GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 10855/1

File Number: DWERVT17253

Duration of Permit: From 4 April 2025 to 4 April 2027

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Strathmore Road reserve (PIN 11530498), Winnejup

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than 10 native trees within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

CONDITIONS

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Directional clearing - Fauna management

The permit holder must:

(a) conduct clearing activities authorised under this permit in a northerly direction towards adjacent *native vegetation*; and

(b) allow a reasonable time for any fauna present, within the area being cleared, to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

4. 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	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 1994 (GDA94), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the date that construction activities commenced; (e) the size of the area cleared (in hectares or number of trees); (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1; (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2; (h) actions taken in accordance with condition 3.

5. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 4 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 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 *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
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 *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

J Burton

Jessica Burton
A/MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

12 March 2025

SCHEDULE 1.

The boundaries of the area authorised to be cleared are shown in the map below (**Error! Reference source not found.** 1).

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-

hatched yellow)

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10855/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Shire of Bridgetown – Greenbushes
Application received:	25 November 2024
Application area:	10 native trees
Purpose of clearing:	Road upgrades
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Strathmore Road reserve (PIN 11530498)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Bridgetown – Greenbushes
Localities (suburb/s):	Winnejup

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area along Strathmore Road reserve within the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

The section of Strathmore Road to be upgraded has historically been maintained as a track; with landowners accessing land through neighbouring properties. This arrangement is no longer available and therefore Strathmore Road needs to be upgraded to carry local farming machinery.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	12 March 2025
Decision area:	10 native trees, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

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 A), relevant datasets (see Appendix 0), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer acknowledged that the proposed clearing is a part of the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes mandate to provide safe and accessible roads within their locality. In particular, the Delegated Officer has considered that:

- The proposed clearing would remove foraging habitat for Black cockatoo species. Within the context of more than 32,000 hectares of intact vegetation within the protected reserves immediately north, south, and west of the application area, the foraging habitat being removed within the application area, is unlikely to be significant.

- The proposed clearing area may be utilised by other conservation significant fauna. Given the selective clearing and the availability of vast, intact and protected vegetation within the reserves nearby, it is unlikely that the application area comprises significant habitat for fauna. Inadvertent impact on any individuals present can be minimised and mitigated by applying appropriate management condition to the permit.
- Clearing may facilitate the introduction and spread of dieback and weeds into adjacent vegetation including within the adjacent conservation area, which could impact on the quality of the vegetation and its habitat values. Appropriate dieback and weeds management measures can mitigate this potential impact.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to a long-term adverse impact on the existence, maintenance and habitat of Black cockatoos and other conservation significant and / or appreciable land degradation. Potential impacts can be minimised and managed by imposing appropriate management conditions to the Permit.

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

- avoid and minimise to 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.

