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MEMORANDUM

Date	27 November 2023	**Title**	Briggs Park – Extension of Skate Park – Vegetation Inspection
Ref	SOSJ23001_MEM01_Rev0	**Distribution**	Natalie Watkinson Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale
Author	John Braid Principal Environmental Consultant Lisa Chappell Senior Environmental Scientist	**Review**	Kellie Bauer-Simpson Principal Ecologist/Environmental Manager

Background and Scope of Work

Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale (SoSJ) has engaged Focused Vision Consulting Pty Ltd (FVC) to undertake a site inspection of vegetation within the clearing footprint of a proposed extension to the skate park at Briggs Park in Byford.

The study area is located approximately 30 kilometres (km) south-east of Perth in the suburb of Byford (**Figure 1**).

The scope of work was to conduct a site inspection of the proposed skate park extension in order to determine the extent of native vegetation as defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). This correspondence represents the reported results.

Definition of native vegetation under the EP Act

Native vegetation is defined under Section 3(1) of the EP Act as:

> *indigenous aquatic or terrestrial vegetation and includes dead vegetation unless that dead vegetation is of a class declared by regulation to be excluded from this definition but does not include vegetation in a plantation.*

Section 51A of the EP Act adds:

> *native vegetation has the meaning given by section 3(1) but does not include vegetation that was intentionally sown, planted or propagated unless —*
>
> *(a) that vegetation was sown, planted or propagated as required under this Act or another written law; or*
>
> *(b) that vegetation is of a class declared by regulation to be included in this definition*

The *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations) states that intentionally sown, planted or propagated vegetation is considered "native vegetation" if:

- The planting was funded (wholly or partly) –
    - By a person who was not the owner of the land; and
    - For the purpose of biodiversity conservation or land conservation; OR
- One of the following is in effect in relation to the vegetation –
    - A conservation covenant or agreement to reserve under Section 30B of the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945;*
    - A covenant to conserve under section 21A of the *National Trust of Australia (WA) Act 1964*
    - A restrictive covenant to conserve under section 129B of the *Transfer of Lan d Act 1893;*
    - Some other form of binding undertaking to establish and maintain, or maintain, the vegetation.

Briggs Park is managed by the SoSJ. Any trees or other plants intentionally planted within the study area have been planted by the SoSJ for the purpose of amenity. There is no covenant or other form of binding on any vegetation planted within the study area.

Figure 1 - Study Area

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Methodology

FVC undertook a site inspection on 6 November 2023 to assess the vegetation to be cleared as part of the proposed extension of the skate park at Briggs Park. The purpose of the site inspection was to verify tree data provided by SoSJ, assess diameter at breast height (DBH) and inspect the understorey vegetation in the north-east of the study area to determine if it is remnant native vegetation. All trees previously mapped by SoSJ and any areas of understorey vegetation within the study area were assessed and verified by Principal Environmental Consultant, John Braid and Senior Botanist, Lisa Chappell. Observations were recorded at each tree, including tree species and DBH.

Additional vegetation observations were recorded throughout the study area to determine the condition and the flora species composition of vegetation present. Vegetation was defined by the data collected opportunistically within the study area and mapped using GIS, as presented in this report.

In order to determine the extent of native vegetation within the study area, FVC has undertaken a review of historical aerial imagery of the study area from 1965 to the present. Interrogation of historic aerial imagery identified that a large proportion of the study area has been previously cleared. The study area has been actively managed by SoSJ for several decades as part of a recreational sporting reserve. Any vegetation that is present and undisturbed over that time period, or any tree that is present throughout that period, is considered to be native vegetation. Trees apparent in the imagery after periods of disturbance are considered to have been planted by SOSJ as amenity trees.

