GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 10938/1

File Number: DWERVT17776

Duration of Permit: From 20 June 2025 to 20 June 2032

PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Southampton Road reserve (PIN 1526519), Southampton

AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than eight (8) native trees within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

CONDITIONS

1. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 20 June 2027.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Directional clearing

The permit holder must:

(a) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent *native vegetation*; and

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

5. Revegetation and rehabilitation - Mitigation planting

The permit holder must, within 12 months of undertaking clearing authorised under this permit and no later than 20 June 2027:

(a) undertake deliberate *planting* and maintenance of at least 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within the area cross hatched red on Figure 2 of Schedule 2 located at Southampton Road reserve (PIN 11584735), Southampton;

(b) ensure only *local provenance* propagating material is used;

(c) ensure planting is undertaken at the *optimal time*;

(d) undertake *weed* control and watering of *plantings* for at least two years post *planting;*

(e) within 24 months of undertaking *planting* of the 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees; in accordance with condition 5(a) of this permit, the permit holder must;

(i) make a determination that at least 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees will persist and survive;

(ii) where, in the opinion that the 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees will not survive, the permit holder must undertake additional *planting* of *Corymbia calophylla* trees that will result in 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees persisting within the area cross hatched red on Figure 2 of Schedule 2.

(f) where additional *planting* of *Corymbia calophylla* trees is undertaken in accordance with condition 5(e)(ii), the permit holder must repeat the activities required by conditions 5(b), 5(c), 5(d) and 5(e) of this permit.

6. 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,

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		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 2; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 3; and (g) actions taken in accordance with condition 4.
2.	In relation to planting pursuant to condition 5.	(a) the size of the *planted Corymbia calophylla* trees; (b) the date(s) on which the *planting* was undertaken; (c) the boundaries of the *planted* area (recorded digitally as a shapefile); (d) a description of the *planting* activities undertaken pursuant to condition 5, including *planted* species composition and density, and actions taken to implement watering and *weed* control; (e) evidence of monitoring and determination; and (f) a description of any residual actions undertaken pursuant to conditions 5 (e) and 5(f) where monitoring indicates that the *planted* trees will not survive.

7. Reporting

(a) The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 30th June of each calendar year, a written report containing:
  (i) the records required under condition 6 of this permit; and
  (ii) records of activities done by the permit holder under this permit between 1 January and 31 December of the preceding calendar year.

(b) If no clearing authorised under this permit has been undertaken, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the *CEO* on or before 31 December of each calendar year.

(c) The permit holder must provide to the *CEO*, no later than 90 calendar days prior to the expiry date of this permit, a written report of records required under condition 7, where these records have not already been provided under condition 7(a).

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.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
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)
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 kilometres and the same 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.
optimum time	means the period from May to June for undertaking planting or seeding
planting/s/ed	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species
rehabilitate	means the re-establishment of a cover of *local provenance* native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or *planting,* so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
revegetate/ion	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of the area

Term	Definition
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

Jessica Burton
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
Of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

