

# EPBC 2020/8769 Annual Compliance Report 2022/2023

Albany Ring Road Stages 2 and 3B, WA

May 2023

D23#447877 May 2023

#### **Declaration of accuracy**

In making this declaration, I am aware that sections 490 and 491 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act) make it an offence in certain circumstances to knowingly provide false or misleading information or documents. The offence is punishable on conviction by imprisonment or a fine, or both. I declare that all the information and documentation supporting this compliance report is true and correct in every particular. I am authorised to bind the approval holder to this declaration and that I have no knowledge of that authorisation being revoked at the time of making this declaration.

Signed

Full name: David Clarkson Position: Project Director Organisation: Main Roads Western Australia ABN 50 860 676 021 Date: <u>17 / Main / 2023</u>

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## **1** INTRODUCTION

Main Roads is currently constructing the Albany Ring Road (ARR) to provide for the long-term transport needs of Albany. The ARR will be a dedicated freight route around the City of Albany, in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia (WA) enabling the effective movement of freight to and from the Port of Albany. The ARR will cater for the travel demands associated with growth in grain, woodchip and other agricultural industries, increased mining production, increased population growth, urban expansion and the expected increase in tourists.

Road construction and associated infrastructure for the Proposed Action includes the following components:

- Approximately 7 km of new dual carriage road
- Grade separated interchanges at South Coast Highway and Frenchman Bay Road
- Bridges and culverts
- Water retention basins and other drainage structures
- Landscaping and revegetation works
- Modifications to local roads
- Realignment to the Albany-Wagin railway line between George Street and the Hanrahan/Frenchman Bay Interchange
- Other road infrastructure including, but not limited to: lighting, noise barriers, fencing, road safety barriers, a fauna underpass and a rope bridge, and signs.

The construction of the project commenced on 21 February 2022 and is due to be completed in early 2024.

### 2 APPROVAL UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 1999

Albany Ring Road Stage 2 and 3B Project was referred to the Department of Climate Change Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (Formerly the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)) for assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The DCCEEW issued approval (with conditions) for these works to proceed on 22 November 2021 (EPBC 2020/8769).

## **3 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

Construction of the Project commenced on 21 February 2022. This compliance report has been produced as required by Condition 14 of EPBC approval 2020/8769. Table 1 of this report outlines the compliance with each approval condition for the period between 21 February 2022 to 20 February 2023.

## 4 COMPLIANCE

#### Table 1: Conditions compliance status

Condition No.	Condition	Status		
1	<ul> <li>For the protection of black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum, the approval holder must not clear outside the development footprint and must not clear: <ul> <li>a. more than 37.89 ha of black cockatoo foraging and breeding habitat</li> <li>b. more than 37.75 ha of black cockatoo roosting habitat which may comprise part or all of the 37.89 ha of black cockatoo foraging and breeding habitat specified in 1.a.</li> <li>c. more than 236 breeding trees</li> <li>d. more than 10 trees containing suitable nesting hollows</li> <li>e. more than 14 suitable nesting hollows</li> <li>f. more than 19.18 ha of Western Ringtail Possum habitat</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Compliant Main Roads cleared the following areas within the development footprint: 2.9 ha of Black Cockatoo foraging and breeding habitat was cleared within the D 22.5 ha of Black Cockatoo roosting habitat was cleared within the Development footprint 117 Black Cockatoo breeding trees were cleared within the Development footprint 5 of Black Cockatoo trees with suitable nest hollows was cleared within the Development 6 suitable nest hollows were cleared within the Development footprint 12.4 ha of Western Ringtail possum habitat was cleared within the Development 7.7ha of Western Ringtail possum linkage habitat was cleared within the Development		
2	To avoid and mitigate impacts on black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum the approval holder must implement the Conservation Significant Fauna Environmental Management Plan for the duration of this approval	Compliant The Conservation Significant Fauna Environmental Management Plan (CSFEMP) is being Construction Contractor during construction works.		
3	<ul> <li>To compensate for the residual significant impacts on black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum, the approval holder must submit an Offset Strategy for approval by the Minister within 12 months of the commencement of the action. The Offset Strategy must: <ul> <li>a. Identify a suitable environmental offset for the impacts on black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum, that satisfies the requirements of the Environmental Offsets Policy</li> <li>b. Include summary information on the impacted areas and detailed baseline information (presence of/use by protected matters and quality and condition of habitat) on the proposed offset site(s) and achievable goals for the proposed habitat condition and quality scores demonstrating how the proposed offset site(s) will meet the requirements of the Environmental Offsets Policy</li> <li>c. Specify milestones and approximate timeframes for achieving the proposed final condition and quality of habitat at the proposed offset site(s)</li> <li>d. Specify how and at what frequency management and monitoring results will be reported to the Department and the public</li> <li>e. Include details of how the offset site(s) will be protected in perpetuity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Not Applicable On 19 December 2022, Main Roads submitted a request to vary the conditions for a 12 m EPBC 2020/8769, under section 143 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity and ( (Attachment 2). Main Roads has not yet received a response to this request.		
4	The approval holder must not continue to clear black cockatoo foraging and breeding habitat, black cockatoo roosting habitat, breeding trees, suitable nesting hollows, Western Ringtail Possum habitat and Western Ringtail Possum linkage habitat, after 18 months of commencement of the action unless the Offset Strategy has been approved by the Minister in writing. Clearing may recommence following approval of the Offset Strategy by the Minister. The approval holder must implement the Offset Strategy commencing when the Minister approves it in writing and continuing for the period of effect of this approval.	Not Applicable This condition is not applicable as the works have only been underway for 12 months		