1.5. Site map

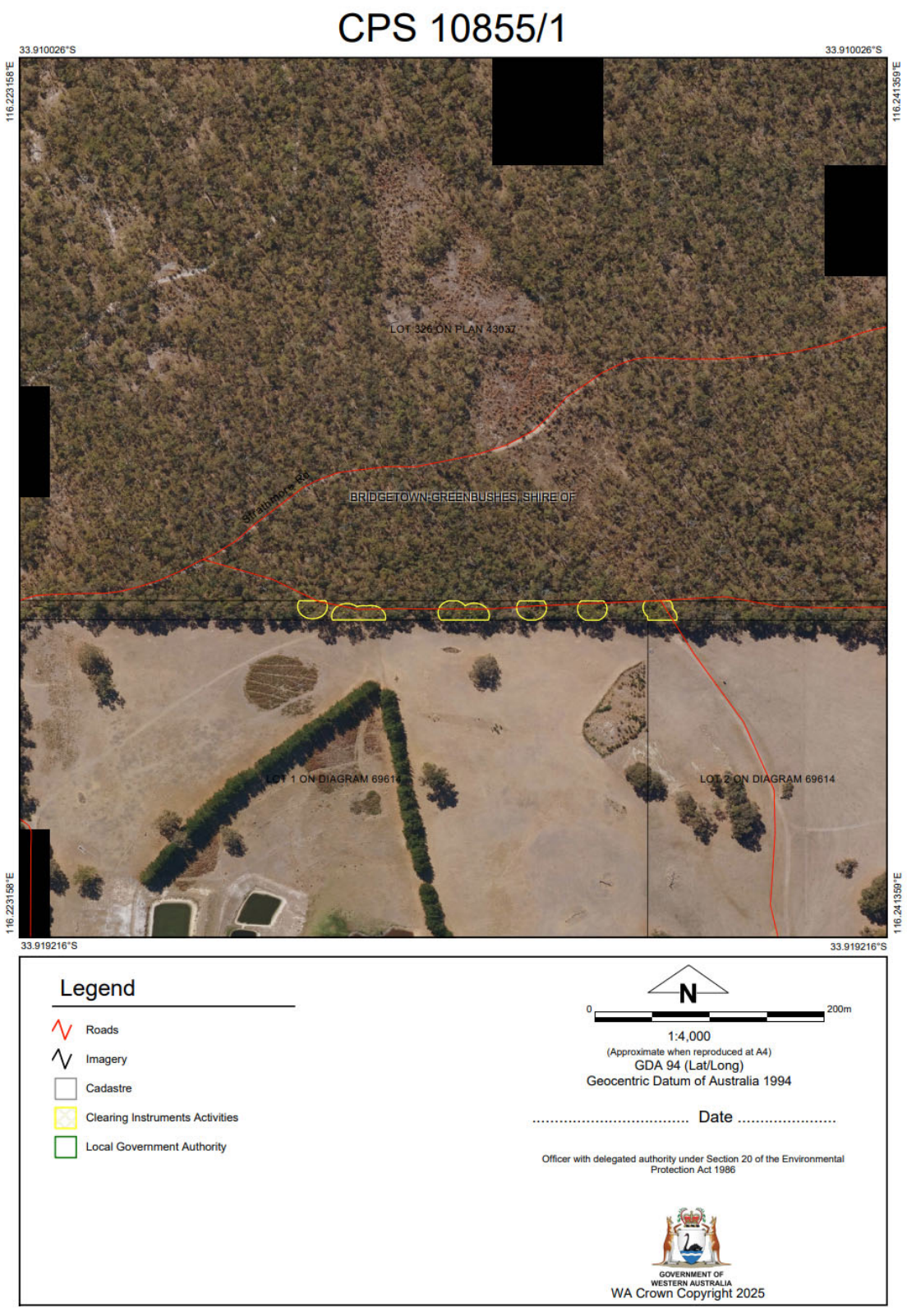

Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicates the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

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 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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)

Relevant policies considered during the assessment include:

- *Environmental Offsets Policy* (2011)

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

The applicant has demonstrated their commitments and efforts to avoid and minimise clearing and mitigate any potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. The avoid and minimise principles were considered and exercised throughout the design and decision-making processes for the road works and the application for a clearing permit (Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, 2024). These considerations include:

- Request from the landowner to clear 29 trees within Strathmore Road
- Site inspections to determine that the need could be met by reducing clearing to 10 trees only
- Exhausting alternative options to access the land (through neighbouring property).

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.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see 0) 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 may present a risk to fauna, adjacent forest reserves, and / or land and water resources. 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. Biological value – Fauna – Clearing Principle (b)

Assessment:

The densely vegetated area adjacent to the application area, especially within conservation estate, may provide habitats for fauna. Fourteen conservation significant fauna have been recorded within 10 km from the application areas. Some of the recorded fauna are of historical records and are considered the least likely to be present in the application area. Considering the proximity, time and number of records, and habitats requirements and their resemblance with the application area, the following fauna species have been assessed to likely be present, inhabit, and / or utilise the application area:

- *Dasyurus geoffroii* (chuditch) - VU
- *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine falcon) - OS
- *Notamacropus Irma* (Western brush wallaby) – P4
- *Phascogale tapoafa wamberger* (Red-tailed phascogale) - *CD*
- *Tyto novaehollandiae* (masked owl) -P3
- *Black cockatoo species:*
    - *Calyptorhynchus banksia naso* (Forest red-tailed) - VU
    - *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's) - EN
    - *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's) - EN

A review of available databases indicates that Peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus*) has been known from the local area. The falcon typically nests on rocky ledges in tall, vertical cliff faces and gorges, or in tall trees associated with drainage lines, and can hunt in a range of habitat types including timbered watercourses, riverine environments, wetlands, plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings. The application area and surrounds exhibit some of these characteristics that it is likely to provide suitable habitat for the falcon. Given the small extent of clearing, the large movement range of the falcon, and the availability of the large and intact tracks of vegetation within the State Forests nearby, whilst the falcon may fly by or utilise the area in transit, it is unlikely that the application area represents a significant habitat for this species.

Chuditch are known to occur within the local area. The large unfragmented forests with dense jarrah and marri woodland adjacent to the application area is likely to provide suitable habitat for the chuditch. However, given the location of the application area location on the road verge, the condition of vegetation, and the availability of intact vegetation within the adjacent State Forests, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for the chuditch.

Within the local context and given known home-ranges of about 10 to 12 ha, the western brush wallaby may roam into the application area. The western brush wallaby prefers *Banksia spp* woodlands, possibly due to the availability of canopy cover (Povh, 2018). Given the absence of Banksia woodlands from the application area, and that the roadside vegetation has poor of canopy cover, it is unlikely that the western brush wallaby would occur within the application area. Consequently, although dispersing wallabies may utilise the application area, the application area is unlikely to contain significant habitat for this species.

Brush-tailed phascogale inhabits dry sclerophyll forest and open woodlands with hollow bearing trees. Given the above, in addition to the consideration of the vegetation being part of roadside vegetation and the presence of an intact forest immediately adjacent to it, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for this species. Inadvertent impacts on any individual present at the time of clearing can be mitigated by applying fauna management measures.

The masked owl is known to inhabit forests, woodlands, timbered waterways and open country on the fringe of these areas. The owl requires tall trees with suitable hollows for nesting and roosting and adjacent areas for foraging. Given the habitat characteristics and previous records, the masked owl is considered likely to be present in the application area and local vicinity. Photographs of the application area indicate that none of the trees proposed to be cleared have hollows suitable for the masked owl. Although the occurrence of masked owl in the local area cannot be ruled out, it is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact on significant habitat for this species.

Of the vertebrate fauna species of conservation significance identified within the local area, the species most likely to occur over the application area are the Black cockatoo species. Numerous records of Black cockatoo are known from the local area, with the nearest record within 1.6 kms. The most recent records of Black cockatoos in the local area mainly occur within the nearby conservation estate. The application area is also mapped within the modelled distribution areas for the Baudin's, Carnaby's and Forest red-tailed black cockatoos.

Black cockatoo habitat can be considered in terms of breeding habitat, night roosting habitat, and foraging habitat. Black cockatoos will generally forage up to 12 kilometres from an active breeding site (DSEWPaC 2012; DPaW 2013). Following breeding, they will flock in search of food, usually within six kilometres of a night roost (DSEWPaC 2012; DPaW 2013, Commonwealth of Australia 2017). Black cockatoo night roosts are usually located in the tallest trees of an area, and near both a food supply and surface water (Commonwealth of Australia 2017). Flocks will use different night roosts, often for weeks, or until the local food supply is exhausted. Flocks show some fidelity to night roosts with sites used in most years to access high-quality feeding sites. However, not all-night roosts are used in every year (DPaW 2013).

Within the local context, three roosting sites have been recorded, all of which are associated with the Bridgetown population 7-10 km southwest of the application area. No breeding site is recorded within 12 km radius from the

application area. These roost sites are supported by approximately 34 percent feeding habitat cover within 6 kilometres of the roost (representing approximately 3,800 hectares of feeding resource).