29 May 2025

SCHEDULE 1

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

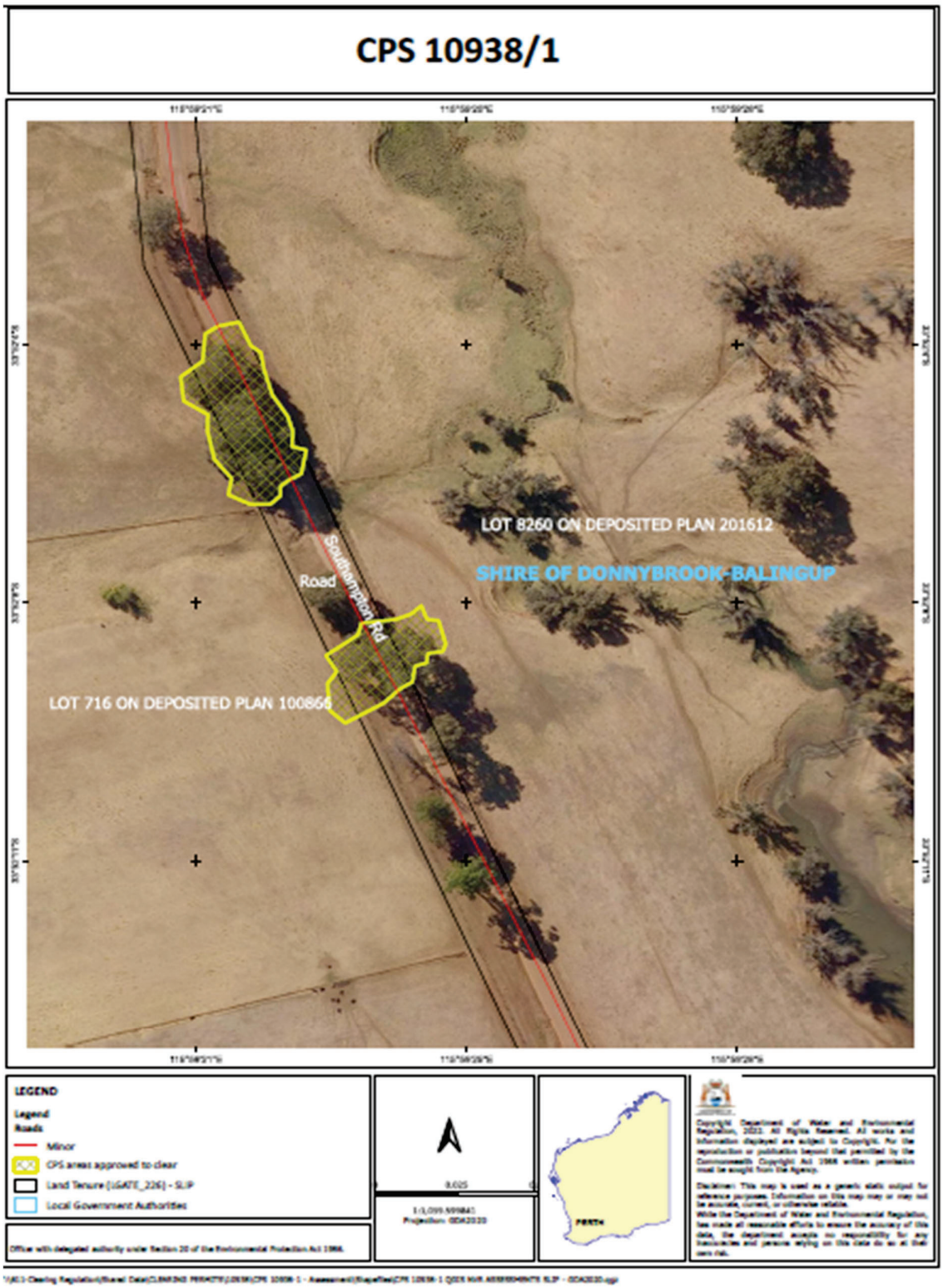

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur along Southampton Road, Southampton.

SCHEDULE 2

The boundary of the area where rehabilitation planting must occur is shown in the map below (Figure 12).

