GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 10869/1

File Number: DWERVT17305

Duration of Permit: From 27 October 2025 to 27 October 2027

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Narembeen

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Kondinin-Narembeen Road Reserve (PINs 11652864) and Cheethams Road Reserve (PIN 11650203), South Kumminin

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.02 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area 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;

(c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

3. Offset – Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755

(a) Prior to 27 October 2026, the permit holder shall provide to the *CEO* a copy of the executed change in purpose of the area hatched red on Figure 1 of Schedule 2 within Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755 (being a portion of Crown Reserve 21808), Quinninup, from 'Recreation Tennis Courts' to 'Conservation', including the 0.43 hectare offset site hatched red on Figure 1 of Schedule 3.

(b) In the event that the change in purpose of Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755 (being a portion of Crown Reserve 21808) is not achieved in accordance with Condition 3(a) the permit holder must provide to the *CEO* an alternative offset proposal prepared in accordance with the Government of Western Australia's WA Environmental Offsets Policy (September 2011) and WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines (August 2014).

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 GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 1; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 2; and
2.	In relation to the offset site pursuant to condition 3	(a) actions taken to execute a change in purpose of the area hatched red on Figure 1 of Schedule 2 within Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 38045 (being a portion of Crown Reserve 13499) 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)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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.
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

Meenu Vitarana
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

3 October 2025

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

SCHEDULE 2

The boundary of the areas subject to conditions is shown in the map below (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Portion of Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755 (being a portion of Crown Reserve 21808)

SCHEDULE 3

The boundary of the areas subject to conditions is shown in the map below (Figure 3).