Figure 2 - Pre-European Vegetation Complexes and Extent of Native Vegetation

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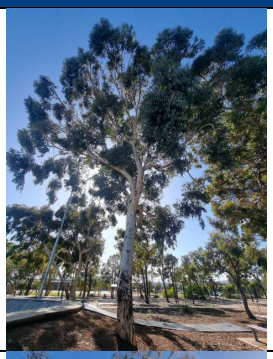
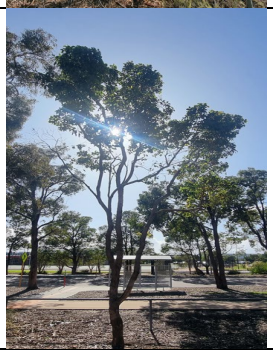
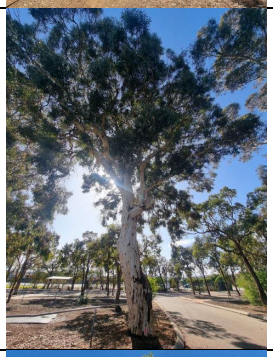
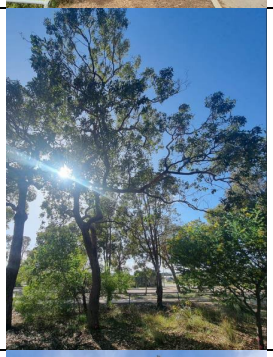
Results and Discussion

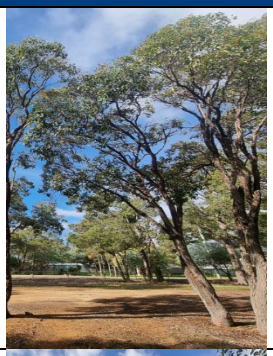
The study area has been previously assessed by SoSJ to contain 12 trees within the study area that may be required to be removed as part of the skate park extension (**Table 1**). Based on interrogation of the series of historic aerial imagery and site observations, it was determined that five of these trees are likely to be remnant (trees 2, 5, 6, 7 and 11) and seven trees are considered likely to have been planted (trees 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 and 12).

Remnant trees 2, 5, 6, 7 and 11 are therefore considered to be native vegetation under the EP Act.

Table 1 - Summary of Trees Recorded by Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

No.	Tree Species	Common Name	Photos	Approx. Canopy Area	DBH (mm)	Remnant/Planted
1	*Eucalyptus wandoo*	Wandoo		104 m^2	520	Planted
2	*Eucalyptus wandoo*	Wandoo		80 m^2	420	Remnant
3	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		10.5 m^2	200	Planted

No.	Tree Species	Common Name	Photos	Approx. Canopy Area	DBH (mm)	Remnant/Planted
4	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		21.7 m^2	290	Planted
5	*Eucalyptus wandoo*	Wandoo		138 m^2	890	Remnant
6	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		64 m^2	470	Remnant
7	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		40 m^2	380	Remnant
8	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		25 m^2	280	Planted

No.	Tree Species	Common Name	Photos	Approx. Canopy Area	DBH (mm)	Remnant/Planted
9	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		18.5 m^2	360	Planted
10	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri		18.5 m^2	240	Planted
11	*Eucalyptus wandoo*	Wandoo		107 m^2	510	Remnant
12	*Corymbia calophylla*	Marri			240	Planted