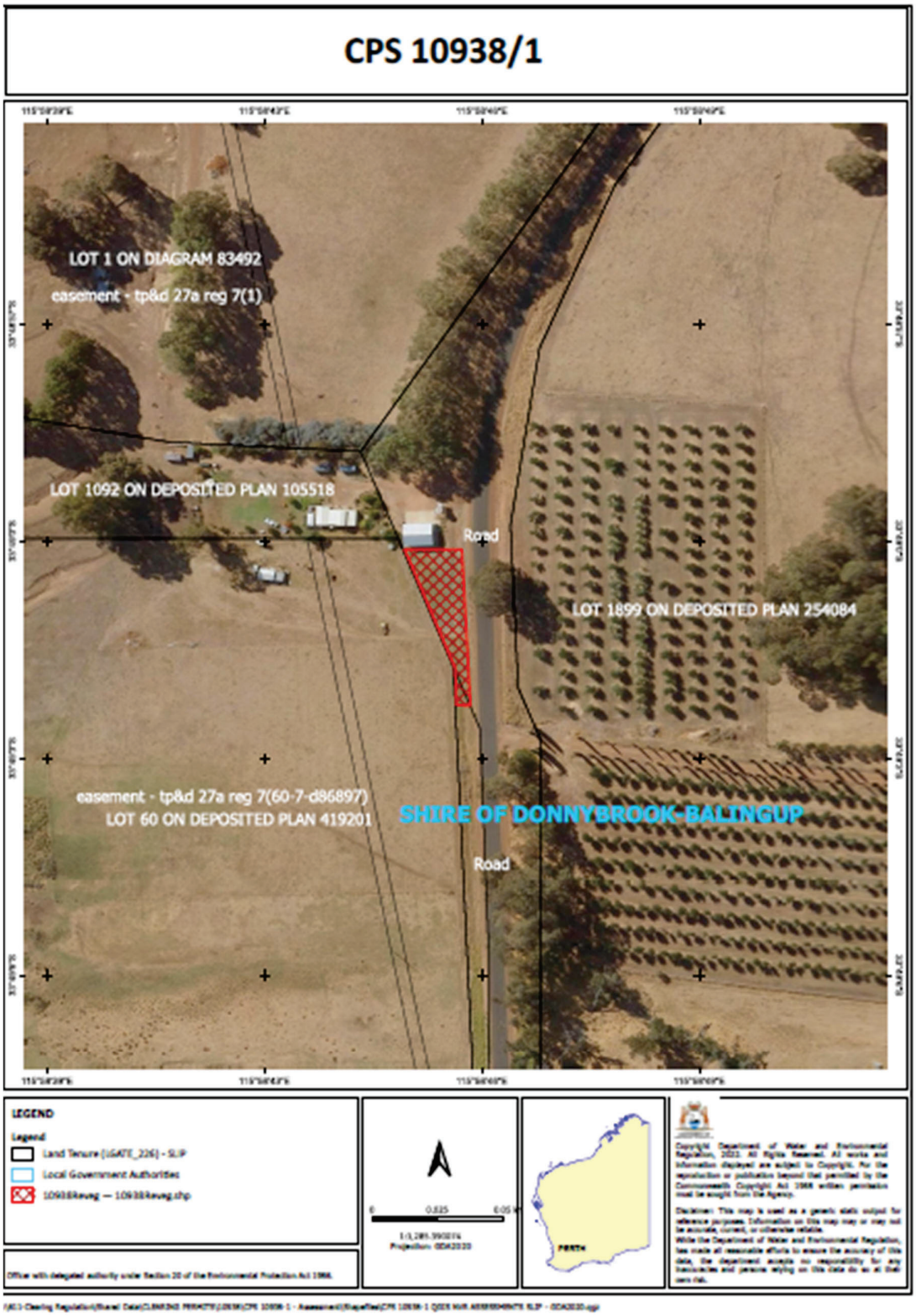

Figure 2. Map of the boundary of the area within which mitigation planting must occur.

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 10938/1
Permit type:	Area permit
Applicant name:	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Application received:	5 February 2025
Application area:	8 native trees
Purpose of clearing:	Road safety upgrades
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Southampton Road reserve (PIN 1526519)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Localities (suburb/s):	Southampton

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup is proposing to undertake the clearing of eight (8) native trees within Southampton Road reserve (PIN 1526519), Southampton. The proposed clearing will facilitate road upgrades for driver safety. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across two separate areas (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	29 May 2025
Decision area:	8 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 B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see 0), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the purpose of the clearing is to improve driver safety.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of eight (8) native trees (approximately 0.08 hectares of native vegetation) that provide significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo,
- the potential loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for western ringtail possum (WRP) (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*),
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna, if present during the clearing activities, and

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds 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 that some of the potential impacts of the proposed clearing, including the impacts to fauna present at the time of clearing and the potential spread of weeds and dieback, can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values through appropriate conditions on the clearing permit. However, impacts to significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo remained significant even after the application of minimisation and mitigation measures, and constitutes a significant residual impact.

