

## Summary Report – Application for approval to clear native vegetation – Quellington Road, York

### Introduction

The Shire of York has funding for a series of upgrades to the Quellington Road in York.

Upgrades have been proposed as a means to address the historically poor safety record of the road. Between 2018 and 2022, 832 people were killed or seriously injured in the Wheatbelt region (Road Safety Commission of WA 2023).

The necessary upgrades to the Quellington Road, including those which comprise the current action, were identified as part of the state government's Regional Strategies for Significant Local Government Roads (Main Roads 2023). Funding for the proposed upgrades was provided to the Shire of York from the Regional Road Group funding pool, on this basis.

It is anticipated that implementation of the proposed action will contribute to tackling the Wheatbelt's historically poor safety record.

### Background

The proposed road works are located on Quellington Road, between the intersections of Parker Road and Caljie Road, see Appendix A – Site Location.

In this area Quellington Road is a 20 metre road reserve with on average a five metres pavement construction, with adjoining table drains. The Aus Roads standard for upgrading a road like this is to widen it to achieve a 10 metre pavement construction.

The Shire of York has contracted an engineering consultant to design the reconstruction works for the Road. 100% designs have been received and the Shire is finalising these to go out to tender for construction.

### Discussion

The 100% design drawings have identified a number of trees that are impacting on the final road construction. As the current road pavement is so narrow it is inevitable that widening will impact on road side vegetation.

The Shire of York has made the decision to avoid clearing of native vegetation as much as is safely possible. Accordingly, the decision has been made to reduce the road width from 10 metres to 9 metres. This decision will exclude many mature trees from the project area.

A reconnaissance survey has been carried out of the project area and the native vegetation in the road corridor has been identified as Wheatbelt Wandoo and York Gum with Jam (*Acacia accuminata*) and an understory predominantly of annual weeds. There is several isolated Salmon Gums in the eastern end of the project area.

The Shire of York has made a decision to avoid all Eucalypt species with a DBH of 300mm or more. The road designs have been amended to accommodate this. This will avoid any potential impact on habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoos.

These decisions have minimised the impact of the road works on native vegetation, however there is still some trees that will require removal. Most of the trees identified for removal are Jam Trees (*Acacia Accuminata*). Within the current transport corridor all *Acacia* saplings (under 10 years of age) will be removed. In the project area for the new works the *Acacia*'s are proposed to be removed.

Many of these trees are in poor condition and appear to be in decline. Canopy die off, breakages and general poor appearance indicates this. Acacias are known to be short lived (20-30 years) and have a large seed bank. It is to be expected that if the aged trees are removed that there will be some natural recruitment. Any recruitment of Acacias outside the road corridor will be retained.

There is several small Wandoo and York Gum that are identified for removal. All have a DBH much less than 300mm and many are adjacent to mature Eucalypts that will be retained.

It will also be necessary to prune some Eucalypts. All pruning will be carried out by a qualified arborist with the intended outcome that the tree is protected and structurally can continue to grow without further impact on the road corridor. They will be pruned for long term outcomes.

As some clearing is required the Shire of York has looked to mitigate the impact on the local area. A revegetation site has been identified. Adjacent to the Mortlock River the road reserve widens to include an area of remnant vegetation. There is opportunity for some infill planting in this area to mitigate the clearing requirements. Appendix C is a photo of the revegetation area.

This area is predominantly Wandoo and York Gum with Jam over shrubs such as blue bush and is 1.14 ha in area. There is several clear areas for revegetation with a medium to high weed load.

Appendix B is an aerial view of the project area with the discreet clearing areas highlighted and the proposed revegetation area identified.

Appendix D illustrates each of the identified clearing areas and identifies the specific trees to be cleared within that area, including a photo.

Appendix E is a Table summarising the Clearing Areas.

## Conclusion

The Shire of York is carrying out road construction over a 2 km section of Quellington Road in Caljie.

To accommodate widening of the road some clearing of native vegetation is proposed.

