

Tree Assessment Spring Gully Road Upgrade Project



Southampton

Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup

June 2024

Version 1

On behalf of:

Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup
PO Box 94
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SUMMARY

This report details the results of a tree assessment carried out along a section of the Spring Gully Road, Southampton in the Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup (the Shire) (Figure 1).

The Shire is proposing to apply for a permit to clear up to 31 trees along the road verge to allow for road widening and upgrades. It is anticipated that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) will request a survey for potential black cockatoo breeding habitat within the areas to be cleared and therefore this survey has been undertaken to provide the required information so as to allow for the application to proceed in a timely manner when submitted.

The field component of tree assessment was carried out on 1 June 2024 by Greg Harewood (Zoologist).

Primary Findings

Based on the observations made, all the trees in question have been assessed as not having any characteristics that would make them suitable refuge or breeding habitat for any fauna species of conservation significance known to frequent the general area.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of a tree assessment carried out along a section of the Spring Gully Road, Southampton in the Shire of Donnybrook - Balingup (the Shire) (Figure 1).

The Shire is proposing to apply for a permit to clear up to 31 trees along the road verge to allow for road widening and upgrades. It is anticipated that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) will request a survey for potential black cockatoo breeding habitat within the areas to be cleared and therefore this survey has been undertaken to provide the required information so as to allow for the application to proceed in a timely manner when submitted.

It should be noted that most of the trees in question were the subject of previously granted clearing permits (CPS 7693/1 and 7693/2). These permits expired prior to works being commenced, hence the requirement for a new permit application.

Prior to the survey being undertaken the Shire identified the trees within the permit area that may require removal and therefore required assessment. It should be noted that not all the trees assessed may necessarily require removal.

2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The Shire have defined the scope of works as

- Undertake a fauna assessment on 31 trees along Spring Gully Road in Southampton to support a clearing permit application.

