



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 10704/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of York
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 21 December 2024 to 21 December 2034

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

**1. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of road upgrades.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Quellington Road reserve (PINs 11436974, 1170944 and 11436975), Caljie

**3. Clearing authorised**

The permit holder must not clear more than 93 native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

**4. Period during which clearing is authorised**

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 21 December 2029.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

**5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 6. Weed and dieback management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *dieback* or *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## 7. Directional clearing

The permit holder must:

- (a) conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent remnant *native vegetation*; and
- (a) allow reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

## 8. Revegetation and rehabilitation

Within 12 months of undertaking clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must:

- (a) undertake deliberate *planting* of at least 106 trees, comprising a combination of *Eucalyptus wandoo* and *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, within the area cross-hatched red in Figure 2 of Schedule 1 by:
  - (i) ensuring only *local provenance* species are used;
  - (ii) ensuring *planting* is undertaken at the *optimal time*;
- (b) undertake watering and *weed* control of *plantings* for at least two years post *planting*;
- (c) the permit holder must within 24 months of *planting* the trees in accordance with condition 8(a) of this permit:
  - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to make a determination that at least 106 trees, comprising a combination of *Eucalyptus wandoo*, and *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, will survive.
  - (ii) if the determination made by the *environmental specialist* under condition 8(c)(i) is that at least 106 of the *planted* trees will not survive, the permit holder must *plant* additional trees that will result in at least 106 trees, comprising a combination of *Eucalyptus wandoo* and *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, persisting within the area cross-hatched red in Figure 2 of Schedule 1.
- (d) where additional *planting* of trees is undertaken in accordance with condition 8(c), the permit holder must repeat the activities required by condition 8(a), 8(b) and 8(c) of this permit.

## PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

### 9. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Records that must be kept**

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area;</li> <li>(b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</li> <li>(c) the date that the area was cleared;</li> <li>(d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</li> <li>(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5;</li> <li>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> and <i>dieback</i> in accordance with condition 6; and</li> <li>(g) actions taken in accordance with condition 7.</li> </ul>
2.	In relation to the revegetation and rehabilitation pursuant to condition 8 of this permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the date(s) the <i>planting</i> occurred;</li> <li>(b) the locations of trees <i>planted</i>, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;</li> <li>(c) a description of the <i>planting</i> activities undertaken;</li> <li>(d) the total number of trees planted from each species in accordance with condition 8(a);</li> <li>(e) a copy of the <i>environmental specialist's</i> monitoring report and determination; and</li> <li>(f) a description of any <i>remedial actions</i> undertaken pursuant to condition 8(c)(ii) and 8(d) of this permit.</li> </ul>

### 10. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 9 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

**Table 2: Definitions**

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
dieback	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this permit, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) subregion of the area cleared.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
optimal time	means the period from May to July for undertaking planting.
plant/ed/ing	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species.
remedial action/s	means for the purpose of this permit, any activity that is required to ensure successful re-establishment and survival of planted trees.
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>

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**END OF CONDITIONS**



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**Temika Mathieson**  
**A/MANAGER**  
**NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION**