Having considered the environmental impacts outlined above, the applicant's implementation of the mitigation hierarchy and planning and other matters (including the consistency of the proposal with the planning framework and the public benefit of road safety), the Delegated Officer determined that the deliberate planting of a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within Southampton Road reserve (PINs 11584735, 12428565), Southampton, is sufficient to counterbalance the to native vegetation that is significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (see Section 3.2.1). DWER considers the rehabilitation planting aligns with the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy* (2011) and *WA Environmental Offsets Guideline* (2014).

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- rake 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 a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within Southampton Road reserve (PINs 11584735, 12428565), Southampton, to address the significant residual impacts outlined above.

1.5. Site map

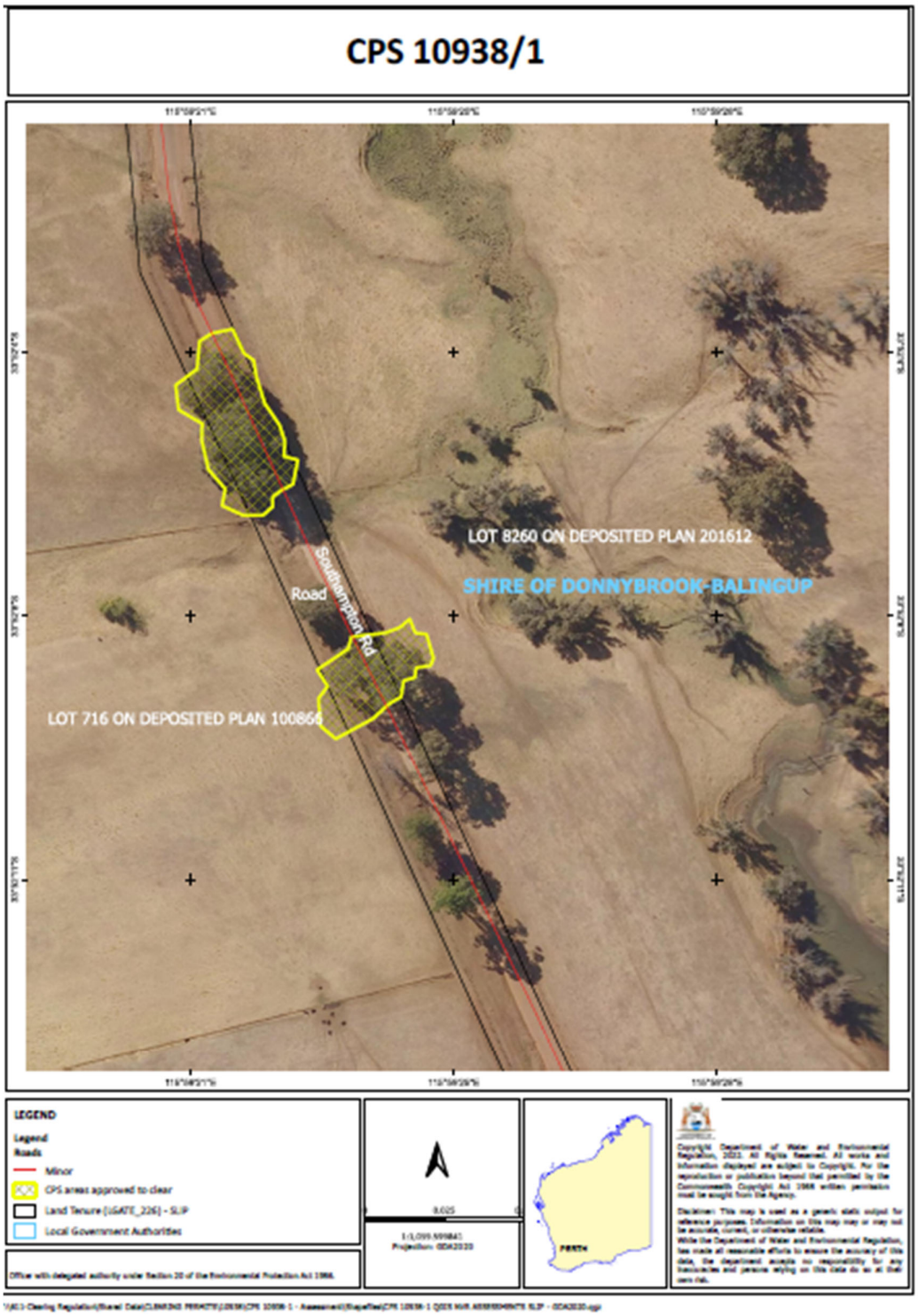

Figure 1 Map of the application area

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

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)

