

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form

1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Northam-Toodyay Road Safety Barrier installation, Signs and Delineation		
Region/Directorate:	Wheatbelt		
Local Government:	Shire of Toodyay		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Northam Toodyay Road (M033)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	SLK 19.67		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#1210928		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#1194043		
EOS Number:	3749		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	1 December		
Oracle Project No:	30004255	Task Code:	19301
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#646636	HRA TRIM Number:	D25#413946

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

The proposed clearing is to facilitate the installation of safety barriers, to increase road safety. Along this stretch of road, the batters steepen to an almost vertical slope. Installation of safety barriers is essential to reduce the number of run off road crashes.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

There are no alternatives to clearing for this proposal as safety barrier installation has been determined to be the most appropriate engineering control to achieve the desired safety objectives on this stretch of road. Vegetation is within the deflection zone that must be removed, therefore there are no alternatives to clearing.

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

- Vegetation to be cleared will be marked prior to clearing and the movement of machinery will be restricted to identified locations. This approach will prevent accidental over-clearing. It should be noted that no understorey native vegetation is present in the area and consequently, only 0.0058 ha of vegetation will be impacted during clearing.
- 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 a deflection zone of 1.2 m from the face of the safety barrier, whereby vegetation within this zone must be removed. 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 (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):	0.0058	No. Trees Cleared:	1
Species Name(s):	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>		
Easting and Northing:	454162.23 East, 6506668.13 North		

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 (%):	19.61

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 a single, roadside <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree. <i>Casuarina obesa</i> is not a conservation significant flora species; the tree does not form part of a Threatened Ecological Community or Priority Ecological Community and does not provide roosting, nesting or foraging habitat for conservation significant fauna, such as Black Cockatoo species. 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. 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 consists of one roadside <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree in the Completely Degraded road maintenance zone, with no native understorey. <i>Casuarina obesa</i> is not a recognised important species for Black Cockatoo roosting, breeding or foraging habitat (ABCS, 2025). The Clearing Area is unlikely to be significant habitat for any fauna species, given its proximity to the road, limited connectivity to larger patches of remnant vegetation and negligible value for animal shelter, dispersal or foraging. 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 one roadside <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree. This species is not listed as Threatened flora and the nearest threatened flora (<i>Caladenia huegelii</i>) record occurs approximately REDACTED km west 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>. Analysis of aerial and Google Streetview imagery shows the Clearing Area is located within the previously cleared and Completely Degraded condition road maintenance zone. The road maintenance zone 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. 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 occurring within Beard Vegetation Association 352; Medium woodland; York Gum (DPIRD-006). Vegetation Association 352 has less than 30% of its pre-European extent remaining at the State, IBRA Avon Wheatbelt bioregion (17.27%), IBRA Katanning subregion (10.74%) and Shire of Toodyay levels (13.83%) (Government of Western Australia, 2019). However, the proposed clearing consists of a single, roadside <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree growing in the Completely Degraded road maintenance zone and is therefore no longer representative of the broad scale Beard Vegetation Association. The Clearing Area does not form a significant linkage across the landscape and is not considered to be a significant remnant of native vegetation 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 desktop GIS datasets and analysis of aerial and Streetview imagery, the Clearing Area does not intersect any mapped watercourses or wetlands. The nearest watercourse (Avon River) is located over 130 m to the east. The single <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree proposed for clearing is not associated with any watercourse or wetland. 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.	It is unlikely that the proposed clearing will cause appreciable land degradation due to the minor nature of the works 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 in close proximity to, the Clearing Area. The nearest conservation area is located approximately 7 km south west. 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 watercourses or wetlands. 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 removal of a single, roadside <i>Casuarina obesa</i> tree is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. Based on the above, the proposed clearing 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.	Based on the presence of deep sandy duplex soils and small area of native vegetation to be removed, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will cause or exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding. The proposal area does not include any mapped watercourses or wetlands and does not occur within a mapped floodplain area (DWER-020 database). Based on the above, the proposed clearing is not at variance to this Principle.

Methodology Used and References:

Australian Black Cockatoo Specialists (2025) Unpublished report prepared for Main Roads Western Australia. July 2025.

DAWE (2022) - Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - [Referral guideline for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species - DCCEEW](#)

Government of Western Australia (2019) – Statewide Vegetation Statistics - <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Main Roads Site map: Appendix 1.

Photographs: Appendix 1.

Shapefile of clearing area/trees: D25#58297

[Western Australia Change in average annual rainfall 2000 – 2019](#)
[DBCA Brush-tailed Phascogale Factsheet.](#)

GIS Datasets:

- Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites - Buffered (DBCA-063)
- Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites - Buffered (DBCA-064)
- Carnabys 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	Graduate Environment Officer
Date	19/11/2025

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	20 November 2025

APPENDIX 1 – Proposal Area Clearing



Figure 1. *Casuarina obesa* to be removed – 1.9m from edge line



Figure 2. CPS 818 Clearing Area map