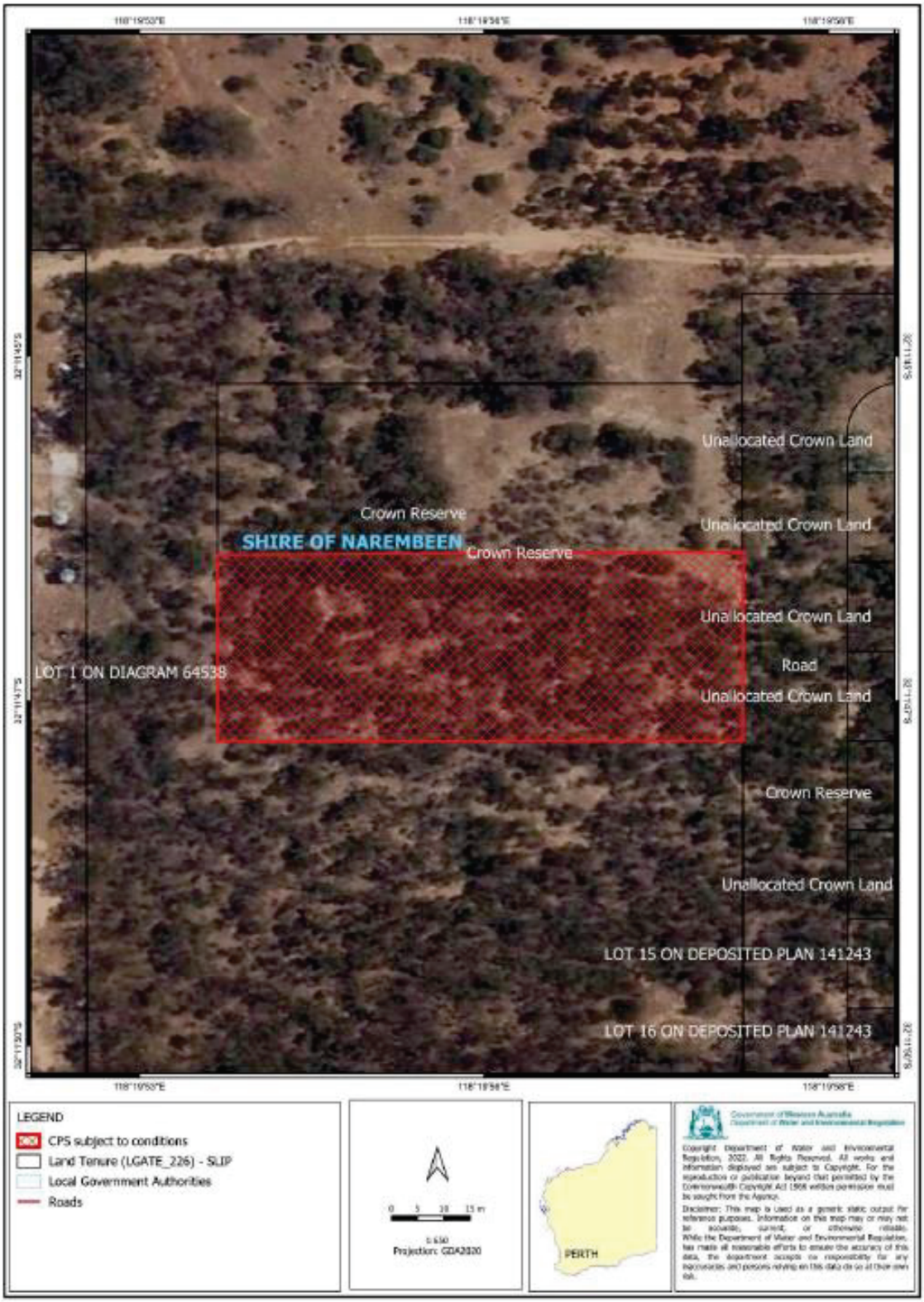

Figure 3: CPS 10869/1 Offset area within Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755

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 10869/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Shire of Narembeen
Application received:	3 December 2024
Application area:	0.02 hectares of native vegetation (revised from 0.199)
Purpose of clearing:	Widening the existing road intersection
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Property:	Kondinin-Narembeen Road Reserve (PINs 11652864) and Cheethams Road Reserve (PIN 11650203)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Narembeen
Localities (suburb/s):	South Kumminin

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The application is to remove two trees and associated understory on the corner of Cheethams Road and Kondinin-Narembeen Road. The clearing is required to widen the intersection to create safer turning for larger trucks, to turn onto Kondinin-Narembeen Road when heading north.

The application was revised from 0.199 hectares during the assessment process, as discussed durimg the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) site inspection. During the inspection it was identified only two trees are to be removed with the associated under storey (the revised application area) and all other trees are only to be pruned.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	3 October 2025
Decision area:	0.02 hectares of native vegetation, 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). 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 G.1), the findings of a fauna, flora and vegetation survey and a site inspection (see Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix CAppendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer

also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing is to improve the intersections safety; as Kondinin Narembeen and South Kumminin East Roads are Restricted Access Vehicle Type 7 (RAV) routes, and larger vehicles require more space to turn to stay in the correct lane.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing:

- will result in the loss of native vegetation representative of the wheatbelt woodland threatened ecological community (TEC), and;
- is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

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 proposed clearing will impact on the wheatbelt woodland TEC and will further reduce vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures and the offset provided counterbalance the impacts to the wheatbelt woodland TEC and clearing within an extensively cleared landscape (see Section 4).

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback; and,
- provide a land acquisition offset - through changing the vested purpose of Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755 from recreation to conservation.

1.5. Site map

Figure 1 Map of the application area

The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area 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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

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)
- *Environmental Offsets Guidelines* (August 2014)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that:

- pruning branches which overhang the road to avoid clearing
- demarcation of the disturbance area to avoid clearing outside the approved area
- implement dieback and hygiene management practices during clearing and construction
- pre-clearance fauna inspection, to confirm trees do not contain nests
- fauna spotter on site particularly looking for Carnaby's cockatoo, and
- trees containing hollows are avoided

During the assessment the application area was revised, from 0.199 hectares to 0.02 hectares and all trees containing hollows were avoided. During the site inspection (DWER, 2025) the applicant identified pruning can be utilised to avoid clearing in all areas except the revised application area of 0.02 hectares.

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.

After consideration of avoidance and mitigation measures, it was determined that an offset to counterbalance the significant residual impacts to the wheatbelt woodland threatened ecological community and vegetation considered a significant remnant in an extensively cleared landscape was necessary. In accordance with the Government of Western Australia's *Environmental Offsets Policy* and *Environmental Offsets Guidelines*, these significant residual impacts have been addressed through the conditioning of environmental offset requirements on the permit. The nature and suitability of the offset provided are summarised in Section 4.