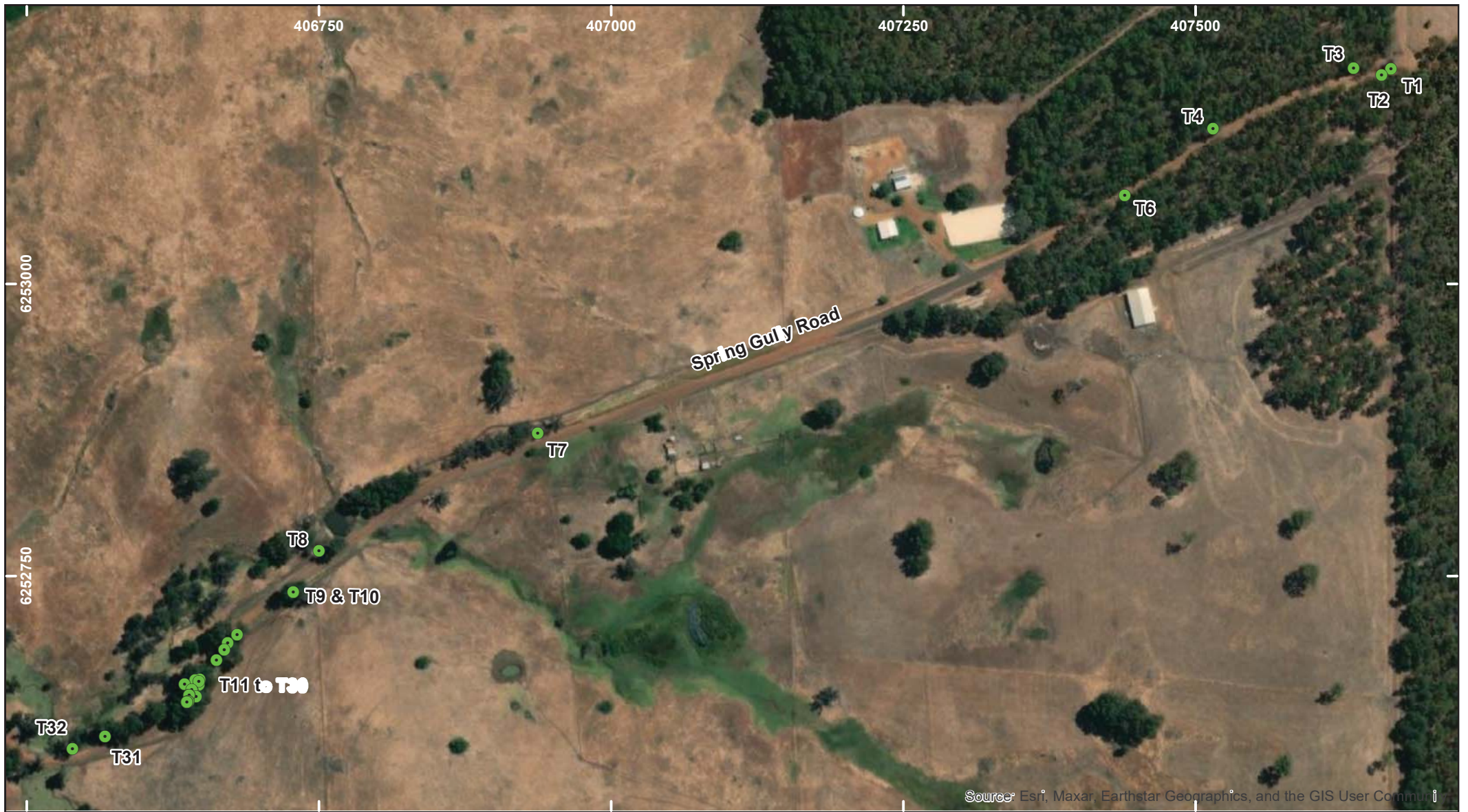
3. METHODS

The field component of tree assessment was carried out on 1 June 2024 by Greg Harewood (Zoologist).

The previously identified trees (marked by the Shire with paint) were located in the field and examined from ground level using binoculars for hollows. A drone (DJI Mavic Mini) was also available to examine and photograph any observed hollow (or possible hollow) whenever considered warranted and feasible. Details on location, tree species and other relevant details were recorded in each instance.

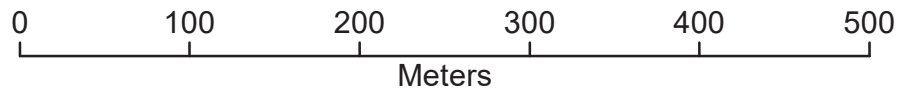
If and when located, an assessment of each hollow's suitability for use by fauna species of conservation significance (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales and western ringtail possums) was to be determined where possible and noted.

Other evidence of use or suitability as habitat for other fauna species of conservation significance was also noted if observed (e.g. possum dreys, dense canopy)



Legend

● Trees Inspected



Drawn: G Harewood
 Date: June 2024
 Scale: 1: 50,000

Tree Assessment
 Spring Gully Road - Southampton

**Aerial Photograph
 and
 Trees Inspected**

Projection/Coordinate System: UTM/MGA Zone 50 Figure: 1

All survey data has been provided along with this report in a format in accordance with the EPA's Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA).

4. SURVEY CONSTRAINTS

No seasonal sampling has been carried out as part of this fauna assessment. The conclusions presented are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period of time and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of the field assessments. It should also be recognised that site conditions can change with time.

During the survey trees with hollows were searched for. It should be noted that identifying hollows suitable for fauna species from ground level has limitations. Generally, the full characteristics of any hollow seen are not fully evident (e.g. internal dimensions). It is also difficult to locate all hollows within all trees as some are not observable from ground level, though to a certain extent some of these limitations can be overcome by using a drone or pole camera to examine possible hollows in more detail (where considered warranted and feasible).

5. RESULTS

None of the trees assessed contain hollows of a size/orientation suitable for black cockatoos to use for nesting purposes.

Two trees contained what appeared to be possible very small hollows in some dead branched but in the authors opinion these were not of a size or orientation that would be favoured by other fauna of significance such as phascogales and/or western ringtail possums.