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

27 November 2024



# Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

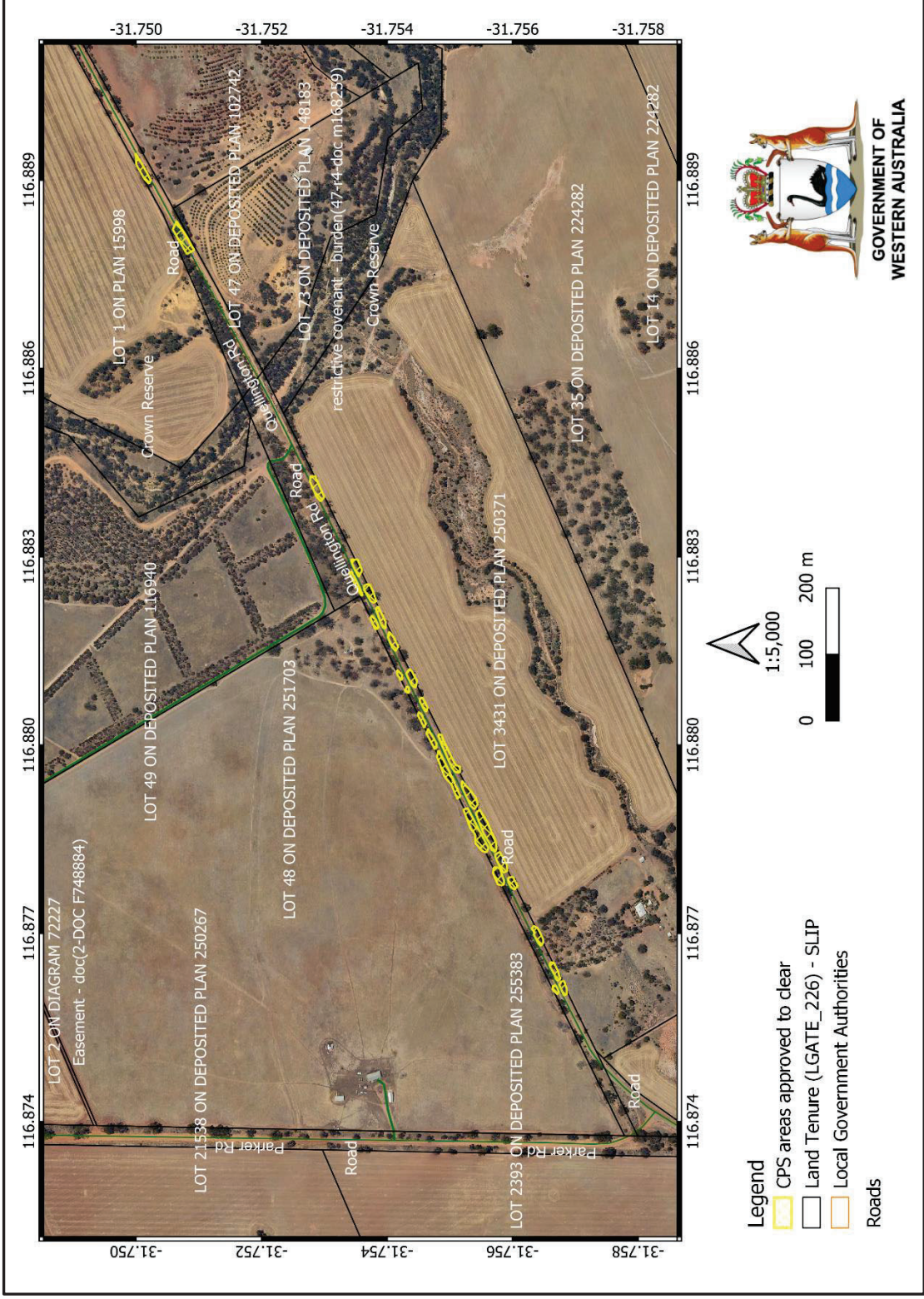


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur



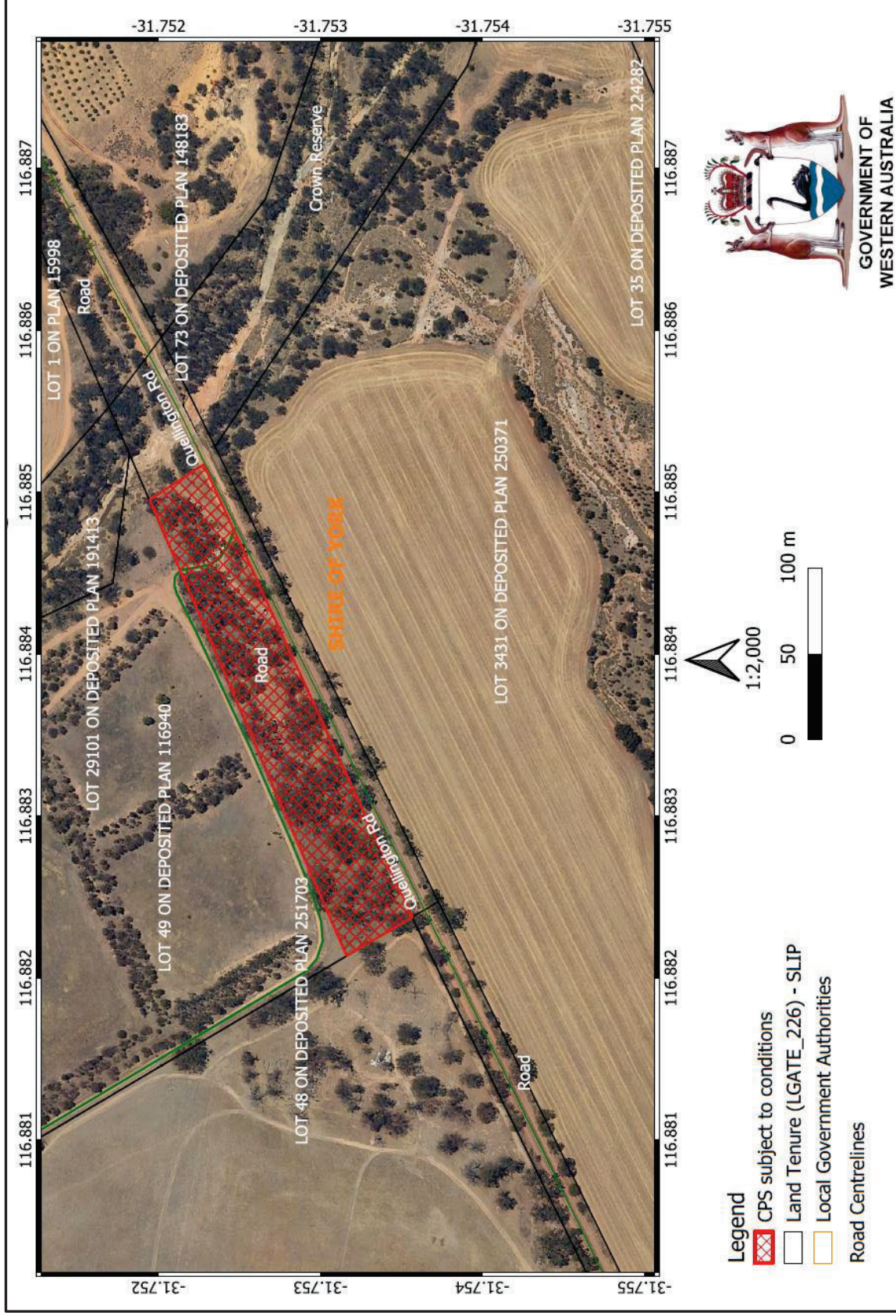


Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which specific revegetation and rehabilitation conditions apply



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1 Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	CPS 10704/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Shire of York
<b>Application received:</b>	30 July 2024
<b>Application area:</b>	93 native trees (as revised)
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Road upgrades
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical
<b>Property:</b>	Quellington Road reserve (PINs 11436974, 1170944 and 11436975)
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of York
<b>Localities (suburb/s):</b>	Caljie

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is composed of 93 native trees, most of which are Jam Wattle (*Acacia acuminata*), distributed along a 0.8-hectare linear footprint within the Quellington Road in the Shire of York (see Figure 1, Section 1.5) (Shire of York, 2024a).

The purpose of clearing these trees is to facilitate upgrades to Quellington Road under the Regional Road Group funding pool from the state government's Regional Strategies for Significant Local Government Roads. The road currently has an average pavement width of five metres, which is not consistent with the Australian Roads standards and is causing a safety hazard. The road upgrade will extend the paved road width to nine metres and contribute to tackling the Wheatbelt's historically poor safety record (Shire of York, 2024a).

### 1.3. Decision on application

<b>Decision:</b>	Granted
<b>Decision date:</b>	27 November 2024
<b>Decision area:</b>	93 native trees

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), photographs of the trees proposed to be cleared (see Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the necessity of the proposed works to improve road safety.



The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of 93 trees that are a part of a significant remnant within an extensively cleared landscape; and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the impacts from the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- undertake deliberate planting of at least 106 trees, comprising a combination of *Eucalyptus wandoo* (Wandoo), and *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum), within an adjacent area of Quellington Road reserve to mitigate the loss of significant remnant vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape.