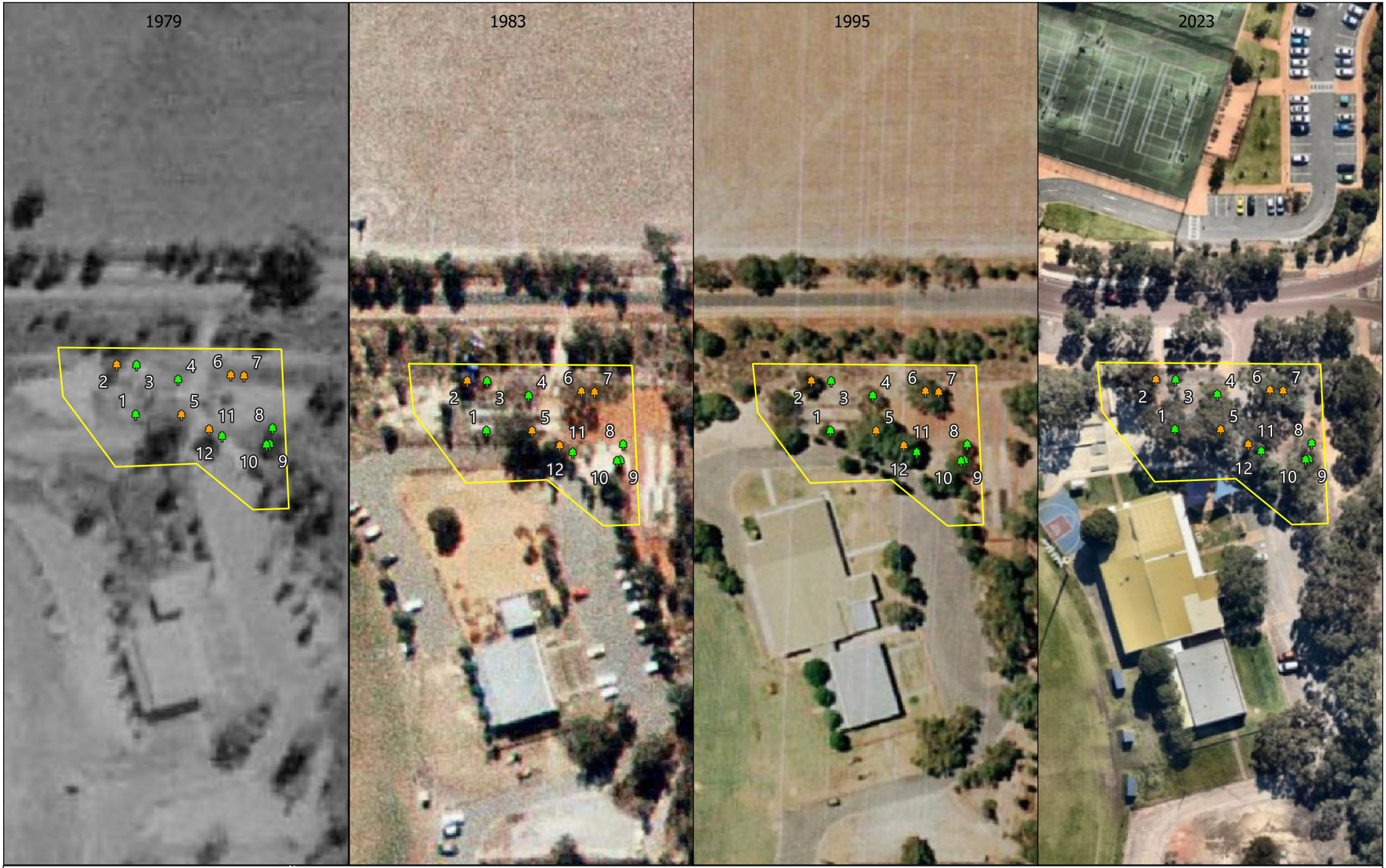


Figure 3 - Historical Aerial Imagery amd Tree Locations

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Four broad vegetation types occur within the study area which are comprised of Marri or Wandoo woodland of varying quality (**Table 2**). A total of 0.049 ha (28% of study area) of remnant vegetation occurs within the 0.175 ha study area within two of the woodland units (Remnant Marri Woodland and Remnant Wandoo Woodland). The remaining two woodlands (Planted Marri Woodland and Planted Wandoo Woodland) are not considered to be remnant vegetation. The study area has been subject to a high level of disturbance. Three of the four woodlands (Planted Marri Woodland, Planted Wandoo Woodland and Remnant Wandoo Woodland) have been subject to greater disturbance through ongoing maintenance of the park and associated infrastructure, with each consisting of isolated trees with no understorey. The Remnant Marri Woodland contains a small patch of degraded understorey (0.014 ha, 8% of study area) and occurs in the north-east corner of the study area (**Figure 4).**

Table 2 - Summary of Broad Vegetation Types within the Study Area

Broad Vegetation Type	Vegetation Unit Description	Vegetation Condition	Area (ha)	% of Study Area
Remnant Marri Woodland	*Corymbia calophylla* Low Open Woodland over *Acacia pulchella, Hypocalymma robustum* and *Xanthorrhoea preissii* Sparse Shrubland over *Mesomelaena tetragona, Lomandra* sp. and *Morelotia octandra* Sparse Sedgeland	Degraded	0.014	8.00
Planted Marri Woodland	Planted isolated *Corymbia calophylla* devoid of understorey	Completely Degraded - Degraded	0.044	25.14
Planted Wandoo Woodland	Planted isolated *Eucalyptus wandoo* devoid of understorey	Completely Degraded - Degraded	0.012	6.86
Remnant Wandoo Woodland	Remnant isolated *Eucalyptus wandoo* devoid of understorey	Completely Degraded - Degraded	0.035	20.00
		Cleared	0.070	40.00
		Total	0.175	100