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 Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (vegetation) and 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. Biological values (Threatened Ecological Community) - Clearing Principles (a) &(d)

Assessment

The applicant commissioned a 'Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Assessment' (Flora Assessment) (SLR, 2024) over a larger area encompassing the application area. This survey occurred outside of the recommended survey timing for the Wheatbelt region (EPA, 2016). This out-of-season survey timing was justified, given the likelihood of occurrence determined, no annual/short lived conservation significant species were likely or potentially likely to occur within the survey area noting the habitat type, soils and the distances to known occurrences. It was also noted that a spring survey is not required to determine the presence of the TEC Woodland of the Wheatbelt (Shire of Narembeen, 2025b). The remainder of the assessment was consistent with the EPA's Technical Guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA 2016).

The flora and vegetation assessment included a survey conducted from 4 July to 5 July 2023, during which the composition and condition of the vegetation was recorded. The survey effort included opportunistic observations while traversing the survey area as well as the assessment of 2 relevés. Targeted searches were conducted for habitat suitable for conservation significant flora and ecological communities.

The vegetation within the revised application area comprises of *Eucalyptus salmonphloia*, over Chenopodiaceae shrubs and sparse native grasses. The survey identified this vegetation is representative of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community, given the vegetation was in good condition (SLR, 2023). It is also to be noted no conservation significant flora or suitable habitat was identified within the application area during the survey.

The Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community is federally listed as a critically endangered ecological community under the *EPBC Act (1999*) and listed as a Priority 3 ecological community by the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions. The community occurs in the Avon Wheatbelt and Western Mallee subregions, with some patches in the eastern Jarrah forests off the Darling Range, receiving less than 600 mm of annual rainfall. It is a woodland with at least 10% crown cover, dominated by single-trunk eucalypt species. The understorey is native but varies, including grasses, herbs, and shrubs (DBCA, 2023).

Approximately 538 hectares of this TEC has been mapped within the local area (10 kilometre radius of the application area). Of the 2,767 hectares of remnant vegetation, the TEC contributes to approximately 19 per cent of the vegetation remaining within the local area. Whilst the removal of 0.02 hectares of this TEC may appear negligible, when considering the wider context of this community and the threats of clearing, fragmentation, land degradation, competition from introduced species and hydrological changes, which continue to decline this TEC, a significant residual impact remains and requires an offset to counterbalance the impacts of the clearing.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation representative of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC. Noting the absence of conservation significant flora or suitable habitat, the clearing is unlikely to impact any conservation significant flora.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and,
- a land acquisition offset of 0.43 hectares of native vegetation representative of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC, through changing the vested purpose of a crown reserve to conservation (see section 4).

3.2.2. Significant remnant vegetation - Clearing Principles (e)

Assessment

The national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia has a target to prevent clearance of ecological communities with an extent below 30 per cent of that present pre the year 1750, below which species loss appears to accelerate exponentially at an ecosystem level (Commonwealth of Australia 2001).

The application area is situated within Mallee IBRA Bioregion which retains approximately 56.5 per cent of remnant vegetation (Government of Western Australia 2019) (Appendix B.2). The application area is mapped as the vegetation association 131, which is described as a mosaic of medium woodland of salmon gum and gimlet or

shrublands of mallee scrub, redwood and black marlock (Shepherd et al, 2001). This vegetation association retains approximately 9 percent remnant vegetation and is considered extensively cleared. Given the application area consists of salmon gum and noting the surrounding vegetation the application area is considered consistent with this vegetation association.

Remnant vegetation remaining within ten kilometres of the application area retains approximately 2,767 hectares which represents approximately 9 percent of its original extent (Appendix B.2). Given the extent of native vegetation remaining, the removal of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation results in a significant residual impact which requires an offset.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape and the loss of native vegetation representative of an extensively cleared vegetation association.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback; and,
- a land acquisition offset of 0.43 hectares of native vegetation representative of the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt TEC, through changing the vested purpose of a crown reserve to conservation (see section 4).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The application area is mapped within an offset site for a historical permit CPS 2308/2. The applicant advised this offset occurs only within the adjacent rail reserve and no revegetation work has occurred within the application area (Shire of Narembeen, 2025)

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.