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)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures

The applicant had previously applied for a clearing permit for the proposed clearing of 1.65 hectares of native vegetation within multiple road reserves along Southampton Road and Balingup-Nannup Road in Cundinup and Southampton, for the purpose of road upgrades (CPS 10556/1), which encompassed the current application area under CPS 10938/1 The department had undertaken a preliminary assessment against the Clearing Principles contained in Schedule 5 of the EP Act. Among the matters taken into consideration was the necessity for photographs of the vegetation within the application area. The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup were unable to provide these photographs and , consequently, clearing permit application CPS 10556/1 was withdrawn and redesigned for a smaller application area.

The applicant has advised that the following avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures will be undertaken (Shire of Donnybrook, 2025):

- Batters were reduced where possible, however, drainage and necessary widening of the road to allow for the increase in road users and safety concerns, requires the removal of eight mature trees,
- Lifting the surface of the road and redesigning it to avoid mature trees where possible,
- Pruning of a stand of trees was deemed sufficient to avoid removing the native vegetation,
- Areas to be cleared will be investigated for presence of fauna use by qualified personnel immediately prior to clearing,
- Road design was realigned to reduce the number of native trees to be cleared from 28 to eight,
- Areas to be cleared will be investigated for presence of fauna use by qualified personnel immediately prior to clearing,
- The works will only be undertaken during dry conditions, minimising impact to the temporary water sources on site and reducing the spread of any potential dieback,
- Shire machinery and staff will follow dieback and weed management procedures (arrive clean, leave clean)
- Carrying out a desktop assessment of the Environmental Values of both the Project Area and a 10km buffer, in line with “A Guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation under Part V Division 2 of the Environmental Protection Act”. (Department of Water and Environment Regulation, 2014),
- Carrying out a site visit to investigate the health, structure, and specie of the vegetation to be cleared, as well as any potential Aboriginal Heritage impacts,
- Reducing clearing footprints where possible to avoid the clearing of native vegetation, through altering plans relating to the road width, centreline direction, slope, curbing, shoulder width and/or batter slope, drainage methods and materials, and
- Engaging in Educational programs to increase understanding of environment values held within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

On 19 March 2025, DWER sent correspondence to the applicant which outlined the environmental impacts identified during the assessment of the proposed clearing and requested further implementation of the mitigation hierarchy to avoid, minimise and / or mitigate these impacts. In response, the applicant made a commitment to undertake onsite rehabilitation actions to mitigate the residual impacts of the proposed clearing, which includes:

- A commitment to plant and maintain a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within Southampton Road reserve (PINs 11584735, 12428565), Southampton that provide foraging value to Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed cockatoo.

Considering the above, the Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid, minimise and mitigate 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 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 biological values (fauna). 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 (fauna) - Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

The application area is located within the Jarrah Forest IBRA bioregion. According to available databases, a total of 18 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area (10-kilometre radius of the application area). Of the conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area, the application area may provide habitat for the following four species:

- *Calyptorhynchus banksia naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo) VU
- *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* (western ringtail possum (CR)
- *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) EN
- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) EN

This assumption is based on habitat requirements, distribution, mapped vegetation type and the condition of the vegetation. Photographs provided by the applicant identified that the vegetation type within the application area was mostly consistent with the mapped vegetation type of the area, consisting of *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) trees.

Black cockatoos

Collectively known as black cockatoo species, the forest red-tailed black-cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and Carnaby's cockatoo are known to nest in hollows of live and dead trees, including marri (*Corymbia calophylla)*, jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), and other *Eucalyptus* spp. (DAWE, 2022). The application area is within the known distribution of all three black cockatoo species.

