

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Bridge 3197 – Single Tree Removal		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Shire of Beverley		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	York-Williams Road / Bridge 3197		
Proposal Location (SLK):	11.95		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#693538		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#694336		
EOS Number:	1452		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	17/07/2025		
Oracle Project No:	30000674	Task Code:	19301
LISC TRIM Number:	D18#552403	HRA TRIM No:	D18#724844

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Bridge 3197 was recently upgraded from a four-span timber, single lane bridge to a single span, dual lane bridge.

As part of the bridge upgrade, it was believed that a Wandoo tree on the south west side of the bridge could be retained. However, post construction it has been identified that this tree is now leaning towards the road and may fall onto the carriageway.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The Proposal involves the clearing of one tree (0.013 ha) along York Williams Road to allow for improved motorist safety. The tree is proposed to be cut approximately 300 mm above ground height, which will allow it to regrow perpendicular to the ground.

Accordingly, there is limited scope to alter the clearing.

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

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

- 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 additional 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, 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, October 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):	0.013 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	1
Species Name(s):	<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>		
Easting and Northing:	116.798335, -32.166758		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 352: Medium woodland; York gum											
Site Vegetation Condition:	Completely Degraded											
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	The below table displays the current extents of the remaining Vegetation for VA: 352 on a Statewide and LGA level. <table><tr><th>Scale</th><th>Current Extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th></tr><tr><td>Statewide</td><td>142,012</td><td>19.61</td></tr><tr><td>LGA (Beverley)</td><td>7,623</td><td>12.24</td></tr></table>			Scale	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	Statewide	142,012	19.61	LGA (Beverley)	7,623	12.24
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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 proposal consists of clearing a single, roadside <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> tree. This species is not listed as Threatened or Priority flora, is not part of a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (TEC/PEC), does not provide a linkage or buffer to a conservation area and is not associated with a wetland or watercourse (Ecologia, 2021; GIS Databases). The tree provides potential foraging and roosting habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo, however the tree

	contains no hollows suitable for breeding and shows no evidence of foraging activity (Ecologia, 2021). The nearest known roosting and breeding locations are more than 14.3 km and 50 km from the tree, respectively, reducing its significance as habitat. Whilst the tree is remnant native vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape, the lack of native understorey diminishes its value as a remnant or ecological corridor, with limited shelter for ground dwelling fauna. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be 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 single Wandoo tree (with no native understorey) proposed for clearing provides 0.013 ha of moderate quality foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Beverley is on the eastern boundary of where the Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is modelled to 'may occur' and is well outside the modelled distribution of where Baudin's Cockatoo breeding and foraging is known and predicted (DAWE, 2022). An assessment of the potential proposed clearing impacts is provided below: • The nearest unconfirmed Black Cockatoo breeding area is approximately 20.1 km west of the Proposal Area. • The nearest confirmed Black Cockatoo breeding area is over 50 km to the northwest. • The nearest Black Cockatoo night roosting site is 14.3 km from the Proposal Area. • No primary or secondary evidence of Black Cockatoos were recorded during the Ecologia (2021) biological survey of the Bridge 3197 Proposal Area. • Whilst having a DBH greater than 300mm, the tree proposed for clearing contains no hollows suitable for Black Cockatoos and is not a known nesting or night roosting tree. The distance to confirmed Black Cockatoo breeding and night roosting sites reduces the likelihood that vegetation within and surrounding the Proposal Area will be utilised by Black Cockatoos. Given the lack of evidence of Black Cockatoos recorded, the distance to known Black Cockatoo habitat and that the tree proposed for clearing is confirmed to have no suitable hollows, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact threatened Black Cockatoo species. The Proposal Area provides limited landscape connectivity to other patches of remnant native vegetation, being part of a small, narrow and sparse area of roadside vegetation adjacent to cleared agricultural land and a road. Consequently, the area is in a Completely Degraded condition. The single tree proposed to be cleared is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for fauna, given, the condition of vegetation (lack of native understorey), lack of hollows to support fauna nesting activity, low foraging value and negligible connectivity value. 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.	The proposed clearing is limited to a single <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> tree with no native understorey. <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> is not listed as Threatened flora. 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.	A search of Main Roads GIS TEC layer identified two TECs within the 20 km Study Area: • Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt. • Perched wetlands of the Wheatbelt region with extensive stands of living Swamp Sheoak (<i>Casuarina obesa</i>) and Paperbark (<i>Melaleuca strobophylla</i>) across the lake floor. Ecologia (2021) undertook a TEC assessment as part of its desktop and field survey. The desktop assessment identified the two communities listed above and that the likelihood of occurrence within the Survey Area was 'Possible'. The field survey found that the patches of potential Eucalypt Woodlands TEC include dominant/co-dominant contra-indicators, or the vegetation was in 'Degraded' or 'Completely Degraded' condition, which does not meet the criteria for the TEC.