4 Suitability of offsets

Through the detailed assessment outlined in Section 3.2 above, the Delegated Officer has determined that the following significant residual impacts remain after the application of the avoidance and mitigation measures summarised in Section 3.1:

- 0.43 hectares of vegetation representative of the Wheatbelt Woodland Threatened Ecological Community
- 0.43 hectares of vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape

The applicant initially proposed an offset within Lot 28605 on Deposited Plan 214363 (Crown Reserve 36103), however the vegetation within this location was not appropriate to offset the clearing. DWER proposed an environmental offset consisting of changing the vested purpose of Lot 35 on Deposited Plan 426755 (Crown Reserve 21808), South Kuminin, from Recreation and Tennis Court to Conservation. This proposed site is located 1.14 kilometres north of the application area and consists of York gum and salmon gum. A site inspection confirmed this site consists of vegetation representative of the vegetation to be cleared.

The proposed offset has been assessed against the WA State Government's Environmental Offsets Policy and Environmental Offsets Guidelines (Government of Western Australia, 2014), and informed by the draft WA environmental offsets metric (DWER, 2021) and associated draft procedure for environmental offsets metric inputs (DWER, 2022). The justification for the values used in the offset calculation is provided in Appendix E.

The applicant agreed to DWER's proposed offset, to utilise 0.43 hectares of the 0.81 hectare area and bank the remainder of the lot. The Delegated Officer considers that this adequately counterbalances the significant residual impacts listed above.

Figure 2 Offset are for this application, 0.43 hectares of the 0.81 hectare Lot 28605 on Deposited Plan 214363 (Crown Reserve 36103

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Evidence of efforts taken to avoid, minimise and/or mitigate impacts resulting from the clearing. • The design of the intersection has been altered to minimise impacts on vegetation. • The application area was reviewed and reduced to clear 2 trees in total • No trees to be removed contains potential black cockatoo habitats and do not contain hollows • The black cockatoo habitat tree survey did not identify any black cockatoo habitat trees or any at the time that would be deemed suitable • Project cannot proceed to upgrade and improve safety of the intersection without the removal of the two trees.	DWER's assessment considered this as an additional avoidance and mitigation measure (see section 3.1)
Justification of survey timing • Out-of-season survey timing would be considered a limitation, however, in this case the botanists did not consider it to be a limitation as, given the likelihood of occurrence determined, no annual/short lived conservation significant species were likely or potentially likely noting the habitat type, soils and the distances to known occurrences. • A spring survey is not required to determine the presence of the TEC Woodland of the Wheatbelt.	DWER's assessment considered this as additional information for the assessment of impacts on environmental values (see section 3.2.1)
Details on the location of the revegetation works as an offset requirement, in accordance with the Shire of Narembeen's historical clearing permit CPS 2308/2. • Revegetation under CPS 2308/2 is located in the rail reserve of Kondinin-Narambeen Road rather than the road reserve. • The Shire confirmed no part of the revegetation which was used to offset CPS 2308/2 will be removed as part of CPS 10869/1	DWER's assessment considered this as an additional avoidance and mitigation measure (see section 3.1)
Necessity of the clearing The project cannot proceed without 2 trees being removed, to upgrade the intersection and improve the safety for road users. Kondinin Narembeen and South Kumminin East Roads are Restricted Access Vehicle Type 7 (RAV) routes. This means vehicles up to 36.5 metres long use the roads. The swept paths of RAV without the upgrade forces the RAV to turn out into oncoming traffic. The Kondinin Narembeen Road is part of a Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Network Route and the intersection was identified as one that required upgrading to allow safer turning in and out of the intersection.	DWER's assessment considered as additional information for the reason for decision (see section 1.4)