1.5. Site map

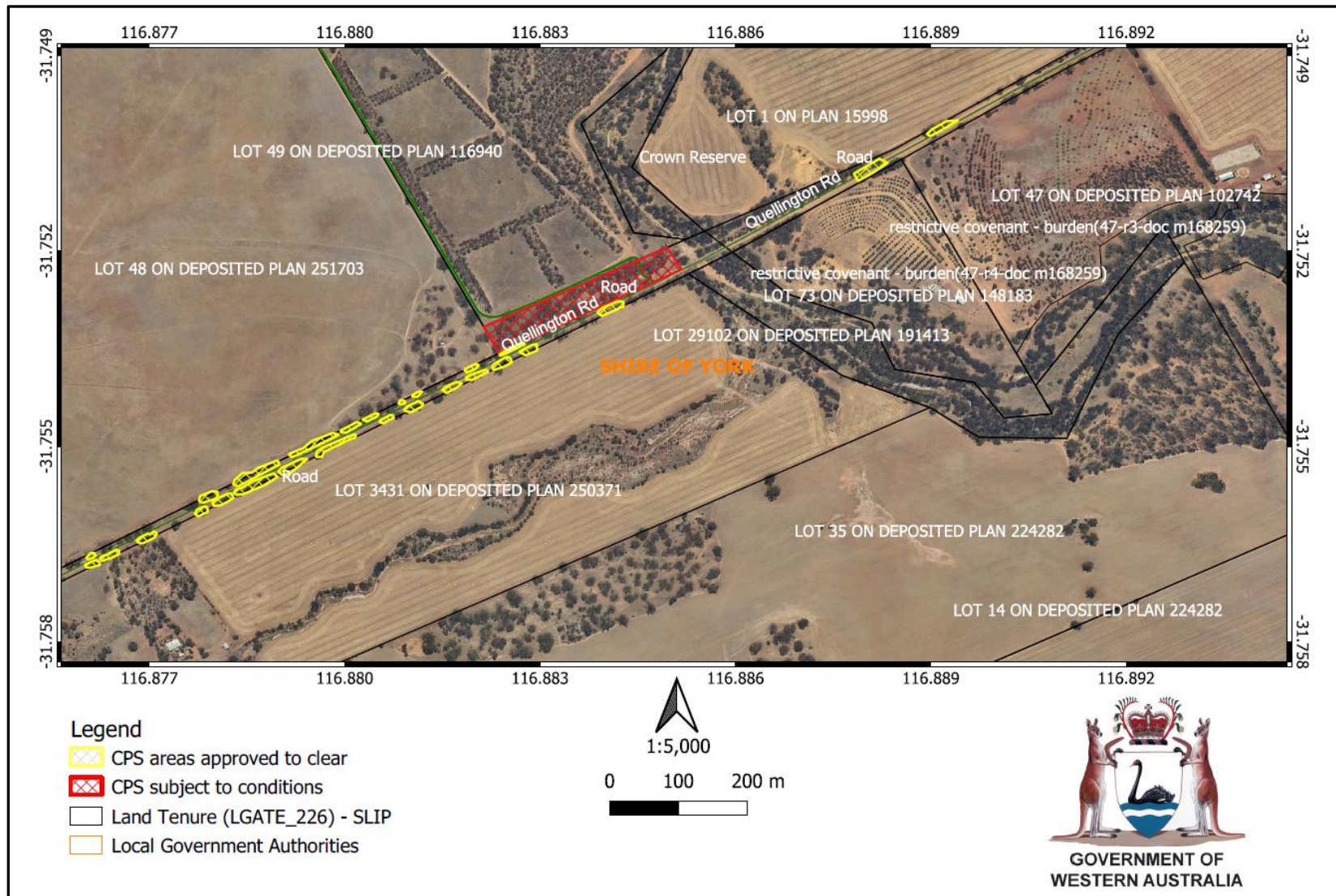


Figure 1 Map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit. The area cross-hatched red indicates the area within which specific revegetation and rehabilitation conditions apply.