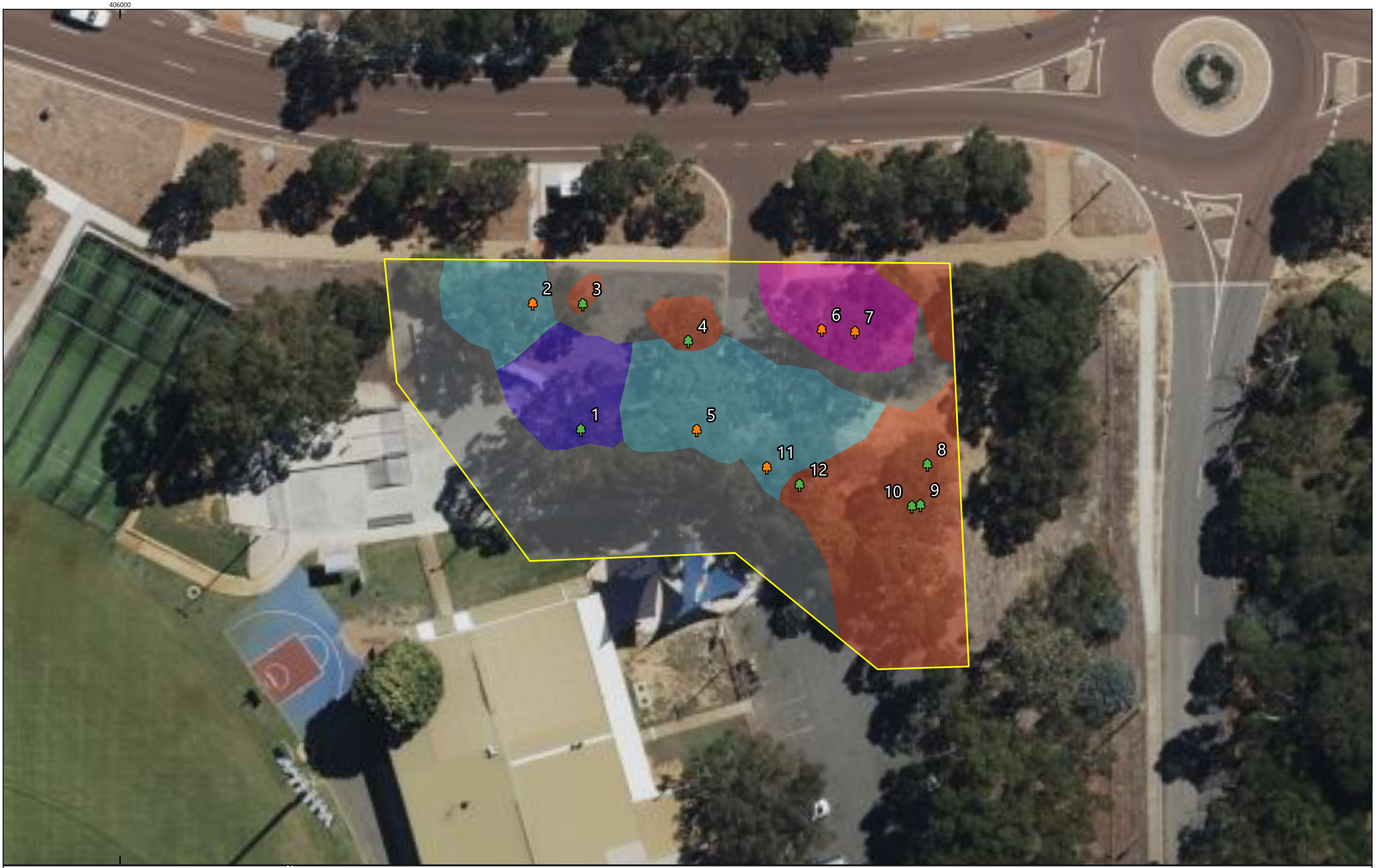

Figure 4 - Extent of Native Vegetation within the Study Area

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Conclusion

The assessment of vegetation within the study area, based on a site inspection and analysis of aerial imagery has determined that the extent of the Remnant Marri Woodland and Remnant Wandoo Woodland, supporting Trees 6 and 7, and Trees 2, 5 and 11, respectively, is likely remnant vegetation.

Closing

Should you require further information or clarification regarding the information provided in this report, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Best regards,

John Braid
Principal Environmental Consultant
Focused Vision Consulting Pty Ltd