'Breeding habitat' for black cockatoos includes trees of these species that either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow, where the required DBH to develop a nest hollow is 500 millimetres for most tree species (DAWE, 2022). While breeding, black cockatoos generally forage within a six to 12-kilometre radius of their nesting site (DAWE, 2022). According to available datasets, mapped potential black cockatoo feeding habitat is recorded within 12 kilometres of the application area, making it a suitable location for breeding if appropriate hollows are present.

The applicant has avoided all significant trees (DBH of greater than 500 millimetres) with hollows that may provide breeding or roosting habitat for black cockatoos, therefore significant impacts to breeding and roosting from the proposed clearing is not expected to occur.

Black cockatoos forage on a range of plant species, predominantly the seeds and flowers of marri, jarrah and proteaceous species (e.g., *Banksia* spp., *Hakea* spp. and *Grevillea* spp.) (DAWE, 2022). The application area contains marri trees and provides suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoos. The importance of foraging habitat for black cockatoos increases when it occurs within foraging distance of nesting sites (around 12 km) as it supports breeding effort (DPAW 2013; EPA 2019). Food resources within the range of roost sites are also important to sustain populations of black cockatoos (EPA 2019). There are 10 known black cockatoo roost sites, within 10 km of the application area, (the closest being 4.3 kilometres away). This indicates the foraging habitat present within the application area may support breeding effort and roosting birds.

To reduce the significant residual impact arising from the loss of eight native trees that provides foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo, the applicant has proposed to plant and maintain a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within the road reserve to ensure the clearing will not result in a decline in foraging habitat in the local area. The suitability of the proposed planting as a mitigation measure has been assessed through a calculation consistent with the WA Environmental Offsets Metric calculator to determine the planting ratio required. It was determined that the planting of a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees was a suitable rehabilitation action to counterbalance the significant residual impact of the proposed clearing. DWER considers the rehabilitation action aligns with the *WA Environmental Offsets Policy* (2011) and *WA Environmental Offsets Guideline* (2014).

Western Ringtail Possum (WRP)
The WRP is a medium sized, nocturnal species that roams through the trees at night, feeding on leaves of eucalypt, marri and peppermint trees and other fruits and flowers. It has a long, thin tail with a white tip that helps it to move through the trees and carry nesting material (DCCEEW, 2023). The current distribution of the WRP is patchy and largely restricted to the moister south-western corner of Western Australia (de Tores, 2008), especially near coastal areas of peppermint woodland and peppermint/tuart associations from the Australind/Eaton area to the Waychinicup National Park (DEC, 2012). The main identified threats to the WRP are habitat loss and fragmentation, predation, especially by introduced predators and changing fire regimes. Potential threats include climate change, competition with brushtail possum, road traffic, loss of coastal peppermint trees from dieback caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, insect attack, and myrtle rust (*Puccinia psidii*) (DoEE, 2013).

The '*Western Ringtail Possum (Pseudocheirus occidentalis) Recovery Plan'* outlines strategies to slow the decline in population size, extent, and area of occupancy through managing major threatening processes affecting the subpopulations and their habitats and allowing the persistence of the species in each of the identified key management zones: Swan Coastal Plain, southern forests and south coast (DPaW, 2017). The application area is located within the Swan Coastal Plain management zone.

Within this management zone, populations are associated with a diverse range of habitats including coastal heath, jarrah/marri woodland and forest, peppermint woodlands, myrtaceous heaths and shrublands, Bullich (*Eucalyptus megacarpa*) dominated riparian zones and karri forest.

Noting some of the area proposed to be cleared includes preferred habitat in marri trees, and local records of the species, it is considered likely that WRP may occur within the application area. However, due to the degraded roadside condition of the vegetation, it is more likely that WRP may utilise the site transiently for foraging or movement rather than having a resident population.

Conclusion
Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of eight (8) marri trees (approximately 0.08 hectares of native vegetation) that is significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna habitat can be appropriately managed and addressed through the avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and rehabilitation measures committed to by the applicant.