## 2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the polluter pays principle
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1994* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)

## 3 Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Supporting information submitted by the applicant (Shire of York, 2024a) advised that the mitigation hierarchy has been applied, as follows:

- The final road design has been revised to:
  - reduce the proposed paved road width from ten metres to nine metres which results in the exclusion of all mature eucalypt trees from the project area;
  - accommodate pruning, as opposed to clearing, of eucalypts where possible;
  - limit clearing to areas of native vegetation in poor condition, indicated by canopy die-off, limb breakages and generally poor appearance;
  - modify the scope of table drains to accommodate all mature trees located at the rear of the drains and drains will be built around mature trees; and
  - avoid all Eucalyptus trees with the diameter at breast height (DBH) of 300 millimetres or over to avoid impacts to potential breeding habitat for Carnaby's black cockatoos.
- Revegetation: The applicant has committed to plant at least 106 Wandoo and York gum trees by infill planting bare areas within the Quellington Road reserve adjacent to the application area. Jam Wattle trees are expected to be naturally recruited through the site preparation, given the large seed bank expected in the road reserve (Shire of York, 2024b).

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. The applicant's revegetation commitment is enforced as a condition of the clearing permit.

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to significant remnant vegetation. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

#### 3.2.1. Significant remnant vegetation - Clearing Principle (e)

##### Assessment

The National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005 includes a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre-1750 (i.e., pre-European settlement).

This is the threshold level below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).

The application area is located within the Avon Wheatbelt IBRA Bioregion which retains only approximately 18.5 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent (Appendix B.2.) (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is mapped within the Beard vegetation association 352, which also falls below the national targets with approximately 19.6 per cent of its pre-European vegetation extent statewide, 17.3 per cent in the Wheatbelt bioregion, and 10.4 per cent in the York\_352 system (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation extent within the local area retains approximately 8.9 per cent of pre-European vegetation remaining (Appendix B.2).

Given the degree of historical clearing and the highly fragmented nature of native vegetation locally, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is considered a significant remnant of vegetation association 352 and within the local area. Given the extent to which the local area has been previously cleared, the application area may contribute towards fauna dispersal within the landscape. However, considering the small and immature nature of trees proposed to be cleared and the applicant's revegetation commitment (see Section 3.1), the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact to linkage and dispersal values.

To mitigate the loss of 93 trees that are significant as a remnant within an extensively cleared landscape, the applicant has proposed to plant 106 trees, including a combination of York gum and Wandoo, within an adjacent area of Quellington Road reserve. The department has assessed the suitability of this mitigation measure through a calculation consistent with the WA Environmental Offsets Metric Calculator and determined that the planting of 106 trees is sufficient to ensure no significant residual impact remains. The department considers that the mitigation planting aligns with the *WA Environmental Offset Policy* (2011) and *WA Environmental Offsets Guideline* (2014).

It should be noted that there is potential that the proposed clearing could impact on the remnant native vegetation through the introduction or spread of weeds and dieback into adjacent vegetation. The implementation of hygiene management measures are considered appropriate to mitigate this risk.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in loss of 93 trees of jam wattle, Wandoo and York gum, that are a significant remnant vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape. It is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing to significant remnant vegetation can be appropriately mitigated and managed through the revegetation of at least 106 Wandoo and York gum trees in the adjacent road reserve and the implementation of weed and dieback management measures.

#### Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- weed and dieback management measures, requiring the permit holder to take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback to adjacent vegetation; and
- undertake deliberate planting of at least 106 trees, comprising a combination of Wandoo and York gum, within an adjacent area of Quellington Road reserve.

### **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing permit application was advertised on DWER's website on 20 September 2024, inviting submissions from the public within a 21-day period. No submissions were received.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

**End**



## Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of information provided	Consideration of information
Confirmation of the number of trees proposed to be cleared.	The number of trees proposed to be cleared was revised from 94 to 93, as it was determined that one tree initially included in the proposed clearing area would be pruned, rather than cleared (Shire of York, 2024b).
Commitment to plant at least 106 Wandoo and York gum trees within the adjacent road reserve.	This information has been considered and presented in Section 3.1 of this report. The applicant's commitment has been enforced as a permit condition.

