

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Removal of Vegetation for CBH Sightline		
Region/Directorate:	Goldfields Esperance Region		
Local Government:	Shire of Esperance		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Coolgardie-Esperance Highway (H010)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 354.70 to SLK 354.80		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D26#1004533		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D26#1004712		
EOS Number:	3955		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	September 2026		
Oracle Project No:	21108314	Task Code:	411
LISC TRIM Number:	D26#988512	HRA TRIM Number:	N/A

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Vegetation is blocking the sightline of traffic entering and exiting the CBH receival facility on Coolgardie-Esperance Highway (H010) at SLK 354.7 and requires removal to allow for safe access of vehicles turning into and out of the facility and improve safety for other road users.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There is limited scope to alter the clearing as not undertaking the works will result in a continued safety risk to road users at this intersection.

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 safe sightline, 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):	0.089	No. Trees Cleared:	Nil
Species Name(s):	Vegetation Description <i>Pinus radiata</i> , <i>Banksia speciosa</i> ; <i>Acacia cyclops</i> , <i>Gaudium laevigatum</i> , <i>Adenanthos cuneatus</i> , <i>Eragrostis curvula</i> , <i>Ehrharta calycina</i> , <i>Briza maxima</i> BDS (2024)		
Easting and Northing:	121.8560893°E 33.7494543°S		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Based on desktop mapping, the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is mapped as occurring in Vegetation Association 6048 described as - Shrublands; banksia scrub-heath on sandplain in the Esperance Plains Region (DPIRD-006)
Site Vegetation Condition:	Degraded (BDS, 2024)
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	14% of Vegetation Association 6048 remaining at both Statewide and LGA 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.	A biological survey by BDS (2024) did not identify any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. Of the 98 flora species recorded by BDS (2024) within the survey area, 38 species were non-native and eight species were cultivated/planted. BDS (2024) concluded

	that overall the weed burden at the site was high with the percentage of non-native species within the Coastal Shrubland vegetation unit being 51.47%. A desktop review of DBCA Threatened and Priority Fauna GIS datasets identified 38 species of conservation significance within a 20km radius of the proposed clearing area. No species of conservation significance were identified by BDS (2024) within the Survey Area. The roadside location and degraded nature of the clearing area offers limited fauna habitat and BDS (2024) noted a high level of predation in this area, further reducing the value of habitat for fauna. The proposed clearing is located directly adjacent the existing road network and associated maintenance zone, bordered by agricultural farmland. With the high weed burden and vegetation being in a degraded condition and subject to edge effects, the vegetation is not considered to comprise a high level of biological diversity. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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 Proposal area is within the mapped range of Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. Whilst some of the native species present within the Coastal Shrubland vegetation type may provide suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoos, they are scattered with a high predominance of weeds. The removal of these scattered understory and midstory species is unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of black cockatoo foraging habitat, especially when there is approximately 30,000 ha of similar or better condition remnant vegetation available within the 20km study area. The vegetation proposed for clearing is not representative of black cockatoo roosting or breeding habitat based on the species present not forming hollows that would support black cockatoo breeding or reach heights to support roosting. Additionally, the roadside location is less preferential to black cockatoos, increasing the risk of vehicle strike. Whilst BDS (2024) identified evidence of Black Cockatoo foraging, this came from adjacent planted pine trees. BDS (2024) also concluded that the high level of activity by foxes and rabbits within the area, along with the linear nature and degraded condition of the vegetation, are likely to be limiting factors in the occupancy of the habitat by native fauna. The vegetation to be cleared is not considered to be a significant habitat for fauna. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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.	A search of DBCA Threatened flora, WA Herbarium and biological survey results from BDS (2024) did not identify the presence of any Threatened flora within the proposed Native Vegetation Clearing Area. The proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Principle (d) – Native vegetation should not be	A biological survey by BDS (2024) did not consider the vegetation within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area to be representative of any state or federally

cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.	listed TEC/PEC. Whilst the Coastal Shrubland vegetation type contained scattered Proteaceae species, they were well below the 30% required Proteaceous cover criteria. The proposed native vegetation 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 proposed clearing area is mapped as pre-European association (VA) 6048. This association has less than 15% pre-European extent remaining across all levels. Pre-European Vegetation Representation <table><tr><th>Pre-European Vegetation Association</th><th>Scale</th><th>Pre-European (ha)</th><th>Current Extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th><th>% Remaining in DBCA reserves</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="4">Veg Assoc No. 6048</td><td>Statewide</td><td>114,135.23</td><td>16,214.23</td><td>14.21</td><td>3.53</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Bioregion Esperance Plains</td><td>113,688.87</td><td>16,099.85</td><td>14.16</td><td>3.52</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Sub-region Recherche</td><td>113,688.87</td><td>16,099.85</td><td>14.16</td><td>3.52</td></tr><tr><td>Local Government Authority Shire of Esperance</td><td>114,135.23</td><td>16,214.23</td><td>14.21</td><td>3.53</td></tr></table> There is ~30,690 ha of native vegetation extent remaining within 20 km of the Native Vegetation Clearing Area, 7,017 ha (23%) of which is Vegetation Association 6048. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area represents 0.001% of the remaining Vegetation Association 6048 within a 20 km radius. The Native Vegetation Clearing Area is located within the road corridor adjacent to farming area and does not provide habitat linkage for fauna to any larger areas of vegetation. Whilst there is less than 30% pre-European extent remaining, the vegetation within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area is dominated by weeds (greater than 50%) and is in degraded condition. The native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered a significant remnant of naïve vegetation. Based on the above the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.	Pre-European Vegetation Association	Scale	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	% Remaining in DBCA reserves	Veg Assoc No. 6048	Statewide	114,135.23	16,214.23	14.21	3.53	IBRA Bioregion Esperance Plains	113,688.87	16,099.85	14.16	3.52	IBRA Sub-region Recherche	113,688.87	16,099.85	14.16	3.52	Local Government Authority Shire of Esperance	114,135.23	16,214.23	14.21	3.53
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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.	A review of GIS databases indicates there are no mapped watercourses or wetlands within the Native Vegetation Clearing Area. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not growing in, or near to an environment associated with a wetland or watercourse. 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.	DPIRD mapping indicates that the area has: • 0% very high to extreme water erosion hazard • 100% high to extreme wind erosion hazard • 0% very poor to poor site drainage potential. • 0% moderate salinity hazard.																											

	CSIRO ASRIS Acid Sulfate Soils mapping indicates a low probability of occurrence. The removal of 0.089 ha of native vegetation from directly adjacent to the existing road network will not result in appreciable land degradation. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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 review of the DBCA GIS datasets indicates that the proposed clearing area is not located within or adjacent to DBCA Managed Lands or Lands of Interest and is not located within or adjacent to any mapped Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's). The nearest DBCA managed area to the proposed clearing area is the Shark Lake Nature Reserve, located 1.8 km south. This area will not be impacted by the proposed activities. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation 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.	A review of Arc GIS databases indicates there are no mapped watercourses or wetlands within or adjacent to the proposed clearing area. The proposed clearing area is not located within any Surface Water Areas proclaimed under the RIWI Act (1914) or within a Public Drinking Water Source Area. The proposed clearing is located just outside the northern boundary of the Esperance Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the RIWI Act (1914). Clearing will not be at a depth that will intersect or impact the quality of groundwater. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing will not result in the deterioration in quality of surface or groundwater and is not 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 removal of 0.089 ha of native vegetation adjacent to the existing road network is unlikely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding. The function of existing road network drainage structures will not be impacted by the proposed clearing, and natural drainage patterns will not be altered. Based on the above, the proposed native vegetation clearing is not at variance to this Principle.
Methodology Used and References:	Bio Diverse Solutions (BDS) (2024). Reconnaissance Flora, Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey Report. CBH Shark Lake Receiving Site. Unpublished report for CBH. ArcGIS database.

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

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The clearing associated with the proposal is not at or not likely to be 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</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	Environment Officer
Date	03/09/2026

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

Name	[REDACTED]
Signature	[REDACTED]
Job Title	Senior Environment Officer
Date	03/09/2026