e Development footprint nt footprint print evelopment footprint
ent footprint elopment footprint
aring areas (Attachment 1)
ing implemented by Main Roads
2 month extension to Condition 3 of d Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)

Condition No.	Condition	Status	
5	<ul> <li>The approval holder must submit for the Minister's approval, within 18 months of the date of approval of the Offset Strategy, an Offset Management Plan for each of the offset sites specified in the approved Offset Strategy. Each Offset Management Plan must be consistent with the Department's Environmental Management Plan Guidelines, and must include the following: <ul> <li>a. a summary of the residual impacts to protected matters that will be compensated for by the offset site. This summary must include the area(s) of habitat for protected matters and its condition and quality at all impact sites which the particular offset site is to address;</li> <li>b. the relevant protected matters and a reference to the EPBC Act approval conditions to which the particular Offset Management Plan refers;</li> <li>c. a table of commitments made in the Offset Management Plan to achieve the ecological benefits for relevant protected matters and a reference to where the commitments are detailed in the Offset Management Plan;</li> <li>d. the relevant protected matters and a reference to the EPBC Act approval conditions to which the particular Offset Management Plan refers; reporting and review mechanisms, and documentation standards to inform others annually regarding compliance with management and environmental commitments, and attainment and maintenance of ecological benefits, as specified in the Offset Management Plan;</li> <li>e. an assessment of risks to achieving the ecological benefit(s) and what risk management strategies will be applied to address these;</li> <li>f. a monitoring program, which must include:         <ul> <li>i. gathering evidence that effectively determines progress towards, attainment of and maintenance of the ecological benefits for the protected matters;</li> <li>iii. measurable performance indicators to monitor attainment of the ecological benefits for the protected matters;</li> <li>iii. trigger values for corrective actions; and</li> <li>iv. the timing and frequency of monitoring to detect</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	This will be completed once the Offset Strategy is approved	
6	The approval holder must implement each approved Offset Management Plan commencing when the Minister approves it in writing and continuing for the period of effect of this approval.	Not applicable This will be completed once the Offset Management Plan is approved	
7	If the Offset Management Plan for each of the offset sites specified in the approved Offset Strategy has not been approved by the Minister in writing within 24 months of the approval of the Offset Strategy, and the Minister notifies the approval holder that one or more submitted Offset Management Plans is/are not suitable for approval, the Minister may, at least two months after so notifying the approval holder, approve a version of the Offset Management Plan revised by the Department. The approval holder must implement each approved Offset Management Plan for the remainder of the period for which the approval has effect.	Not Applicable This will be implemented if Offset Management Plan is not approved within 24 months	
8	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of the date of commencement of the action within 10 business days after the date of commencement of the action.	Compliant A letter was sent by Main Roads WA to the DAWE on 1 March 2022 advising of the actua action being the 21 February 2022 (Attachment 3).	
9	If the commencement of the action does not occur within 5 years from the date of this approval, then the approval holder must not commence the action without the prior written agreement of the Minister.	Compliant Main Roads commenced the action within 5 years from the date of approval	
10	The approval holder must maintain accurate and complete compliance records.	Compliant Main Roads WA has maintained accurate records in accordance with this condition and t <i>Records Act 2000</i> (Western Australia).	
11	If the Department makes a request in writing, the approval holder must provide electronic copies of compliance records to the Department within the timeframe specified in the request.	Compliant No request has been received from the Department requesting electronic copies of comp	