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to DWER at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix C.

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared consists of 93 trees (revised) along the existing Quellington Road reserve in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. The proposed clearing area is a part of roadside remnant in a highly cleared landscape.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 8.9 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area lies along roadsides which partially form linkages mapped under the Roadside Conservation layer.
Conservation areas	The nearest formal conservation area to the application area is Mortlock Nature Reserve, located approximately 7.5 kilometres from the application area. A DBCA covenant area is located approximately 300 metres to the east of the application area, but is separated by road infrastructure and historically cleared land.
Vegetation description	<p>Supporting information (Shire of York, 2024a) indicates that the trees proposed to be cleared consist of jam wattle (<i>Acacia acuminata</i>), Wandoo (<i>Eucalyptus wandoo</i>), York Gum (<i>E. loxophleba</i>), and sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina</i> sp.).</p> <p>Photos of the trees proposed to be cleared are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>This is broadly consistent with the mapped vegetation type: York_352, which is described as medium woodland; <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. salmonophloia</i>. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. <i>E. salubris</i>, <i>E. oleosa</i>. Riverine; rivergum <i>E. camaldulensis</i>. Tropical; messmate, woolyb</p> <p>The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 10.4 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition.</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Photos of the trees proposed to be cleared are available in Appendix E.</p>

Characteristic	Details
Climate	Climate: Mean maximum temperature is 25.7 degrees Celsius. Mean minimum temperature is 9.6 degrees Celsius. Rainfall: Mean annual rainfall is 412.5 millimetres. (BOM, 2024)
Soil and landform description	The soils and landforms are mapped as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>256GhYO - Areas of soils derived from freshly exposed rock. This unit is typified by the red soils of the Avon Valley but also includes areas of similar, but often greyer and lighter textured soils to the east of the valley.</li> <li>256GoMO - Valley floors of the Mortlock River and other similar creeks that predominantly contain sand over yellowish clay soils. Prone to salinity and waterlogging.</li> </ul>
Land degradation risk	The soil type 256GhYO is mapped as having a low to moderate risk of land degradation, except for subsurface acidification which is mapped as a high risk. Whereas the soil type 256GoMO is mapped as having high risk of land degradation from wind erosion, subsurface acidification, flooding, water logging and phosphorus export (See Table B.3) (DPIRD, 2019).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands or waterbodies transecting the application area. The application area is located along the Quellington Road which intersects a nonperennial branch of the Mortlock River. The closest distance from the proposed removed trees to this watercourse is approximately 130 metres.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Avon River Catchment Area proclaimed under the RIWI Act. Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped as from 14000 to over 35000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids.
Flora	Records of 12 conservation significant flora species have been mapped within the local area, including one threatened species, <i>Hemiandra rutilans</i> , which was identified 9.2 kilometres away from the application area. There are three species found on the same soil type and vegetation type as the application area.
Ecological communities	The desktop assessment identified that there are 204 areas of the threatened ecological community (TEC) 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' scattering in the local area. The closest TEC is mapped transecting the Quellington Road, approximately 100 metres away from the application area.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified that there are only two priority fauna species recorded within the local area, including the fork-tailed swift ( <i>Apus pacificus</i> ) and peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> ). The application area is located within the distribution of Carnaby's cockatoo ( <i>Zanda latirostris</i> ), however no records of this species have been mapped within the local area.

## B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,109.95	1,761,187.42	18.51	174,980.68	1.84
Vegetation complex*					
Beard vegetation association (BVA) 352	724,268.73	142,012.22	19.61	12,672.52	1.75

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
BVA 352 within Avon Wheatbelt	630,577.61	108,887.52	17.27	10,191.45	1.62
York_352	236,820.57	24,715.67	10.44	372.42	0.16
Local area					
10km radius	34,413.70	3,074.23	8.93	-	-

\*Government of Western Australia (2019)

