

Clearing Desktop Report – Short Form



1. PROPOSAL DETAILS

Proposal Name:	Bridge 0566A – Geotechnical Investigation		
Region/Directorate:	Great Southern Region		
Local Government:	Shire of Ravensthorpe		
Road/Bridge Name & Number:	Bridge 0566 - South Coast Highway (H008)		
Proposal Location (SLK):	307.4		
CDR Short Form TRIM Number:	D25#1412405		
Spatial Data TRIM Number:	D25#1425009		
EOS Number:	2549		
Expected Proposal Start Date:	01/02/2026		
Oracle Project No:	30001045	Task Code:	19301
LISC TRIM Number:	D25#1063209	HRA TRIM No:	D25#1063214

2. PURPOSE OF CLEARING

Great Southern Region is developing a bridge replacement of Bridge 0566 and road realignment along South Coast Highway (H008) at SLK 307.40. This section of South Coast Hwy is subjected to flooding/overtopping of the Jerdacuttup River, cutting off access between Ravensthorpe and Esperance from 1999 to 2025. Flooding of February 2017 saw the river flow across the highway 300 m west of the bridge, causing concern the bridge is in the wrong location.

The replacement bridge will be located 20 m south of the existing Bridge 0566, downstream of the Jerdacuttup River. Geotechnical works are required to support the design of the bridge.

3. ALTERNATIVES TO CLEARING

The Proposal involves the clearing of vegetation (0.006 ha) adjacent to South Coast Hwy to support the the design of the new bridge, as the old bridge is subjected to flooding/overtopping.

The clearing is for a drill pad which aligns with the location of the proposed eastern abutment. Accordingly, there is limited scope to alter the clearing.

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

The following measures to avoid, minimise, mitigate and manage proposal clearing impacts 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 a safe working area for the drill rig and support vehicles, 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.
- The drill pad location considers the least amount of area required to undertake the works in a safe manner, using past cleared areas, and technical requirements of the drill rig and support vehicles/equipment.

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):	0.006 ha	No. Trees Cleared:	N/A
Species Name(s):	Medium woodland; York gum (Vegetation Association 352) <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Mallet Woodland over scattered <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> over <i>Acacia saligna</i> Tall Shrubs (Western Botanical, 2022)		
Easting and Northing:	120.219681, -33.601299		

7. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND SITE INFORMATION

Site Vegetation Description/Association:	Vegetation Association 352: Medium woodland; York gum											
Site Vegetation Condition:	Good (Western Botanical, 2022)											
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 (Ravensthorpe)</td><td>5,771</td><td>27.80</td></tr></table>			Scale	Current Extent (ha)	% Remaining	Statewide	142,012	19.61	LGA (Ravensthorpe)	5,771	27.80
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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 of 0.006 ha of <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Mallet Woodland over scattered <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> over <i>Acacia saligna</i> Tall Shrubs in Good condition (Western Botanical, 2022). No overstorey trees are proposed to be cleared for the proposed works. Only one DBCA mapped conservation significant flora species has been mapped to occur within 1 km of the Clearing Area - <i>Eucalyptus stoatei</i> (P4) 250 m north-west. The closest mapped Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) to the Clearing Area is 0.8 km south-east. Western Botanical (2022) and Ecologia (2023) undertook biological surveys (D22#1287988 and D23#621054), respectively in and adjacent to the Clearing Area. Both consultants did not record any conservation significant flora within their respective survey areas, and did not map the Clearing Area as a TEC or Priority Ecological Community (PEC). Three DBCA mapped conservation significant fauna records exist within 1 km of the Clearing Area – all Malleefowl, with the closest being 40 m east of the Clearing Area. All records were from 1994-98. Ecologia (2023) did not record any conservation significant fauna within 1 km of the Clearing Area. No Malleefowl mounds have been observed within the Clearing Area. The Clearing Area is within the mapped range of Carnaby's Cockatoo, with the closest mapped DBCA Black Cockatoo breeding/roosting tree 19 km west and 24 km south of the Clearing Area, respectively. Western Botanical (2022) did not map any DBH trees in the Clearing Area. Plants used by Black Cockatoos in the South-West of Western Australia ABCS (2025) report that <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> is used by Carnaby's for nesting and roosting, <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> may be used by Carnaby's for foraging and <i>Acacia saligna</i> is used by Carnaby's for foraging. Even though Carnaby's may forage on some of the species in the Clearing Area, the distance to the nearest mapped Breeding tree reduces the significance of this vegetation. 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 Proposal consists of clearing of 0.006 ha of <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Mallet Woodland over scattered <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> over <i>Acacia saligna</i> Tall Shrubs in Good condition (Western Botanical, 2022). No overstorey trees are proposed to be cleared for the proposed works. The Clearing Area is within the mapped range of Carnaby's Cockatoo, with the closest mapped DBCA Black Cockatoo breeding/roosting tree 19 km west and 24 km south of the Clearing Area, respectively. Western Botanical (2022) did not map any DBH trees in the Clearing Area. Plants used by Black Cockatoos in the South-West of Western Australia ABCS (2025) report that <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> is used by Carnaby's for nesting and roosting, <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> may be used by Carnaby's for foraging and <i>Acacia saligna</i> is used by Carnaby's for foraging. Even though the species preset in the Clearing area may provide foraging habitat for Carnaby's, the distance to the nearest mapped Breeding tree reduces the significance of this vegetation. Given the lack of evidence of Black Cockatoos recorded, the distance to the nearest known Black Cockatoo breeding tree and that the vegetation proposed for clearing is confirmed to have no suitable hollows, the vegetation proposed for clearing is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for threatened Black Cockatoo species. Three DBCA mapped conservation significant fauna records exist within 1 km of the Clearing Area – all Malleefowl, with the closest being 40 m east of the Clearing Area. All records were from 1994-98. Ecologia (2023) did not record any conservation significant within 1 km of the Clearing Area. No Malleefowl mounds have been observed within the Clearing Area.

