APPLICATION FOR NEW CLEARING PERMIT

Supporting information: NV-F01- Area Permit for the purposes of Road Upgrades 2025-2026

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

Supporting information for a New Application to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

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Introduction and Background

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup is seeking to improve and widen sections of Southampton Road in Southampton WA, for the purposes of driver safety. This application forms part of the work required between 2025 and 2029. The most recent application process was an extensive experience for the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, and construction timelines were impacted. The Shire hopes that this application will be sufficient to be able to undertake the necessary road works within a more appropriate timeframe. A purpose permit application is expected to be provided for future works on Southampton Road.

Southampton Road in Southampton WA is a frequently used throughfare for vehicular traffic, and is becoming increasingly busy, especially on weekends. The section between SLK 10.3 and 11.3 is to be upgraded to a sealed standard and widened to 6.2m (not including the maintenance zone). The road reserve width is limited to 20m with minimal sections where the reserve is wider than this. The project area is of 20m width, and has sections where trees are growing into the road infrastructure. As such, these trees require clearing or the road centreline must be moved. The centreline has been moved in places to avoid impacting existing trees, where road safety will not be affected. Where altering the centreline is not feasible, trees of poorer quality have been marked for clearing, to retain higher quality habitat for wildlife.

(APPLICATION PART 3.1 & PART 5)

Total Hectares in 2025 subject to assessment for clearing/ Potential Footprint: **.062**

ROAD NAME	SLK START	SLK FINISH	SLK DISTANCE (M)	CLEARING AREA (HA)	PROJECT AREA (HA)	ZONING	WORKS SCHEDULED
Southampton Road	10.30	11.30	1000	0.037	0.062	Road Reserve	Reconstruct and seal to 6.2m & 2nd coat reseal
Road Number 0142			Total	0.029	.062		

Total native trees subject to assessment for clearing/ Potential Footprint: 20 (45 trees to be retained)

Total estimated canopy loss: .029 ha

Desktop Assessment; a consideration of Environmental Impacts of Vegetation Clearing:

Clearing Type: Mechanical

Avoidance of Clearing

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup considers Environmental impacts during the design development phase by:

- 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 species of 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, centerline direction, slope, curbing, shoulder width and or batter slope, drainage methods, and materials, both during the design and implementation phase.
- Selecting trees/vegetation for removal based on condition where avoidance is not possible (vegetation of higher value retained where possible)

Mitigation

- Engaging in rehabilitation works within Shire reserves to reduce the loss of canopy/vegetation structure on a local scale as part of Shire operations.
- Currently fund Community Canopy Enhancement program to encourage planting native trees in verges
- Engaging in Educational programs to increase understanding of environmental values held within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup where required.
- Utilising DWER Clearing Offset calculator to establish the necessary requirements prior to clearing.

Preliminary Desktop Assessment Information

CLEARING PERMIT APPLICATION: New

APPLICANT: Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

PROPERTY: Southampton Road, Southampton Western Australia

LGA: Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

PROPOSED CLEARING:

- *Purpose*: Road Upgrade Projects, road widening and/or sealing to increase road safety
- *Proposed dates of clearing:* Between October 2025 and March 2026
- *Land Tenure*: Local Government- Shire of Donnybrook Balingup
- *Buffer Distance*: 10 km

Notes

- This desktop assessment is to investigate potential environmental impacts in relation to a proposed clearing activity for the purpose of a road upgrade for the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup
- This report is a desktop study and does not replace a site assessment; the information generated in this report is correct to the best of Shire of Donnybrook Balingup's knowledge (the Shire).
- Datasets used to obtain this information were downloaded from data.wa.gov.au and further analysed using QGIS software (Appendix 1).
- Further information about the clearing principles is available from the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) "A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation".
- Distance and area calculations are performed using the following map projection: GDA20 unless indicated otherwise.

Background details of project area

Site Details

TOTAL PROJECT AREA	1 SLK on Southampton Road (SLK 10.3 – 11.3)
TOTAL POTENTIAL CLEARING AREA (HA):	.029 Ha
SITE 1: SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON WA 6253	
Local Government Authority:	DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP, SHIRE OF
DER Region:	SOUTHWEST
DBCA District:	BLACKWOOD
LCDC:	DONNYBROOK -BALLINGUP
ILUA:	SOUTHWEST BOOJARAH
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Area Inquiry	None found in project area. Nearest ID <1km (ID 20434- Blackwood River)
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey Inquiry	The following Survey Report ID's intersect the project area: 102073; 102074; 104000; 10479; 10468. No reports indicated the project area will impact Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, however confirmation sought from SWALSC. No response was recieved
GPS coordinates lat/long:	Provided in Supporting Documentation
Environmentally Sensitive Area:	No
EPA Red Book Area:	No
Hydrological Zone	Western Darling Range

Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 - Clearing Control Catchment:	No
Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 Surface Water area:	None
Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 Groundwater area:	None
Proximity to nearest RIWI Act River	>10km
Project Area (ha):	1SLK of Southampton Road
Potential Clearing Area (ha):	.067
Potential Trees	20
Vegetation Association	3 : Medium forest; jarrah-marri. Description: Mainly jarrah and marri Eucalyptus marginata, Corymbia calophylla. Percent Remaining in Shire: 66% (61614ha remaining)
Vegetation Complexes	Southampton SP (60.48% Remaining Statewide) Bridgetown BT (22.6% Remaining Statewide)

Soil Parameters

SOIL ASSOCIATIONS

Land Use Zone 255- Western Darling Range.