e actual date of the commencement of the

and their legal obligations, under the State

compliance records

Condition No.	Condition	Status	
	The approval holder must:	The CSFEMP is located on the Main Roads website at the following location:	
	a. submit plans electronically to the Department for approval by the Minister b. publish each plan on the website within 20 business days of the date the plan is approved by	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/community-environment/environment/construction-proje	
12	the Minister or of the date a revised action management plan is submitted to the Minister or the Department, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Minister c. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from plans published on the website or provided to a member of the public d. keep plans published on the website until the end date of this approval.	Main Roads will continue to maintain a copy of the CSFEMP on a Main Roads website un	
	The approval holder must ensure that any monitoring data (including sensitive ecological data), surveys,	Not applicable	
13	maps, and other spatial and metadata required under a plan is prepared in accordance with the Department's <i>Guidelines for biological survey and mapped</i> data (2018) and submitted electronically to the Department in accordance with the requirements of the plan.	No monitoring data was required to be compiled and submitted to the Department in acco	
	The approval holder must prepare a compliance report for each 12 month period following the date of	Compliant	
	<ul> <li>commencement of the action, or otherwise in accordance with an annual date that has been agreed to in writing by the Minister. The approval holder must: <ul> <li>a. publish each compliance report on the website within 60 business days following the relevant 12 month period</li> <li>b. notify the Department by email that a compliance report has been published on the website and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The 12 month anniversary of the commencement of the action is on 21 February 2023. The Main Roads website. Documentary evidence will be provided to the Department at the same published on the website. The compliance report is located on the Main Roads website at	
14	provide the weblink for the compliance report within 5 business days of the date of publication	https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/community-environment/environment/construction-proje	
	<ul> <li>c. keep all compliance reports publicly available on the website until this approval expires</li> <li>d. exclude or redact sensitive ecological data from compliance reports published on the website</li> <li>e. where any sensitive ecological data has been excluded from the version published, submit the full compliance report to the Department within 5 business days of publication.</li> </ul>	Documentary evidence will be provided to the Department at the same time as this docum Main Roads will continue to keep all compliance reports on a Main Roads website until the sensitive data which needs to be redacted from the compliance Reports	
	The approval holder must notify the Department in writing of any: incident; non-compliance with the	Compliant	
15	<ul> <li>conditions; or non-compliance with the commitments made in plans. The notification must be given as soon as practicable, and no later than 5 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance.</li> <li>The notification must specify:         <ul> <li>any condition which is or may be in breach</li> <li>a short description of the incident and/or non-compliance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	No incidents or non compliances were identified within the reporting period.	
	c. the location (including co-ordinates), date, and time of the incident and/or noncompliance. In the event the exact information cannot be provided, provide the best information available.		
	The approval holder must provide to the Department the details of any incident or noncompliance with the	Compliant	
16	conditions or commitments made in plans as soon as practicable and no later than 15 business days after becoming aware of the incident or non-compliance, specifying:	No incidents or non compliances were identified within the reporting period.	
10	a. any corrective action or investigation which the approval holder has already taken or intends to take in the immediate future		
	<ul> <li>b. the potential impacts of the incident or non-compliance</li> <li>c. the method and timing of any remedial action that will be undertaken by the approval holder.</li> </ul>		
	The approval holder must ensure that independent audits of compliance with the conditions are conducted	Not Applicable	
17	as requested in writing by the Minister.	No direction to undertake an audit by the Minister was received during the reporting period	
	For each independent audit, the approval holder must:	Not Applicable	
18	<ul> <li>provide the name and qualifications of the independent auditor and the draft audit criteria to the Department</li> </ul>	No direction to undertake an audit by the Minister was received during the reporting period	
10	b. only commence the independent audit once the audit criteria have been approved in writing by the Department		
	<ul> <li>submit an audit report to the Department within the timeframe specified in the approved audit criteria.</li> </ul>		
10	The approval holder must publish the audit report on the website within 10 business days of receiving the	Not Applicable	
19	Department's approval of the audit report and keep the audit report published on the website until the end date of this approval.	No direction to undertake an audit by the Minister was received during the reporting period	
	The approval holder may, at any time, apply to the Minister for a variation to an action management plan	Not Applicable	
20	approved by the Minister, or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, by submitting an application in accordance with the requirements of section 143A of the EPBC Act. If the Minister approves a revised action management plan (RAMP) then, from the date specified, the approval holder must implement the RAMP in place of the previous action management plan.	No request was submitted to vary an action management plan	