	<i>Melaleuca strobophylla</i> was not recorded in quadrats, sampling sites or opportunistic collections by Ecologia (2021), therefore it was determined that the Perched wetlands of the Wheatbelt region does not occur within the Survey Area. Given that no TECs occur within the Proposal Area, 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.	According to GIS dataset DPIRD-006 (Pre-European Vegetation), the single <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> tree proposed for clearing has been mapped as pre-European Vegetation Association 352, described as medium woodland; York gum. The Pre-European and current extent of this Vegetation Association is shown in the Table below: <table><tr><th>Pre-European Vegetation Association</th><th>Scale</th><th>Pre-European Extent (ha)</th><th>Current Extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th><th>% Current Extent in DBCA Managed Land</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">352</td><td>Statewide</td><td>724,268.73</td><td>142,012.22</td><td>19.61</td><td>8.92</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Bioregion Avon Wheatbelt</td><td>630,577.61</td><td>108,887.52</td><td>17.27</td><td>9.36</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Sub-region Katanning</td><td>337,871.73</td><td>36,295.58</td><td>10.74</td><td>2.13</td></tr><tr><td>Local Government Authority Shire of Beverley</td><td>73,497.97</td><td>8,996.93</td><td>12.24</td><td>12.08</td></tr></table> The proposed clearing area consists of a single Wandoo tree with no native understorey. It is therefore not a good representation of Vegetation Association 352. Within the 20 km Study Area there is 9,016 ha of native vegetation extent mapped as Vegetation Association 352, with the largest contiguous patches being: • 821.8 ha within a 839 ha patch in the Wandoo National Park 15 km to the southwest. • 248.2 ha within a 1,332.3 ha patch in the Wandoo National Park 15 km to the southwest. • 573.3 ha patch following the Avon River 11.8km to the northeast. • 313.2 ha patch following the Dale River 3.8 km to the south. Given the extent and context of these remnants, being contiguous patches larger than 100 ha and occurring within a conservation area or in association with a minor river or a main stream, vegetation in these patches is likely to be in better condition, providing higher quality habitat and corridors for fauna to traverse than the Proposal Area. The Proposal Area occurs within a highly fragmented landscape with limited connectivity to other patches of remnant vegetation (Ecologia 2022). The single Wandoo tree proposed for clearing (with no native understorey) is unlikely to represent the woodland habitat of the pre-European Vegetation Association 352 and is therefore not considered to be significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared. Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European Extent (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Current Extent in DBCA Managed Land	352	Statewide	724,268.73	142,012.22	19.61	8.92	IBRA Bioregion Avon Wheatbelt	630,577.61	108,887.52	17.27	9.36	IBRA Sub-region Katanning	337,871.73	36,295.58	10.74	2.13	Local Government Authority Shire of Beverley	73,497.97	8,996.93	12.24	12.08
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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.	No wetlands or watercourses have been recorded intersecting the Proposal Area. Talbot Brook, a non-perennial stream, passes approximately 100 m to the north of the proposed clearing. Wandoo is typically not considered to be riparian vegetation. Given that the vegetation type within the Proposal Area is not growing in, or in association with, a watercourse or wetland, 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	The proposed clearing of a single roadside tree is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation. The proposed clearing has been designed to avoid interruption of any natural drainage and surface run-off patterns, with drains designed to direct surface runoff towards the existing natural drainage line.																											

cause appreciable land degradation.	Based on its small scale, the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to a long-term increase in salinity, water repellence or risk of flooding. The proposed clearing is not likely to be 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 search of government databases indicates no nature reserves, conservation areas or Bush Forever Sites are located within or adjacent to the Proposal Area. The nearest conservation area is an Environmentally Sensitive Area associated with the Perched wetlands of the Wheatbelt region TEC approximately 7.8 km southeast of the Proposal Area. The nearest National Park is Wandoo National Park, located 10 km to the west, which also contains the nearest mapped ecological linkage. Clearing of one roadside Wandoo tree will not break any ecological linkages or impact the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas. Therefore, 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 proposed clearing of a single roadside tree is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.
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 proposed clearing of one <i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i> tree is not likely to cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this principle.
Methodology Used and References:	Biological Survey (Ecologia 2021) DCCEEW Protected Matters Search Tool Report Main Roads GIS database layers Statewide Vegetation Statistics (Government of Western Australia 2019) Photographs of the tree: Appendix 1 Shapefile of Proposal Area/tree: D25#694336
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	
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	
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	
Completed By:		
Name	Redacted	
Signature	Redacted	
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer	
Date	11-Jul-2025	

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT	
Name	Redacted
Signature	Redacted
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer
Date	17 July 2025

Appendix 1: Figures and Photographs



Figure 1: Proposal Area



Tree pre sealing works



Tree looking north towards bridge post sealing works