

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Burrup Peninsula Road Watermain Connection SLK5.480		
Region/Directorate:	Pilbara Region / Regional Management Operations		
Local Government:	City of Karratha		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Burrup Peninsula Road		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 5.480		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D24#871163		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D24#871100		
EOS Number:	2514		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	20/6/2024		
Oracle Project No:	30000617	Task Code:	19401
LISC TRIM Number:	D24#868631	HRA TRIM Number:	D24#868636

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Extra clearing area is required to locate the Telstra service line located next to the new water main and existing water main connection point.

This work is part of the Burrup Peninsula Road project and both waterline and the Telstra fibre optic cable are required to be relocated. A vac truck will be used to locate the Telstra line.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

No alternatives to this work are proposed. Telstra and water main infrastructure are required to service the Burrup Peninsula.

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

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

- Rather than utilising standard heavy clearing machinery, the excavation can be completed utilising a low impact disturbance vac truck. This truck can limit the extent of excavation disturbance to approximately 1 m³.
- 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 access the Telstra and watermain lines at the connection point. Accordingly, the retention of frangible vegetation does not apply to this proposal.
- These works are proposed to occur 16 m off the road verge. Reducing the speed limit to conserve biological values 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):	0.006 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	0
Species Name(s):	<i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , (<i>A. pyrifolia</i> , <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>leucadendron</i>) tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia angusta</i> , (<i>T. epactia</i>) open hummock grassland to very open hummock grassland with * <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> very open tussock grassland to tussock grassland.		
Easting and Northing:	116.7664°E -20.6369°S		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	The vegetation has been mapped by Biota (2022) for the Perdaman- Burrup Road Infrastructure Upgrade. The biological assessment concluded that the proposed clearing area comprises vegetation of <i>Acacia bivenosa</i> , (<i>A. pyrifolia</i> , <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>leucadendron</i>) tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia angusta</i> , (<i>T. epactia</i>) open hummock grassland to very open hummock grassland with * <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> very open tussock grassland to tussock grassland.
Site Vegetation Condition:	Vegetation of the proposed clearing area was mapped by Biota (2022) as 'degraded'.
Pre-European Extent Remaining (%):	<p>The proposed clearing area lies within a single broad area of one of Beard's vegetation associations, which is mapped over the entire Burrup Peninsula: Abydos Plain – Roebourne 117, described as <i>Acacia</i> spp. sparse shrubland over Soft Spinifex (<i>Triodia epactia</i>) open hummock grassland.</p> <p>Biota (2022) surmised that the pre-European and current extents of Beard's vegetation associations have been calculated using interpretation of imagery to determine areas that have been cleared (see Shepherd et al.2002, Government of Western Australia 2019). These sources indicated that over 92% of the extent of Abydos Plain – Roebourne 117 in the Roebourne subregion remains uncleared.</p>

8. ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

Is vegetation to be cleared at variance with:	Justification or Evidence:
<p>Principle (a) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.</p>	<p>The proposed clearing is not in an area that is comprises high biological diversity.</p> <p>Based on the Pre-European vegetation extent levels, the vegetation association is relatively common throughout the region and has over 92% remaining.</p> <p>The vegetation comprises vegetation of <i>Acacia bivenosa</i>, (<i>A. pyrifolia</i>, <i>Grevillea pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>leucadendron</i>) tall open shrubland over <i>Triodia angusta</i>, (<i>T. epactia</i>) open hummock grassland to very open hummock grassland with <i>*Cenchrus ciliaris</i> very open tussock grassland to tussock grassland. M and was mapped 'degraded' (Biota 2022). No Priority flora were recorded in the survey area during the field survey; however, according to restricted DBCA GIS Datasets, the closest record is <i>Terminalia supranitifolia</i> (P3) 685 m south southeast of the proposed clearing area.</p> <p><i>Terminalia supranitifolia</i> (Priority 3): this species is not uncommon on granophyre rockpiles on the Burrup Peninsula. No individuals were found on the small rockpiles within the survey area. This tall shrub to small tree would have been observed, if present (Biota 2022).</p> <p>The proposed clearing area occurs alongside the mapped faunal habitat of hummock grassland (Biota 2022), characterised by low stony slopes supporting spinifex hummock grasslands: Soft Spinifex and Blue Buck Spinifex, with an overstorey dominated by sparse to open shrublands of wattle species, particularly Two-Veined Wattle and Ranji Bush. This habitat does not comprise core habitat for any significant (Biota 2022).</p> <p>The results of a review of spatial data DWER-046 showed there are no ESA's within or adjacent to the proposal area, and although the proposal area is within proximity to Murujuga National Park (over 750 m east) it is not expected to be impacted by these minor works.</p> <p>Given that the Proposed Clearing Area is observed to be degraded in nature (Biota 2022) and extends only 20 m at maximum from the continuous heavy vehicle movement on Burrup Peninsular Road, it is highly unlikely that Proposed Clearing Area would be used for significant fauna habitat. If significant fauna did occur, these species would most likely be transient in nature, enroute searching for more desirable habitat.</p> <p>The vegetation present in the proposed clearing area is considered degraded in nature and no priority flora species have been identified within this area. For these reasons, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Almost 30% of the survey area comprised cleared areas. Six fauna habitats were identified for the remainder of the survey area (Biota 2022). The fauna habitat of the proposed clearing area was identified as Hummock grassland on midslopes. This type of</p>

habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.	<p>habitat comprised 8.3% in the local area (survey and contextual area). Additionally, this proposed area of vegetation clearing was considered to be degraded in nature.</p> <p>Biota surmised that this habitat does not comprise core habitat for any significant species (2022).</p> <p>The proposed clearing area represents less than 1% of this mapped area. For this reason, the 0.006 ha native vegetation clearing area is not likely to provide significant habitat necessary for fauna native to Western Australia. The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
Principle (c) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.	<p>Based on the Biological Assessment undertaken by Biota (2022), no Threatened Flora was identified within the proposed clearing area and No Threatened flora are listed for the locality (Biota 2022).</p> <p>The absence of Threatened Flora within the survey area, demonstrates the minimal removal of already disturbed vegetation is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>No Threatened Ecological Communities were identified in the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>The absence of any Threatened Ecological Communities within the proposed clearing area and impact caused by the removal of minimal removal of already disturbed vegetation is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
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.	<p>The Proposal involves clearing of 0.006 ha of vegetation, comprising Vegetation Association 117, of which 92 % of pre-European vegetation remains Statewide.</p> <p>The native vegetation of the proposed clearing area is not considered representative a TEC or PEC; or is considered to form part of a significant ecological linkage in an area that has been extensively cleared. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.</p>
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.	<p>The proposal area is located 370 m south of the coast on the Burrup Peninsula, GIS datasets (Geoscience Australia – surface hydrology regional, DWER-031) indicate that no watercourses intersect the proposal area.</p> <p>The proposal area is not within an important wetland proposed or proclaimed Ramsar site (DBCA-10). The area is highly disturbed, surface water patterns and existing localised drainage are already impacted. Furthermore, the vegetation located within the proposed clearing area does not represent species typically associated with drainage line in the region. Therefore, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.</p>
Principle (g) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	<p>According to DPIRD land degradation risk mapping, the proposed clearing area displays a low to no indicative risk of salinity, land instability, wind erosion and Acid Sulfate Soils. Based on the above</p>

	<p>and noting the minor scale and nature of the proposal, the clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The ArcGIS desktop review identified that the proposed clearing area lies within the Pilbara Groundwater (DWER-034) and Surface Water Proclamation Areas (DWER-037); however, the works associated with this minor area of clearing is not expected to alter the already disturbed surface water patterns or intersect groundwater as an outcome of these works.</p> <p>The results of a review of spatial data DWER-046 showed there are no ESA's within or adjacent to the proposal area. GIS datasets, DBCA-011 and DBCA-12, showed there are no Conservation reserves or DBCA land within or the proposal area. Murujuga National Park is nearby (over 750 m east) and is not expected to be impacted by these minor works.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>According to the DWER ArcGIS layers the Proposed Clearing Area lies within the Proclaimed Groundwater Area (Pilbara), and Proclaimed Surface Water Area.</p> <p>The proposed works are not expected to interfere with or have a long-term impact on the surface water quality.</p> <p>As the proposal is impacting the surface layers of the soils within the proposal area, the proposed clearing of native vegetation is not expected to cause impact to the quality of underground water.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.</p>
<p>Principle (j) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	<p>The closest drainage line to the proposal area is located approximately 75 m northeast, (minor, non-perennial).</p> <p>DPIRD's land degradation risk mapping indicates the proposed clearing area has a low risk of water logging and flooding.</p> <p>Based on the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not at variance to this principle.</p>
<p>Methodology Used and References:</p>	<p>Main Roads map: (Appendix 1) Photographs of each tree: N/A Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D24#871100</p> <p>Biota Environmental Sciences (2022). Perdaman – Burrup Road Infrastructure Upgrades Biological Assessment. Unpublished report for Main Roads Western Australia</p>
<p>9. REHABILITATION, REVEGETATION AND OFFSETS</p>	
<p>Offset Proposal:</p>	<p>No offset proposal is required as the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts to native vegetation within the region.</p>
<p>Revegetation and Rehabilitation:</p>	<p>No temporary clearing will be undertaken as part of the Proposal activities.</p>