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Condition	Condition	Status
No.		
	The approval holder may choose to revise an action management plan approved by the Minister or as subsequently revised in accordance with these conditions, without submitting it for approval under section	Not Applicable
21	143A of the EPBC Act, if the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact.	No amendment was made to an action management plan
	If the approval holder makes the choice under condition 21 to revise an action management plan without submitting it for approval, the approval holder must:	Not Applicable
	a. notify the Department in writing that the approved action management plan has been revised and provide the Department with:	No amendment was made to an action management plan
	i. an electronic copy of the RAMP ii. an electronic copy of the RAMP marked up with track changes to show the differences	Not Applicable
22	between the approved action management plan and the RAMP iii. an explanation of the differences between the approved action management plan and the RAMP	No amendment was made to an action management plan
	iv. the reasons the approval holder considers that taking the action in accordance with the RAMP would not be likely to have a new or increased impact	
	v. written notice of the date on which the approval holder will implement the RAMP (RAMP implementation date), being at least 20 business days after the date of providing	
	notice of the revision of the action management plan, or a date agreed to in writing with the Department.	
	b. subject to condition 25 implement the RAMP from the RAMP implementation date.	
	The approval holder may revoke its choice to implement a RAMP under condition 22 at any time by giving written notice to the Department. If the approval holder revokes the choice under condition 22, the approval	Not Applicable
23	holder must implement the action management plan in force immediately prior to the revision undertaken under condition 22.	No request to revoke implementation of the action management plan was submitted
	If the Minister gives a notice to the approval holder that the Minister is satisfied that the taking of the action in accordance with the RAMP would be likely to have a new or increased impact, then:	Not Applicable
24	<ul> <li>a. condition 22 does not apply, or ceases to apply, in relation to the RAMP</li> <li>b. the approval holder must implement the action management plan specified by the Minister in the notice.</li> </ul>	No request to amend or revoke and action plan was submitted
	At the time of giving the notice under condition 24, the Minister may also notify that for a specified period of time, condition 22 does not apply for one or more specified action management plans	Not Applicable
25	time, condition 22 does not apply for one of more specified action management plans	No request to amend or revoke and action plan was submitted
26	Within 30 days after the completion of the action, the approval holder must notify the Department in writing and provide completion data.	Compliant
20		The project is still under construction.

#### **Attachment 1: Spatial Data**

Attached to email supplied electronically

Attachment 2: EPBC 2020-8769 Variation to Conditions Albany Ring Road Stages 2 and 3b



Enquiries: Martine Scheltema on 9323 4614 Our Ref: D22#1163170 Your Ref: EPBC 2020/8769

19 December 2022

Director, Post Approvals Section Assessment Approvals (Vic/Tas) and Post Approvals Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

## EPBC 2020/8769 ALBANY RING ROAD STAGES 2 AND 3B – REQUEST TO VARY CONDITION UNDER SECTION 143

Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) is requesting a variation to condition 3 of EPBC 2020/8769 under section 143 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Main Roads obtained conditional approval (EPBC 2020/8769) for Albany Ring Road Stage 2 and 3B under the EPBC Act on 22 November 2021. Main Roads is experiencing challenges with complying with the timeframes specified within condition 3 of the approval for EPBC 2020/8769 and is seeking an extension to the timeframe to submit the Offset Strategy.