The Shire of York has taken action to avoid clearing by:

- Reducing the road specifications from 10 metre wide to 9 metres wide
- Actively avoiding all eucalypts with a DBH of 300mm or more

The Shire of York has taken action to mitigate the clearing by:

- Identifying 1.14 ha of road reserve that can have infill planting carried out to mitigate the impact of the clearing

## Attachments:

Attachment A – Site Location

Attachment B – Areas for clearing

Attachment C – Revegetation Area

Attachment D – Details on clearing areas

Attachment E – Summary of clearing

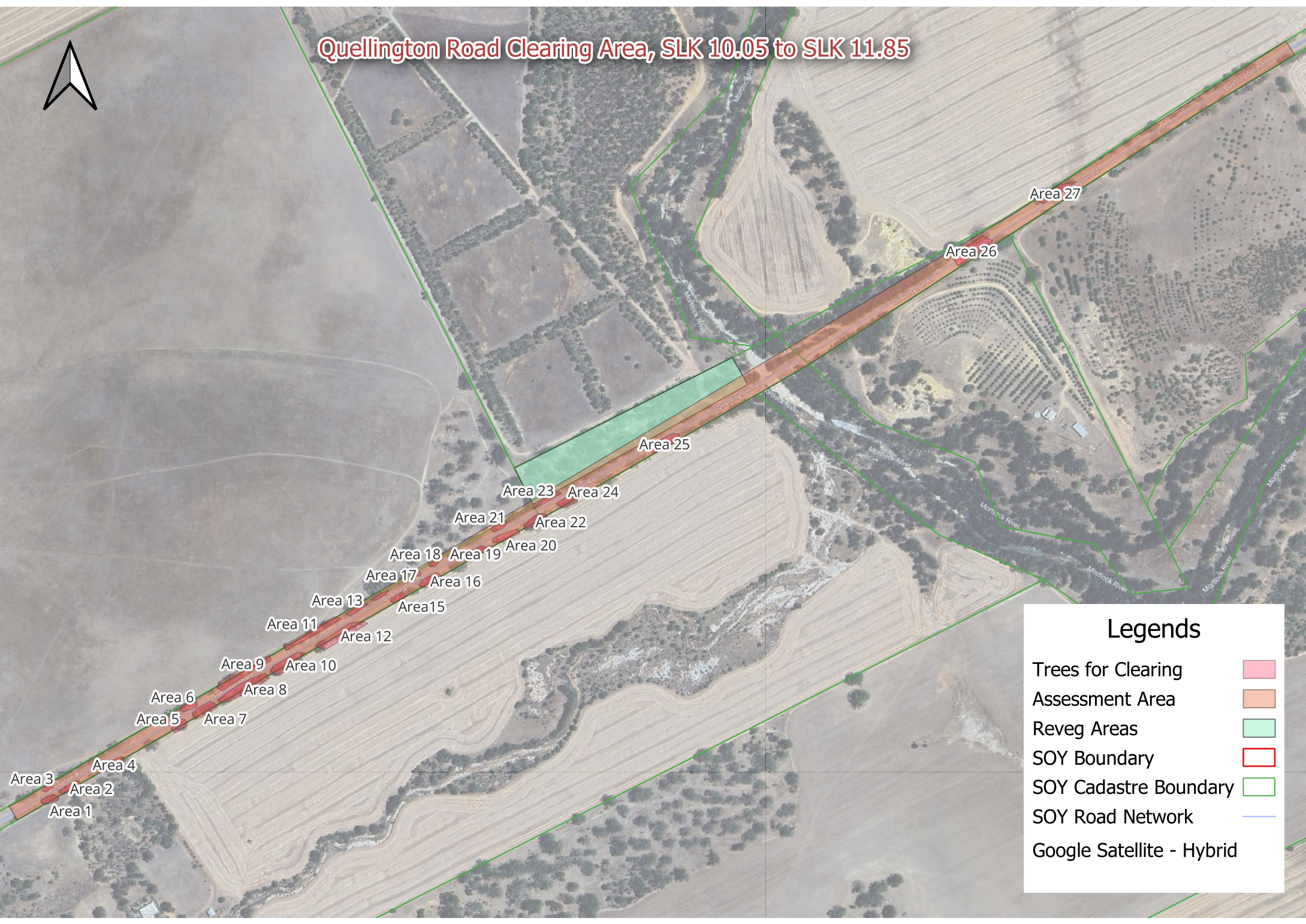


Attachment A: Site Location





# Quellington Road Clearing Area, SLK 10.05 to SLK 11.85



### Legends

Trees for Clearing	
Assessment Area	
Reveg Areas	
SOY Boundary	
SOY Cadastre Boundary	
SOY Road Network	
Google Satellite - Hybrid	







Area 1	SLK 10.07 - 10.10	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Removal of 5 jam trees	



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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
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Area 2	SLK 10.10 - 10.12	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Prune the branches facing towards the road of 3 trees.	