**B.3. Land degradation risk table**

Risk categories	Soil unit 256GhYO	Soil unit 256GoMO
Wind erosion	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk	H2: >70% of map unit has a high to extreme wind erosion risk
Water erosion	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme water erosion risk
Salinity	L1: <3% of map unit has a high to extreme salinity risk	M2: 30-50% of map unit has a moderate to high salinity risk or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	H2: >70% of map unit has a high subsurface acidification risk or is presently acid	H2: >70% of map unit has a high subsurface acidification risk or is presently acid
Flood risk	L1: <3% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk	H2: >70% of the map unit has a moderate to high flood risk
Water logging	L1: <3% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk	H2: >70% of map unit has a moderate to very high waterlogging risk
Phosphorus export risk	M1: 10-30% of map unit has a high to extreme phosphorus export risk	H2: >70% of map unit has a high to extreme phosphorus export risk

**Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles**

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared consists of isolated jam wattle and immature Wandoo York gum trees along a degraded road reserve, and does not contain threatened or priority flora species or significant habitat for any conservation significant fauna.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains six York gum and Wandoo trees that provide habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo. However, noting that the trees proposed to be cleared are small and juvenile, they are unlikely to be providing significant habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo at present. Furthermore, no records of Carnaby's cockatoo have been mapped within the local area,</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
and the potential for Carnaby's cockatoo to be utilising the trees proposed to be cleared is minimal.		
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain threatened flora species.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared consists of isolated trees along a degraded road reserve and does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the native vegetation in the local area is inconsistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia.</p>	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (7.5 kilometres from the application area), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded transecting the application area, the proposed clearing does not impact an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>A portion of the mapped soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion, subsurface acidification, flooding, water logging and phosphorus export. However, noting the relatively small extent of clearing and the Degraded to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No



Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (i)</u>: “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</p> <p><u>Assessment</u>:</p> <p>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing does not impact surface water quality. Noting the relatively small size of trees proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact underground water.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j)</u>: “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment</u>:</p> <p>The topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.</p> <p>Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

## Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation’s ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

### Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as ‘parkland cleared’ with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

**Appendix E. Photographs of the vegetation**

Photos of trees proposed to be cleared (pointed by blue arrows).



Photo 1: Five (5) Acacia trees



Photo 2: One (1) Acacia tree



Photo 3: Two (2) Acacia trees



Photo 4: Two (2) Acacia and one (1) dead trees





Photo 5: Six (6) Acacia trees and one (1) dead tree.



Photo 6: Fifteen (15) Acacia trees (some dead)



Photo 7a and 7b: Three (3) dead trees and sheoak.





Photo 8a and 8b: Six (6) Acacia trees



Photo 9a and 9b: Four (4) dead trees and two (2) Acacia trees





Photo 10: Six (6) Acacia trees



Photo 11: Three (3) Acacia trees



Photo 12: Three (3) young York gum saplings



Photo 13: Three (3) Acacia trees





Photo 14: Six (6) Acacia trees



Photo 15: One (1) Acacia tree



Photo 16: Five (5) Acacia trees



Photo 17: Two (2) Acacia trees





Photo 18: Two (2) Acacia trees and one (1) dead tree



Photo 19: Three (3) small York gum trees and three (3) small trunks of the centre Wandoo.



Photo 20: One (1) Acacia tree and one (1) small multi stemmed York gum



Photo 21: One (1) Acacia tree





Photo 22: Six (6) Acacia trees and one (1) stump

## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from [www.data.wa.gov.au](http://www.data.wa.gov.au)):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)



- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities

## F.2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) (2024). *Climate statistics for Australian locations – York*. Available from: [http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw\\_010311.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_010311.shtml) (Accessed in October 2024)

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: [https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2\\_assessment\\_native\\_veg.pdf](https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2019) *NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development*. Government of Western Australia. URL: <https://maps.agric.wa.gov.au/nrm-info/>.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019) *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: [https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure\\_Native\\_vegetation\\_clearing\\_permits\\_v1.PDF](https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF).

Government of Western Australia. (2019) *2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019*. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Shire of York (2024a) *Clearing permit application CPS 10704/1 and supporting document*, received 30 July 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT983639).

Shire of York (2024b) *Response to the request for further information for CPS 10704/1*, received 11 November 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1037908).