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1 Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area contributes to road side remnant vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by extensive agricultural practices. The proposed clearing area contributes to important local roadside linkage and is situated within a highly cleared landscape. Spatial data indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the application) retains approximately 8.8 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area does not intersect a formal ecological linkage, however does contribute to local roadside linkage in an extensively cleared landscape.
Conservation areas	The application area is mapped adjacent to an offset site, and the nearest DBCA legislated conservation area is located 7.45 kilometres south east of the application area.
Vegetation description	Vegetation survey (SLR, 2024) and the DWER site inspection (DWER, 2025) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of *Eucalyptus salmonphloia, Eucalyptus salubris* and/or *Eucalyptus wandoo* woodlands over Chenopodiaceae shrubs and sparse native grasses. Photos of the application area from the site inspection are available in Appendix F. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type(s): • Beard 131, which is described as Mosaic: Medium woodland; salmon gum & gimlet / Shrublands; mallee scrub, redwood & black marlock (Shepherd et al, 2001) The mapped vegetation type retain approximately 9 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	Vegetation survey (SRL, 2024) and the DWER site inspection (DWER, 2025) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good condition (Keighery, 1994) described as: • 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. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The mean minimum temperature from Narembeen Weather Station ranges from 5.4C in August to 16.9C in February. The maximum mean temperature ranges from 16.6C in July to 34.1C in January (Bureau of Meteorology, 2024). Annually an average of 52.9 days receive rainfall. Average annual rainfall is 335.7mm. The topography ranges from 287m to 289m, with the highest elevation located at the northern point of the application area and the lowest elevation at the southern portion of the application area.
Soil description	The soil is mapped as Kellerberrin 2 non-saline Phase (258Kb_2ns), which is described as un-salinised broad, flat valleys of the central and eastern wheatbelt containing heavy red and grey soils
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil type is highly susceptible to salinity and subsurface acidification and moderately susceptible to wind erosion, waterlogging and water repellence.

Characteristic	Details
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no water bodies intersect the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is mapped within the Avon River System for surface water and the Westonia groundwater area. Groundwater salinity is mapped at 14,000 - 35,000TDS mg/L
Flora	Within the local 10-kilometre radius there are mapped records of nine different conservation significant flora species. Of these species there are three priority 1 species, one priority 2 and five Priority 3 species.
Ecological communities	A total of 0.27hectares of the application area is located within the Eucalyptus woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt ecological community. This community contributes to 19.3 per-cent of the remnant vegetation within the local 5-kilometre area.
Fauna	Within the local 5-kilometre area there are 17 mapped records of the vulnerable *Leipoa ocellata* and is mapped within the known distribution of Carnaby's black cockatoo. The fauna survey identified the application area does not contain trees consisting of hollows.

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*					
Mallee	7,395,894.36	4,180,937.68	56.53	1,289,384.08	30.84
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 131 *	111,511.96	10,027.08	8.99	1,458.02	14.54
Local area					
10km radius	31491.61	2767.33	8.79	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

Appendix C. 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 application area contains locally significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants. The application area is also mapped as 'Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' threatened ecological community	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, 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 application area does not contain significant habitat for conservation significant fauna.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The application area is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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 application area contains species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
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 the mapped vegetation type and native vegetation in the local area is inconsistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is considered to be part of a significant local ecological linkage.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
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 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: The mapped soils are highly susceptible to salinity and subsurface acidification. However noting the extent of the clearing it is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas 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 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. Offset calculator value justification