Condition 3 relates to the submission of an Offset Strategy and currently states:

#### Offset Strategy

To compensate for the residual significant impacts on black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum, the approval holder must submit an Offset Strategy for approval by the Minister within 12 months of the commencement of the action. The Offset Strategy must:

- a) Identify a suitable environmental offset for the impacts on black cockatoos and Western Ringtail Possum, that satisfies the requirements of the Environmental Offsets Policy
- b) Include summary information on the impacted areas and detailed baseline information (presence of/use by protected matters and quality and condition of habitat) on the proposed offset site(s) and achievable goals for the proposed habitat condition and quality scores demonstrating how the proposed offset site(s) will meet the requirements of the Environmental Offsets Policy
- c) Specify milestones and approximate timeframes for achieving the proposed final condition and quality of habitat at the proposed offset site(s)
- d) Specify how and at what frequency management and monitoring results will be reported to the Department and the public
- e) Include details of how the offset site(s) will be protected in perpetuity.

Main Roads is currently developing the offset strategy and has secured one property as a potential offset site:

Main Roads Western Australia Don Aitken Centre, Waterloo Crescent, East Perth WA 6004 PO Box 6202, East Perth WA 6892 mainroads.wa.gov.au enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au 138 138



 Main Roads has funded the acquisition of Lot 6962 Hubbe Road Jingalup for the purpose of the offset for Albany Ring Road Stage 2 and 3b

A number of properties in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia have been investigated for suitability for inclusion in the offset strategy, however, other than Hubbe Road, Main Roads has been unable to secure additional properties for various reasons at this point in time.

In addition, Main Roads is looking at revegetation and rehabilitation on lots 95, 96 and 97 George Street referenced in the table below, currently being managed by the City of Albany and Department of Properties Lands and Heritage.

The revegetation and rehabilitation actions include improved fencing, weed control and revegetation of cleared areas. The total area of the three properties is 33ha. A biological survey was conducted over the property, which identified the vegetation condition between excellent to degraded condition with areas which are completely cleared. Improvement works will improve the habitat condition for the Western Ringtail Possum and the three Black Cockatoo Species.

The sites under detailed consideration by Main Roads as potential offsets to be acquired or have been acquired are listed below, the locations of the sites are provided in the figures below.

Location	Distance	Status of	Description of Property	
	from Proposal Area	Offset / Confidence Level		
Lot 6962 on Plan 80413	140km	Payment to DBCA Complete- High	assessment report described the vegetation as Wandoo/Jarrah woodland over shrubland. DBCA has identified the site as a suitable extension to its conservation estate. The combined Properties are 63 ha in size. The vegetation is described as:	
Lot 109 on Plan 117474 and Lot 1194 on Plan 165915		with Landowners -Low		
Lot 3000 on plan 51548 and Lot 1523 on plan 28399		Main Roads has commenced consultation with Landowner - medium	<ul> <li>vegetation types on the site <sup>1</sup>:</li> <li>Casuarina Woodland,</li> <li>Coastal Banksia /Peppermint Low Woodland;</li> </ul>	



			A Targeted WRP survey calculated a population estimate of 164 possums, with an average density estimate of 6.61 WRP / ha <sup>2</sup> .
Lot 95 on Plan 195537; Lot 96 on Plan 195537;and Lot 97 on Plan 195537.	Proposal Area	work discussions commenced with landowners - medium	<ul> <li>The total area of the three properties is 33ha. A survey identified two vegetation types on the site <sup>3</sup>:</li> <li>Hakea spp Shrubland/Woodland Complex, Jarrah/Marri/Sheoak Laterite Forest</li> <li>Jarrah/Sheoak/E.staeri Sandy Woodland</li> <li>The Biological Survey identified high quality breeding, roosting and foraging habitat for the three Black</li> <li>Cockatoo species on the property.</li> <li>A targeted WRP survey calculated a population estimate of 5 possums with an average density of 0.14WRP/ha<sup>4</sup>.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Hickman, E. (2005) *Vegetation Survey, Lots 1512 and 1523 Emu Point Drive*, Albany, WA, Prepared for LandCorp, October 2005.

<sup>2</sup> GHD (2011) *Emu Point Development Western Ringtail Possum assessment*, Prepared for LandCorp December 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Southern Ecology (2020). *Biological Survey: Albany Ring Road*. Unpublished report prepared for Main Roads Western Australia, January 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Biota (2018). Albany Ring Road Project: Western Ringtail Possum Assessment. Biota Environmental Sciences Pty Ltd. Unpublished report for Main Roads Western Australia. November 2018

Main Roads is continuing to explore potential offset opportunities to include in the offset strategy. However Main Roads is unlikely to be able to resolve these matters by 21 February 2023.