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

- Undertake the deliberate planting of a minimum of 16 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within Southampton Road reserve (PINs 11584735, 12428565), Southampton that provides foraging value for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo, and
  Undertake slow progressive, one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to disperse ahead of the clearing activity should they occur onsite at the time of clearing.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The application was advertised on DWER's website for 21 days on 5 February 2025 and no submissions were received.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to Baudin's black cockatoo, Carnaby's cockatoo, and forest red-tailed black cockatoo and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

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 comments	Consideration of comment
Additional information provided by the applicant in response to the Department's request for further information on the 19 March 2025	Refer to Section 3.1
Additional shapefiles to reflect the required rehabilitation planting area on the 12 May 2025	Refer to Section 3.1

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the application area 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	The application area is eight native trees located within two roadside patches of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by agricultural land and occasional patches of intact remnant vegetation. The local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the application area) retains approximately 43.35 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area does not intersect any formally mapped ecological linkages. Although, it is likely that the application area is contributing to the ecological function of roadside linkages.
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is Greenbushes State Forest which is located approximately 0.34 kilometres south of the application area.
Vegetation description	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the application area consists of *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) trees. Representative photos are available in Appendix E. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type: • Balingup, BL, which is described as open forest of *Eucalyptus marginata subsp. marginata-Corymbia calophylla* on slopes and woodland of *Eucalyptus rudis* on the valley floor in the humid zone (Heddle et al., 1980). *The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 29.38 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).*
Vegetation condition	Photographs supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the application area is in Degraded (Keighery, 1994 –) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The region experiences a Mediterranean climate with cool winters and hot summers with a mean annual rainfall of 720 mm.
Soil description	The soil within the application area is mapped as: • Balingup moderate slopes phase which is described as Balingup moderate slopes phase, slopes 15-35%, relief 60-120m

Characteristic	Details
Land degradation risk	The soils mapped within the application area are mapped as having a high risk of water erosion and subsurface acidification (DPIRD, 2025).
Waterbodies and hydrogeography	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands or waterbodies transect the application area. There are multiple waterbodies within the local area. Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at 500-1000 milligrams per total dissolved solids .
Flora	The desktop assessment identified that a total of four conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area, comprising of one threatened flora species and three priority flora species (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest record being an occurrence of *Eucalyptus relicta* approximately 3.3 kilometres east of the application area. With consideration for the relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the site characteristics, the habitat preferences and conservation statuses of the aforementioned species, and the distribution and extent of existing records, the application area is unlikely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora species
Ecological communities	The desktop assessment identified that there are no conservation significant ecological communities within the application area. The closest mapped ecological community is the Seasonal Rainfall Filled Wetlands with Impeding Substrate of the Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest in Transitional Rainfall Zones which is listed as a Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in Western Australia, which is located 29 kilometres north east of the application area. With consideration for the site characteristics and relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the application area is not considered likely to contain vegetation representative of a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or PEC.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified that a total of 18 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area including 11 threatened species, five priority species and two migratory species. None of these existing records occur within the application area, with the closest being an occurrence of *Pseudocheirus occidentalis* approximately 0.1 kilometres from the application area (DBCA, 2007-). With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and the habitat preferences of the aforementioned species, the application area is likely to provide significant habitat for conservation significant fauna species and impacts to this species required further consideration (see Section 3.2.1).

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*					
Jarrah Forest	4506660.25	2399838.15	53.25	1673614.25	37.14
Vegetation complex					
Balingup,BL Complex*	59446.57	17446.57	29.38	9120.37	15.34
Local area					

	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
10km radius	31405.11	13614.88	43.35	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3 Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Calyptorhynchus banksii naso (forest red-tailed black cockatoo)	VU	Y	Y	2.6	77	N/A
Pseudocheirus occidentalis (western ringtail possum)	CR	Y	Y	0.1	9	N/A
Zanda baudinii (Baudin's cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	5.1	21	N/A
Zanda latirostris (Carnaby's cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	1.8	19	N/A
Zanda sp. 'white-tailed black cockatoo'	EN	Y	Y	2.6	22	N/A