Environmental value to be offset		
Calculation	***Score (Area)***	***Rationale***
Conservation significance		
Description	Wheatbelt woodland TEC	Removal of vegetation representative of the Wheatbelt woodland TEC
Type of environmental value	Ecological community	
Conservation significance of environmental value	Threatened ecological community - critically endangered	The Wheatbelt Woodland TEC is Federally listed as a critically endangered TEC under the EPBC Act, and a Priority Ecological Community in Western Australia under the EP Act
Landscape-level value impacted	yes/no	
Significant impact		
Description	Loss of vegetation representative of Wheatbelt Woodland TEC	
Significant impact (hectares) / Type of feature	0.02	Clearing of 0.02 hectares of vegetation representative of the Wheatbelt Woodland TEC in an extensively cleared landscape.
Quality (scale) / Number	6.00	Vegetation is in good to very good condition (Keighery, 1994)
Rehabilitation credit		
Description	0	No onsite rehabilitation is proposed
Proposed rehabilitation (area in hectares)	0.00	
Current quality of rehabilitation site / Start number (of type of feature)	0.00	
Future quality WITHOUT rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITHOUT rehabilitation	0.00	
Future quality WITH rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITH rehabilitation	0.00	
Time until ecological benefit (years)	0.00	
Confidence in rehabilitation result (%)	0	
Offset		
Description	Wheatbelt woodland TEC - Conservation covenant	An offset involving conservation in perpetuity, offset site containing vegetation representative of Wheatbelt woodland TEC
Proposed offset (area in hectares)	0.43	The area required to counterbalance the siginifcant residual impact by 100 percent
Current quality of offset site / Start number (of type of feature)	6.00	The offset site consisting of vegetation in good to very good condition
Future quality WITHOUT offset (scale) / Future number WITHOUT offset	6.00	Without an offset the vegetation within the offest site is not expected to change
Future quality WITH offset (scale) / Future number WITH offset	6.00	Given no additional management measures are proposed the condition of the vegetation is not expected to change
Time until ecological benefit (years)	1.00	Noting the offset site is expected to be s Shire managed reserve, the minimum value has been applied
Confidence in offset result (%)	0.9	High confidence that the offset site will provide the desired outcomes.
Duration of offset implementation (maximum 20 years)	20.00	Maximum value applied, given the offset location is to be conserved in perpetunity with a change in land tenure
Time until offset site secured (years)	1.00	The sites are already owned by the Shire 1 year has been applied
Risk of future loss WITHOUT offset (%)	15.0%	Noting existing vested purposes is for Recreation not conservation, where the risk of clearing is higher.
Risk of future loss WITH offset (%)	10.0%	The change in vesting to conservation will ensure the area is not cleared for various other purposes.
Offset ratio (Conservation area only)	N/A	
Landscape level values of offset?	N/A	

Environmental value to be offset		
Calculation	***Score (Area)***	***Rationale***
Conservation significance		
Description	Extensively Cleared landscape	Clearing of native vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape
Type of environmental value	Vegetation/habitat	
Conservation significance of environmental value	Terrestrial native vegetation complex - <10% extent remaining in a constrained area	The local area retains approximately 8.79% of native vegetation cover and the vegetation complex 131 retains 8.99% remnant vegetation
Landscape-level value impacted	yes/no	
Significant impact		
Description	Clearing of vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape	
Significant impact (hectares) / Type of feature	0.02	Clearing of 0.02 hectares of native vegetation within an extensively cleared landscape
Quality (scale) / Number	6.00	Vegetation is in good to very good condition (Keighery, 1994)
Rehabilitation credit		
Description	0	No onsite rehabilitation is proposed
Proposed rehabilitation (area in hectares)	0.00	
Current quality of rehabilitation site / Start number (of type of feature)	0.00	
Future quality WITHOUT rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITHOUT rehabilitation	0.00	
Future quality WITH rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITH rehabilitation	0.00	
Time until ecological benefit (years)	0.00	
Confidence in rehabilitation result (%)	0	
Offset		
Description	Change tenure of land parcel to conservation category	An offset involving conservation in perpetuity, offset site containing vegetation representative of the vegetation complex Hyden 131
Proposed offset (area in hectares)	0.41	The area required to counterbalance the siginifcant residual impact by 100 percent
Current quality of offset site / Start number (of type of feature)	6.00	The offset site consisting of vegetation in good to very good condition
Future quality WITHOUT offset (scale) / Future number WITHOUT offset	6.00	Without an offset the vegetation within the offest site is not expected to change
Future quality WITH offset (scale) / Future number WITH offset	6.00	Given no additional management measures are proposed the condition of the vegetation is not expected to change
Time until ecological benefit (years)	1.00	Noting the offset site is Shire managed reserve, the minimum value has been applied
Confidence in offset result (%)	0.9	High confidence that the offset site will provide the desired outcomes.
Duration of offset implementation (maximum 20 years)	20.00	Maximum value applied, given the offset location is to be conserved in perpetunity with a change in land tenure
Time until offset site secured (years)	1.00	The sites are already owned by the Shire 1 year has been applied
Risk of future loss WITHOUT offset (%)	15.0%	Noting existing vested purposes is for Recreation not conservation, where the risk of clearing is higher.
Risk of future loss WITH offset (%)	10.0%	The change in vesting to conservation will ensure the area is not cleared for various other purposes.
Offset ratio (Conservation area only)	N/A	
Landscape level values of offset?	N/A	

Appendix F. DWER site inspection report

Photos of the application area

Photos of the offset site

Appendix G. Sources of information

G.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)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- 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)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- 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
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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