Because of this and other factors the trees in question have been assessed as unlikely to represent suitable refuge/breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species likely to frequent the general area (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales and western ringtail possums).

A summary of observations made are provided in Table 1 below.

Additional details of each tree can be found in Appendix A.

Table 1: Summary of Tree Observations

ID	Side of Road	Number of Possible Hollows	Status	Comments
T1	North	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) jarrah tree.
T2	North	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) jarrah tree. Dead
T3	North	1	One possible very small hollow.	Small sized (DBH <50cm) jarrah tree. One possible, very small spout like hollow in dead branch. Not significant.
T4	North	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
T6	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree. Main trunk snapped off. Examined with drone – no hollow.
T7	North	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) flooded gum.
T8	North	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T9	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T10	South	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
T11	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T12	South	2+	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree. Several possible, very small spout like hollows in dead branches. Not significant.
T13	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T14	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T15	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T16	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T17	North	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T18	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T19	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T20	South	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
T21	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T22	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
T23	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T24	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.

ID	Side of Road	Number of Possible Hollows	Status	Comments
T25	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T26	South	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
T27	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T28	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T29	South	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T30	South	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T31	North	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.
T32	North	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree.

6. CONCLUSION

The assessment reported on here was undertaken to identify any trees with hollows or possible hollows likely to be suitable for use by conservation significant species such as black cockatoos and phascogales.

Based on the observations made, all the trees in question have been assessed as not having any characteristics that would make them suitable refuge or breeding habitat for any fauna species of conservation significance known to frequent the general area.

APPENDIX A

Details of Trees Inspected

Tree Details

Datum: Australian Geocentric 1994 (GDA94)

ID	Lat	Long	Zone	mE	mN	Species
T1	-33.8576036	116.001851	50H	407667	6253184	Jarrah
T2	-33.8576433	116.001764	50H	407659	6253179	Jarrah
T3	-33.8575949	116.001505	50H	407635	6253185	Marri
T4	-33.8579779	116.000382	50H	407515	6253133	Marri
T6	-33.8587945	115.998893	50H	407439	6253076	Marri
T7	-33.8605438	115.993231	50H	406937	6252872	Flooded Gum
T8	-33.86124	115.991895	50H	406750	6252772	Marri
T9	-33.8615598	115.991653	50H	406728	6252736	Marri
T10	-33.8615598	115.991653	50H	406728	6252736	Marri
T11	-33.8619447	115.991045	50H	406672	6252693	Marri
T12	-33.8618832	115.991125	50H	406680	6252700	Marri
T13	-33.8620745	115.990934	50H	406662	6252678	Marri
T14	-33.861998	115.991003	50H	406669	6252687	Marri
T15	-33.8622208	115.990782	50H	406648	6252662	Marri
T16	-33.8622308	115.990736	50H	406644	6252661	Marri
T17	-33.8622533	115.99064	50H	406635	6252658	Marri
T18	-33.8622614	115.990769	50H	406647	6252657	Marri
T19	-33.8622422	115.990767	50H	406647	6252660	Marri
T20	-33.8623109	115.990716	50H	406642	6252652	Marri
T21	-33.8623018	115.990706	50H	406641	6252653	Marri
T22	-33.8623537	115.990744	50H	406645	6252647	Marri
T23	-33.8623426	115.990676	50H	406639	6252648	Marri
T24	-33.8623426	115.990676	50H	406639	6252648	Marri
T25	-33.8623426	115.990676	50H	406639	6252648	Marri
T26	-33.8623963	115.990658	50H	406637	6252642	Marri
T27	-33.8623909	115.990664	50H	406638	6252643	Marri
T28	-33.8623909	115.990664	50H	406638	6252643	Marri
T29	-33.8623963	115.990658	50H	406637	6252642	Marri
T30	-33.8623963	115.990658	50H	406637	6252642	Marri
T31	-33.8626513	115.989897	50H	406567	6252613	Marri
T32	-33.8627479	115.989592	50H	406539	6252602	Marri

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The conclusions are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of preparing the report. Also, it should be recognised that site conditions, can change with time.

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