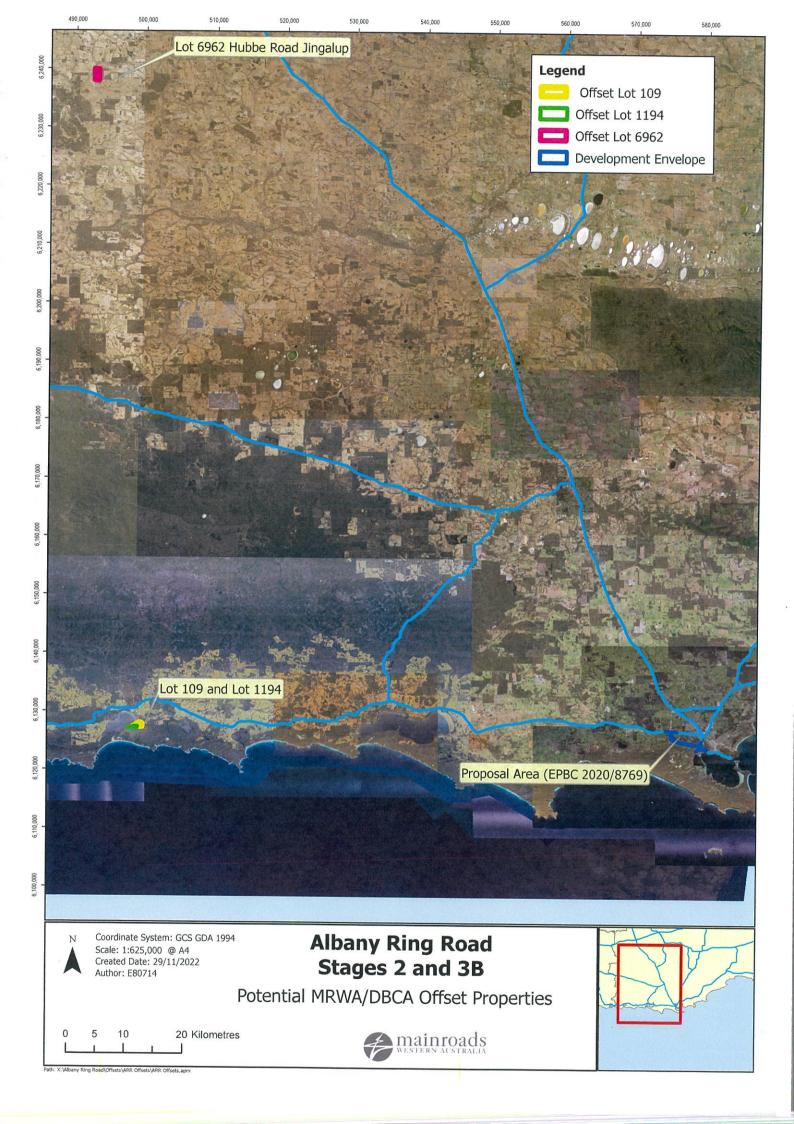
As Main Roads is unlikely to be able to comply with condition 3 by the specified timeframe I request a variation to condition 3 under section 143 of the EPBC Act and seek the timeframe for submission of the offset strategy to be extended from 12 to 24 months from the commencement of the action (ie until 21 February 2024).

I trust that the above request is considered acceptable given the complexities in finalising the offset sites. If you require and further information regarding this request, please contact do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this request in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Mante Sell

Martine Scheltema Manager Environment





Attachment 3: EPBC 2020-8769 Commencement of Action Notification



 Enquiries:
 Elizabeth Johnston (08) 9323 4945

 Our Ref:
 17/6342 D22#196262

 Your Ref:
 EPBC 2020/8769

01 March 2022

EPBC Monitoring Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madame

#### **EPBC 2020/8769 COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION**

In accordance with condition 8 of EPBC 2020/8769, Main Roads Western Australia (Main Roads) as the approval holder, is required to advise the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) in writing of the actual date of commencement within 10 business days of commencement.

Main Roads advises DAWE the action commenced on 21 February 2022. The commencement was in the form of vegetation clearing for preliminary works.

If you have any questions regarding the commencement of EPBC 2020/8769, please contact Elizabeth Johnston on (08) 9323 4945 or by email at elizabeth.johnston@mainroads.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

David Clarkson Project Director