Food resources within the range of breeding sites and roost sites are important to sustain populations, and foraging resources are therefore viewed in the context of known breeding and night roosting sites (Commonwealth of Australia 2017). The *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) and *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah) trees present within the application area provide suitable foraging habitat for Black cockatoos but occur 7 to 10 km from known roost sites and more than 12 km from known breeding sites.

Photographs of the ten trees to be removed indicates the unsuitability of the trees to have or develop hollows suitable for roosting or breeding of Black cockatoos given the relatively young age of the trees. Notwithstanding this, black cockatoos are known to inhabit vegetation in and around the application area. Consequently, clearing of the marri and jarrah trees from the roadsides would remove some of this available foraging habitat. However, given the vegetation is not within critical feeding habitat (6km of roosting habitat or 12km of breeding habitat), and considering it represents less than 0.001 per cent of feeding resource within the local area of which more than 32,000 hectares of intact vegetation is within protected reserves immediately north, south and west, the application area is unlikely to be significant for continuance of these species. The proposed clearing is not likely to cause a long-term adverse impact on the existence and maintenance of Black cockatoos and their habitat within the local context and therefore no significant residual impact is expected as a result of the proposed clearing.

Conclusion
Given the selective clearing and the availability of vast, intact, and more suitable vegetation within the adjacent conservation reserves; the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for fauna within the local context. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a detrimental impact on the conservation of the fauna species. It is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on the fauna individuals can be managed through suitable conditions placed on the permit.

Conditions
To address the potential impact to any fauna individuals, present at the time of clearing, staged and slow directional clearing is required to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of clearing activity.

3.2.2. Biological value – Flora diversity and Flora – Clearing principles (a) and (c)

Being so close to the conservation estate, parts of the application area may contain high level of flora diversity. In the absence of a flora / vegetation survey, a complete account of flora diversity is unknown and impacts of clearing on flora biodiversity cannot be ruled out. It is noted that the proposed clearing is for the selective removal of identified trees only and photographs of the vegetation within the application area indicate that the vegetation consists of trees over grassy weeds in a predominantly degraded condition, adjacent to an existing vehicle track. Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on the flora diversity within the local context.

Conclusion:

Based on the above assessment, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing has a detrimental impact on the flora diversity and habitat of threatened flora within the local context.

Condition:

Nil condition

3.2.3. Land resources - Clearing Principles (g)

Assessment

Clearing of trees with extensive root systems can destabilise soils prone to land degradation due to wind erosion and nutrient export. In this instance the applicant does not intend to undertake any excavation of the soils and the removal of trees relates to the need for vehicle clearance. Consequently, clearing of trees in this area is unlikely to result in land degradation due to wind and water erosion.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause appreciable land degradation due to water and land degradation.

Conditions:
No management measures are required.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The application area occurs within a designated road reserve and is managed by the Shire of Bridgetown – Greenbushes.

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. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of a part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. The proposed clearing area is within a road reserve directly adjacent to 500 hectares of Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) land to the north and agricultural land to the south. Aerial imagery indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 31.38 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	There is a southwest regional ecological linkage 300 metres to the north. Vegetation within the application area is contiguous with this linkage. The proposed clearing of 10 trees is not expected to fragment or remove this linkage.
Conservation areas	The application area adjacent to Hester Conservation Park
Vegetation description	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of *Eucalyptus sp* and *Corymbia sp*. No clearing of understorey is proposed. Representative photos are available in Appendix D. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type(s): Dwellingup Complex: • Open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla* on lateritic uplands in mainly humid and subhumid zones. The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 86.83 per cent of the original extent within the Jarrah Forest IBRA Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in degraded to good (Keighery, 1994) condition, noting that the application is to clear select trees and will not impact the general condition of the vegetation locally. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Representative photos are available in Appendix Dppendix D.
Climate and landform	The application area occurs on relatively flat section of Strathmore Road with elevation mapped at 310 metres above sea level. The climate in the area is characterised by a mean annual precipitation of 710mm.
Soil description	The application area falls within the Dwellingup rock outcrops Phase and soils are characterised as granite rock outcrop with stony soils and shallow gravels. The soils occur within an existing road reserve which have been modified through road construction practices.
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil types within the application area have moderate risk of land degradation through soil erosion. Modifications to the soils from road building practices do not alter the moderate risk of land degradation.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands or watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared.
Hydrogeography	The application area is within the Hardy Estuary – Blackwood River Catchment Division 6 of the South-West Catchment. Salinity of ground water: 0-1000 (tds mg/L).
Flora	Ten threatened and priority flora species have been recorded within 10 km radius from the application area. The closest record is that of *Grevillea ripicola* (P4) located approximately 6.2 km away from the application area.