Area 3	SLK 10.10	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Removal of 1 jam tree	



**4330006**  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.10**  
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A photograph of a tree in a grassy field. A blue arrow points to the base of the tree. The tree is a large, spreading tree with many branches. The ground is a mix of dirt and grass. In the foreground, there is a gravel surface.

Area 4	SLK 10.16-10.19	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Retain all. Prune Tree 2	

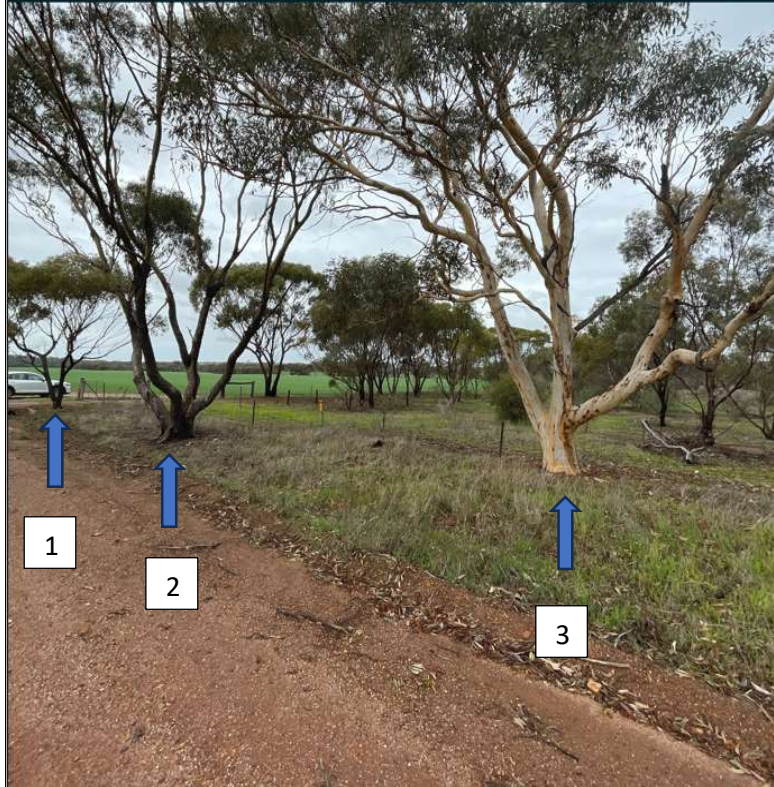
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# Quellington Rd

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Area 5	SLK 10.25	4330006 – Quellington Rd
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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
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Area 6	SLK 10.27	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 2 jam trees and 1 dead tree.	

 **Quellington Rd**  
4330006  
**0010.27**  
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Area 7	SLK 10.29-10.32	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 6 jam trees and 1 dead tree	

**A**  
4330006

# Quellington Rd

## 0010.27

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Area 8	SLK 10.32-10.39	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 15 jam trees. Some dead	

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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.31**  
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**A**  
4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.37**  
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Area 9	SLK 10.33-10.40	4330006 – Quellington Rd
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Clearance Details	Remove 3 dead trees and She oaks	
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4330006

**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.40**

**SINGLE**  
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**A**  
4330006

**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.33**

**SINGLE**  
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Area 10	SLK 10.40-10.44	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 6 jam trees and dead branches.	