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

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 habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo. Noting the proposed clearing is restricted to trees over weeds, no conservation significant flora or vegetation communities will likely occur within the application area.	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 contains significant foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and forest red-tailed black cockatoo.	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: Noting the application area is marri trees only with limited understorey, the application area is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act or EPBC Act.	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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 does not contain species that can indicate a TEC.	Not 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 the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. Meanwhile, the extent of the vegetation type Balingup BL (29.38 per cent remaining) is lower than the 30 per cent threshold. However, considering the small number of trees (8 trees) proposed to be cleared and the commitment of the applicant to revegetate 16 marri trees in the same road reserve as an onsite rehabilitation action (see section 3.1 for details), the proposed clearing is considered unlikely to significantly impact the Balingup vegetation complex.	May 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: 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 water erosion and subsurface acidification. Noting the extent and location of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable 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 or wetlands are recorded within or nearby 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 indicate the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	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 (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2025)

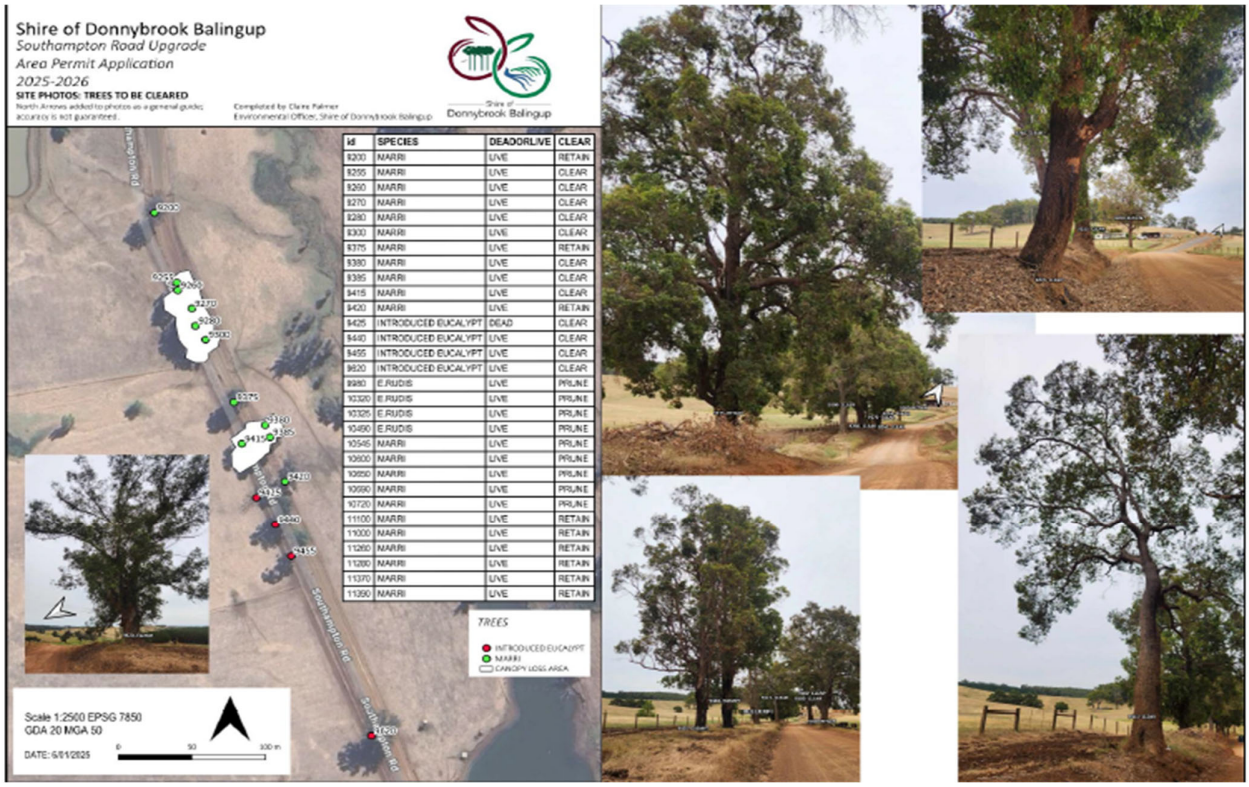

Figure 2. Photos of the trees within the application area (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2025).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.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)
- 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

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)

F.2. References

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