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 (<i>which include relevant sections of Condition 10</i>).
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	19/6/2024

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	20/06/2024

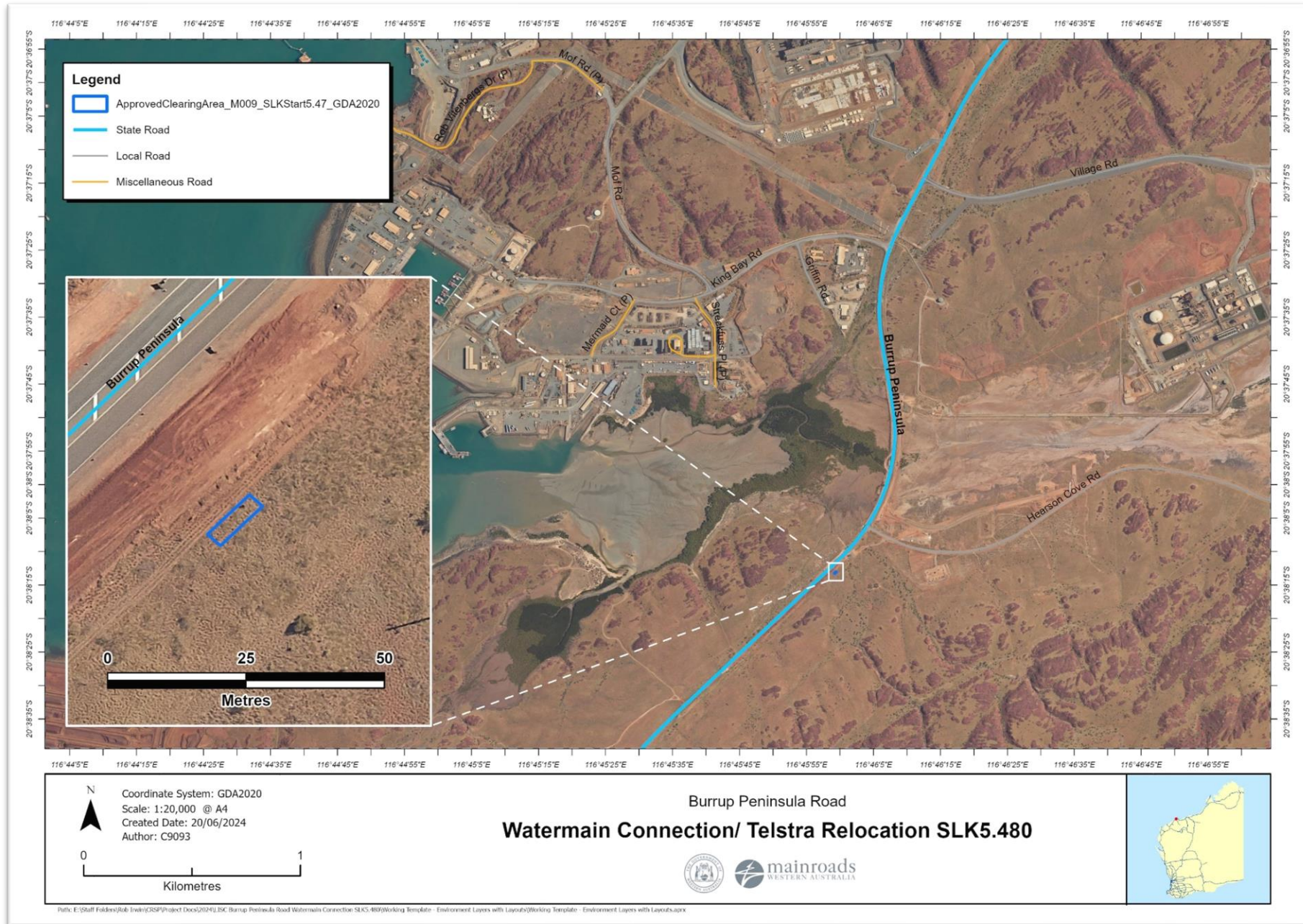


Figure 1: Proposed Clearing Area Location