Area 11	SLK 10.42-10.50	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 4 dead trees and 2 jam tree	

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**0010.50**  
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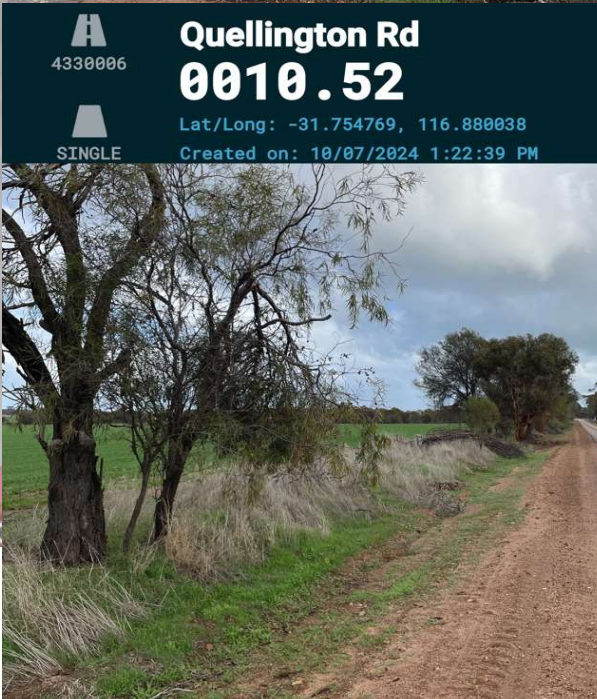