Characteristic	Details
	None of the trees to be cleared are threatened or priority flora.
Ecological communities	No priority or threatened ecological communities (P/TEC) is mapped within the application area or within 10 km radius from the application area.
Fauna	Fourteen conservation significant fauna have been recorded within 10 km radius from the application area, consisting of six Threatened, five Priority, and three specifically protected species. Three Black cockatoo species are likely to be transient residents of the trees within the application area.

A.2. Fauna analysis table

Taxon	Conservation status	Year of record (most recent)	Number of known records within 10 km radius	Closest distance to application area	Suitable Habitat Feature?	Likelihood of presence
Calyptor*hynchus banksii naso* (Forest red-tailed black cockatoo)	VU	2006	5	7.1 km	Y	Y
Zanda baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo)	EN	2015	17	1.6 km	Y	Y
Zanda latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo)	EN	2022	28	7.9 km	Y	Y
Calyptorhynchus sp. 'white-tailed black cockatoo' (White-tailed black cockatoo)	EN	2018	9	6.3 km	Y	Y
Dasyurus geoffroii (chuditch, western quoll)	VU	1998	1	6.7 km	Y	Y
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	2006	3	5.7 km	Y	Y
Isoodon fusciventer (quenda, southwestern brown bandicoot)	P4	2022	3	9.3 km	Y	Y
Notamacropus irma (Western brush wallaby)	P4	2020	1	5 km	Y	Y
Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger (South-western brush-tailed phascogale, wambenger)	CD	2018	4	4 km	Y	Y
Tyto novaehollandiae novaehollandiae (masked owl)	P3	2001	4	5.8 km	Y	Y
T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority						

A.3. Land degradation risk table

Risk categories	***Land Unit 1***
Wind erosion	M1: 10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	L2: 3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	L2: 3-10% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	M2: 30-50% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	L1: <3% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	L2: 3-10% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	L2: 3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Appendix B: Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): "*Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant flora assemblages or a high level of biodiversity compared to the adjacent conservation area.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.
Principle (b): *"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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contain foraging habitat for Black cockatoos and may contain foraging habitat for other conservation significant fauna. Clearing of the potential habitat trees may impact on the maintenance of Black cockatoos and its habitats.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain flora species listed under the BC Act.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (d): *"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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (h): *"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."* Assessment: The application area does not include a conservation area. However, the application area is adjacent to the boundary of a conservation area. Clearing may introduce and spread weeds and dieback to these conservation areas.	May be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within or adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: Parts of the application area are mapped within soil units that are moderately susceptible to wind erosion. However, given the small extent of clearing, appreciable land degradation is unlikely.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
Principle (i): *"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."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: *The* mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C: 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.

Condition	Description
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 D. Photographs of the vegetation

Figure 2: Tree 1 within clearing permit application area

Figure 3: Tree 2 within clearing permit application area

Figure 4: Tree 3 within clearing permit application area

Figure 5: Tree 4 within clearing permit application area

Figure 6: Tree 5 within clearing permit application area

Figure 7: Tree 6 within clearing permit application area

Figure 8: Tree 7 within clearing permit application area

Figure 9: Tree 8 within clearing permit application area

Figure 10: Tree 9 within clearing permit application area

Figure 11: Tree 10 within clearing permit application area

Appendix E: Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from 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
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- 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 Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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