

# FACTSHEET:

## Completing the Environmental and Heritage Checklist in the Low and High Complexity Works Application Form to Undertake Works within the Road Reserve

Applicants are required to complete the Environmental and Heritage Checklist when completing their application to undertake works within the road reserve. This Factsheet assists applicants to complete the checklist, determine what approvals are required, and details the standard Main Roads requirements.

### CHECKLIST

#### Items 1 and 2a, b, c: Clearing Vegetation

'Clearing' means any act that results in killing, destroying, removal or substantial damage to native vegetation. Clearing includes severing or ringbarking trunks or stems. 'Native vegetation' means indigenous aquatic or terrestrial vegetation, including dead vegetation. It does not include vegetation that was intentionally sown, planted or propagated (with some exceptions).

Clearing native vegetation is an offence, unless done under a **clearing permit**, or the clearing is for an **exempt purpose**. Clearing of native vegetation is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (clearing regulations) both of which are administered by the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER).

Refer to [DWER's website](#) for further information on clearing native vegetation and to DWER's factsheet on [Native vegetation clearing legislation in Western Australia](#). Further information on exemptions is available in DWER's [A Guide to the Exemptions and Regulations for Clearing Native Vegetation](#).

#### Item 2d: Environmentally Sensitive Area

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are defined areas that have significant environmental value. ESAs are declared under

the EP Act to prevent incremental degradation of important environmental values such as declared rare flora, threatened ecological communities or significant wetlands.

#### Item 2e: Black Cockatoos

Black cockatoos are listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and are matters of national environmental significance. Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests. The size of the tree (measured as the diameter at breast height (DBH)) can be a useful indication of the hollow-bearing potential of the tree.

Breeding habitat includes trees that contain suitable hollows, which are deep enough and with an opening large enough to be used by black cockatoos for nesting, or are of a suitable DBH to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, suitable DBH is 500 mm. For salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 mm.

#### Item 2f: Declared Rare Flora

Under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*<sup>1</sup>, native plants (flora) can be specially protected and listed as 'threatened' if they are under identifiable threat of extinction, rare, otherwise in need of special protection. These species are also known as Declared Rare Flora (DRF).

<sup>1</sup> *The Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* will soon be replaced by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act*, which will also protect threatened flora.



The locations of DRF are delineated in the road reserve by yellow 'hockey stick' markers (shown left). The markers are usually on the edge of the shoulder in the road drain. Please do not clear the vegetation between 2 hockey sticks without prior approval/consultation with a Main Roads environmental representative. This will help to

prevent accidental damage to the DRF.

Further information on DRF can be found on [Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' \(DBCA\) website](#).

### Item 3: Grassed Verges and Landscaping

Landscaping vegetation includes ungrassed / sparsely grassed surfaces, grassed / lawn areas and established lawns. If there is any damage to grassed verges or any landscaping, it is to be fully restored to the same condition as the adjacent undisturbed area in accordance with the Local Government Authorities' Restoration and Reinstatement Specification or as directed by Main Roads. In particular:

- The surface of *ungrassed/sparsely grassed surfaces* shall be reinstated using the stockpiled topsoil raked to a smooth level finish.
- The stockpiled topsoil of *grassed/lawn areas* (unable to be turfed) will be re-spread, raked smooth and watered.
- For *established lawns*, the underlying layers of topsoil previously stockpiled will be replaced and raked smooth. The previously stripped and stacked turf shall then be re-laid and lightly compacted.

### Item 4: Dieback

Dieback is caused by the plant pathogen, *Phytophthora*, which kills susceptible plants, such as banksias, jarrah and grass trees, by attacking their root systems. The fungus is spread through the movement of soil and mud, especially by vehicles and footwear. It also moves in free water and via root-to-root contact between plants.

If works are located in areas that receives more than 400 mm of annual rainfall, the works should be undertaken in dry soil conditions to reduce the chance of vehicles and equipment transporting infected mud/soil. Works are also to be in accordance with Main Roads Standard Requirements (see Page 4). Annual rainfall statistics can be sourced from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#). Further information on Dieback Management can be found on DBCA's [website](#).

### Item 5: Contaminated Sites

Land within the road reserve or on land required to be used as a new road reserve may contain contaminants or potential contaminants. Common contaminants of concern include heavy metals, fuels (such as petrol and diesel), oils and greases; solvents, paints and glues, and asbestos. A search of DWER's [Contaminated Sites Database](#) can be undertaken to determine whether your works area contains or is adjacent to any contaminated sites.

### Item 6: Wetlands and Watercourses

Runoff from road construction and maintenance sites can contain pollutants (e.g. hydrocarbons, metals and sediment) and affect the quality of receiving waters such as wetlands and watercourses.

DWER's web based [Native Vegetation Map Viewer](#) mapping tool can be used to identify the presence of significant wetlands (select the inland waters layer). If there are no ESA polygons within the works area, this means that there are no significant wetlands present.

A search of the DWER's [Geographic Data Atlas](#) can be undertaken to determine whether the works area contains any sensitive water resources or is adjacent to any significant lakes or rivers.

### Item 7: Surface water and Groundwater

Runoff from road construction and maintenance sites can contain pollutants (e.g. hydrocarbons, metals and sediment) and affect the quality of receiving waters such a drinking water supply.

