threatened Flora database search (accessed June, 2026)
- DBCA Threatened and Priority fauna database search (accessed June, 2026)

Government of Western Australia (2019). Statewide Vegetation Statistics. Available at:
<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics#:~:text=The%20statistics%20provided%20a%20general,of%20an%20area%20of%20interest>. Accessed February 2026.

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; 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 Vehicle Register Template (D23#179551)</u> 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	Graduate Environmental Officer	
Date	10/06/2026	

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

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	(REDACTED)
Job Title	Environment Contractor
Date	11/06/2026