	The Clearing Area provides limited landscape connectivity to other patches of remnant native vegetation, being part of a narrow area of vegetation adjacent to previously cleared land, cleared agricultural land and a road (Aerial Photo Appendix 1). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for fauna, given the amount of vegetation to be cleared, 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.	Western Botanical (2022) and Ecologia (2023) undertook biological surveys (D22#1287988 and D23#621054, respectively) in and adjacent to the Clearing Area. Both consultants did not record any Threatened flora species within their respective survey areas. According to the DBCA Herbarium and Threatened Flora GIS layers, the closest mapped Threatened flora is <i>Daviesia megacalyx</i>, south-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.	According to the DBCA Restricted TEC GIS layer, the Clearing Area is not located in mapped TEC. The closest mapped TEC to the Clearing Area is 0.8 km south-east. Western Botanical (2022) did not record the Clearing Area as TEC. Given that no TECs occur within the Clearing 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 vegetation 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</td><td>142,012</td><td>19.61</td><td>8.92</td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Bioregion</td><td>22,816</td><td>6,566</td><td>28.78</td><td>0.33</td></tr><tr><td>Esperance Plains</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>IBRA Sub-region</td><td>22,816</td><td>6,566</td><td>28.78</td><td>0.33</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Fitzgerald</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Local Government Authority</td><td>20,570</td><td>5,717</td><td>27.80</td><td>0.38</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Shire of Ravensthorpe</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> According to Western Botanical (2022), the proposed clearing area consists of 0.006 ha of <i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Mallet Woodland over scattered <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> over <i>Acacia saligna</i> Tall Shrubs, which is not a good representation of Vegetation Association 352. Within the 20 km Study Area there is 96,212 ha of mapped native vegetation (76.5% of the Study Area), of which 2,593 ha is mapped as VA352. Given the extent of remnant vegetation in the Study Area (primarily on VCL), the removal of 0.006 ha, is 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	142,012	19.61	8.92	IBRA Bioregion	22,816	6,566	28.78	0.33	Esperance Plains					IBRA Sub-region	22,816	6,566	28.78	0.33		Fitzgerald						Local Government Authority	20,570	5,717	27.80	0.38		Shire of Ravensthorpe				
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Principle (f) – Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in	No wetlands or watercourses have been recorded intersecting the Clearing Area. Jerdacuttup River, passes approximately 20 m to the west of the proposed clearing.																																													

association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	<i>Eucalyptus occidentalis</i> Mallet Woodland over scattered <i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i> over <i>Acacia saligna</i> Tall Shrubs is typically not considered to be riparian vegetation. Given that the vegetation type within the Clearing 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 cause appreciable land degradation.	The proposed clearing of 0.006 ha of vegetation 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. 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 Clearing Area. The nearest DBCA Land of Interest or Legislated Land or Water is Crown Freehold land 5 km north-west of the Clearing Area. The proposed clearing 0.006 ha of vegetation will not break any ecological linkages or impact the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas/lands of interest. 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 0.006 ha of vegetation is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water. The Clearing Areas is not located in proclaimed surface water area. However, is located just south of a proclaimed groundwater area (Kondinin-Ravensthorpe). The Jerdacuttup River Action Plan (DoE 2004) report that the water quality in the Jerdacuttup River is saline ranging from 10,000-25,000 mg/L TDS at the Highway 1 (bridge) site. The Ravensthorpe Water Reserve and Ravensthorpe Bitumen Catchment Area drinking water source protection review (DWER 2018) advises that the Bore field located approximately 4 km south-east of Ravensthorpe has not been in use since 2013/14 due to closure of the desalination plant, with water being sourced from a bitumen catchment area. The bridge site is 16.2km east of Ravensthorpe. The proposed clearing of 0.006 ha of vegetation is not likely to affect the salinity if water in Jerdacuttup River or detrimentally impact on the quality fo groundwater in the area, so ins 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 0.006 ha 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:	ABCS (2025) Ecologia (2023) Government of Western Australia (2019) Main Roads GIS database layers Shapefile of Clearing Area: D25#1425009 Western Botanical (2022)

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	17-Dec-2025

DECISION ON CLEARING ASSESSMENT

Name	redacted
Signature	redacted
Job Title	Senior Environmental Officer
Date	17 December 2025

Appendix 1: Figures and Photographs



Figure 1: Clearing Area



2017/18 Clearing for sidetrack and flood repairs – Google Earth (2018)