**Quellington Rd**  
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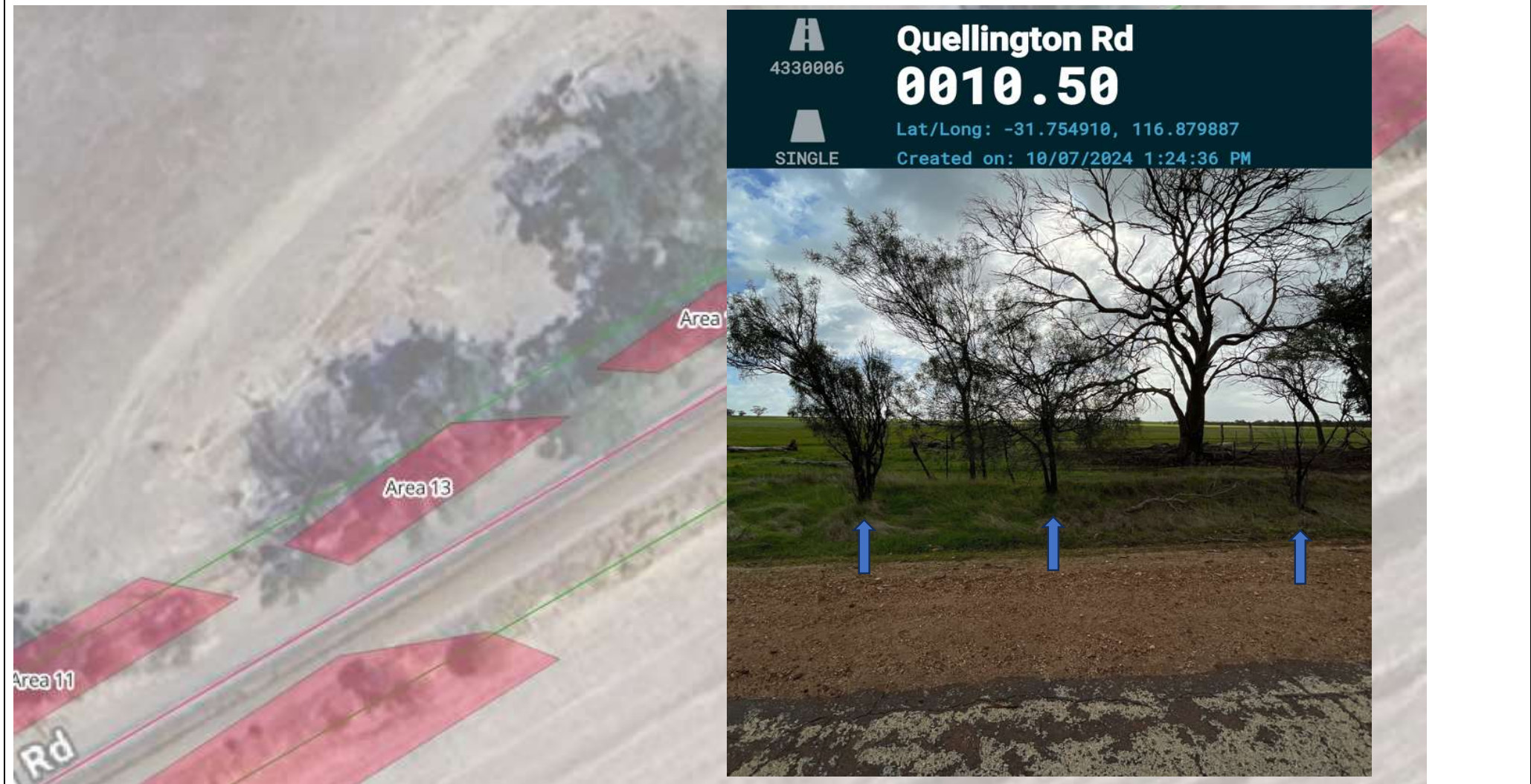


Area 12	SLK 10.46-10.52	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 6 jam trees and dead branches. Retain Eucalypts.	





Area 13	SLK 10.50	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 3 jam trees	



Area 14	SLK 10.54-10.57	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove dead branches and young York gum saplings	

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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
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Area 15	SLK 10.58	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 3 jam trees.	

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4330006

**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.58**

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Area 16	SLK 10.61-10.64	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 6 jam trees	


**Quellington Rd**  
 4330006  
**0010.58**  
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Area 17	SLK 10.60	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 1 jam tree	



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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
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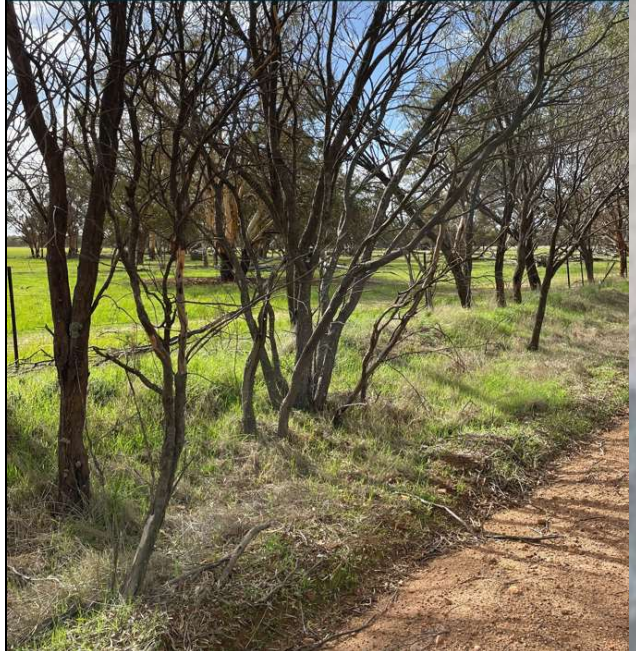




Area 18	SLK 10.63-10.65	4330006 – Quellington Rd
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Clearance Details	Remove 5 jam trees and dead branches	
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**Quellington Rd**  
 4330006  
**0010.63**  

 Lat/Long: -31.754265, 116.881077  
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Area 19	SLK 10.63	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 2 jam trees and prune 1 Wandoo	

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 4330006

## Quellington Rd

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Lat/Long: -31.754265, 116.881077

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<b>Area 20</b>	<b>SLK 10.68-10.76</b>	<b>4330006 – Quellington Rd</b>
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**Clearance Details** Prune 5 jam trees and remove dead branches.

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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.68**  
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**A**  
4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
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Area 21	SLK 10.72-10.74	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 2 jam trees and 1 dead tree.	

**Quellington Rd**  
4330006  
**0010.72**  
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Area 22	SLK 10.82	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 3 small trunks of centre wandoo and clear 3 small eucalypts.	

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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.82**  
Lat/Long: -31.753616, 116.882421  
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Area 23	SLK 10.76-10.81	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 1 jam tree and small multi stemmed York Gum.	




**Quellington Rd**  
 4330006  
**0010.76**  
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Area 24	SLK 10.82	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 1 jam tree.	



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**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.82**  
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Area 25	SLK 10.93-10.97	4330006 – Quellington Rd
Clearance Details	Remove 6 jam trees and 1 stump.	

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4330006  
**Quellington Rd**  
**0010.82**  
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