A search of DWER's [Geographic Data Atlas](#) can be undertaken to determine whether the works area is within a groundwater area, contains any sensitive water resources or is adjacent to proclaimed areas.

Dewatering is the removal or draining groundwater or surface water from a riverbed or construction site by pumping or evaporation.

A 5C licence from DWER is required to take groundwater from an existing bore or to install a bore within proclaimed or prescribed groundwater areas. A 5C licence is also required for undertaking dewatering. Licences are required to use water from or discharge water in or to any land or waters within a Public Drinking Water Source Area. If your proposed works requires water to be drawn from a surface body (e.g. lake or river) in a proclaimed area, a 5C licence will need to be submitted and approved by DWER. Guidance on DWER's permits and licences can be found [here](#).

### Item 8: Acid Sulphate Soils

CSIRO's Australian Soil Resource Information System ([ASRIS](#)) database may be used to query the 'ASS' layer of the database to determine if your works are located within Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS).

DWER's ['Identification and Investigation of Acid Sulfate Soils and Acidic Landscapes'](#) outlines what is required for the identification, assessment and management of ASS.

### Item 9: Land Degradation

Land degradation includes soil erosion, salinity, nutrient export, acidification, waterlogging and flooding that affect the present or future use of land. Soil erosion generally occurs where there is insufficient vegetative cover to protect soils from high intensity winds and rainfall.

The amount of annual rainfall the area receives ([Bureau of Meteorology](#)), soil type (gravel, sand, loam or clay), topography (i.e. low flat terrain), distance to the nearest watercourse ([Geographic Data Atlas](#)) can influence the potential for soil erosion, flooding and salinity.

Fine loose sands on an exposed flat plain are particularly prone to erode. If unsure of the soil type, use the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's [MySoil](#) to diagnose your soil type or dig a small hole and attach a photo of the soil in your area to your application form.

### Item 10: Dust

Dust can decrease amenity values, be a health hazard causing respiratory problems and can pose a risk to traffic safety by reducing visibility. If you consider your works will generate excessive dust and be a potential hazard to workers, road users or nearby residents or businesses consultation with the Local Government Authority (LGA) is required.

### Item 11: Noise and Vibration

If the proposed works are to be completed outside normal work hours (7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, excluding public holidays), a Noise Management Plan will need to be approved by the LGA under delegated authority from DWER in accordance with the [Environmental Protection \(Noise\) Regulations 1997](#) and LGA regulations.

### Item 12: Aboriginal Heritage

A search of Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's (DPLH) heritage database known as the [Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System](#) (AHIS) can be used to determine whether the works area contains any registered sites of Aboriginal Heritage significance. These sites are legally protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (the AHA). The AHIS also identifies Other Heritage Places, which include places that have not yet been assessed to determine if it is an Aboriginal site under the AHA. For further assistance refer to the [AHIS user guide](#).

### Item 13: European Heritage

DPLH's [inHerit Database](#) contains comprehensive information about cultural heritage places listed in the State Register of Heritage Places, local government inventories and other lists, the Australian Government's heritage list, and other non-government lists and surveys. You can search by the name of the heritage site, street name, or suburb or town.



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Discuss the proposed works with the LGA and check the municipal inventory to confirm that vegetation clearing does not include any regionally significant trees.

Consultation with DPLH, LGA or other relevant stakeholders may be required regarding potential impacts to a site.

### **MAIN ROADS STANDARD REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING IN OUR ROAD RESERVE**

All third parties must adhere to the following standard requirements when conducting works in our road reserve.

#### **Hygiene Management:**

- ✓ All vehicles, machinery and equipment entering and leaving the site must be free of mud, vegetation and soil.
- ✓ All fill brought onto the site is to be clean, uncontaminated and free from rubble, weeds and disease.
- ✓ If vehicle and equipment wash down areas are required, they are to be located away from environmentally sensitive areas.

#### **Land Management:**

- ✓ Ensure that soil erosion does not cause appreciable land degradation.
- ✓ Any areas prone to erosion, cleared or disturbed by the works, will be stabilised and revegetated/rehabilitated with locally native species.
- ✓ At the completion of works, all disturbed areas are to be rehabilitated and stabilised.

#### **Storage of Chemicals:**

- ✓ Chemicals and hazardous material storage areas are to be bunded and managed in compliance with applicable Australian Standards.

#### **Fire Management:**

- ✓ Burning of cleared vegetative materials or burning within the road reserve will not be permitted under any circumstances.

#### **Waste Management:**

- ✓ Waste and other rubbish is to be covered or contained in bins with lids and removed regularly.
- ✓ At the completion of works, all waste materials (including waste water, excess soil, cement, rubbish and any other deleterious matter) are to be removed and disposed of at a suitable waste-disposal facility.
- ✓ Contaminated material is to be disposed of at an approved waste material facility.
- ✓ Asbestos material must be wrapped in heavy duty plastic and removed by a licenced operator.

#### **Site Rehabilitation:**

- ✓ If undertaking any temporary clearing, non-weed infested cleared vegetative material will be mulched (where possible) and re-spread over cleared and/or disturbed areas to encourage revegetation, and prevent erosion.

#### **Incident Reporting:**

- ✓ Any environmental incidents must be reported using Main Roads [Environmental Incident Report Form](#).