Description: Moderately dissected lateritic plateau on granite with deeply incised valleys, includes the Darling Scarp on the western margin. Soils are formed in laterite, lateritic colluvium and weathered in-situ granite and gneiss.

SOIL SYSTEMS

Lowden Valley System.

Description: Deep gneissic valleys, in the south of the Western Darling Range. Loamy earth, loamy duplex, gravel and stony soils. Jarrah-marri forest.

SOIL TRANSPORT RISK

Salinity, Acidity and Phosphorus transport Risk across the project areas and buffer: **L1**

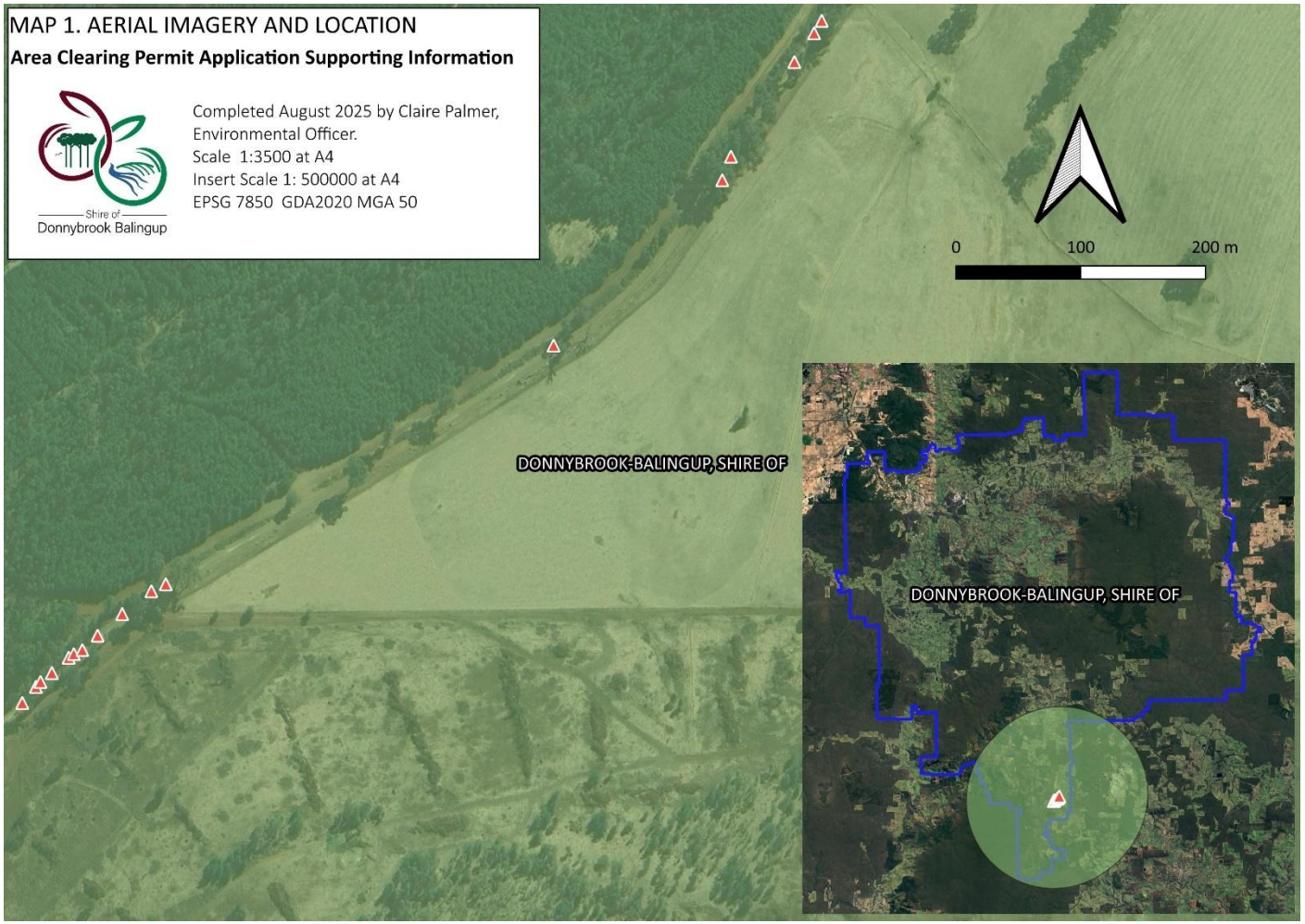
Vegetation Complex Statistics Within 10km Buffer Zone

LOCAL GOVT. AUTHORITY NAME	SUBREGION OF THE SOUTH-WEST FORESTS	BROAD LANDFORM	*COMBINED VEGETATION COMPLEX AND CODE*	PRE-EUROPEAN EXTENT (HA)	CURRENT EXTENT (HA)	% REMAINING	PROPORTION OF THE VEGETATION COMPLEX CLASS MAPPING EXTENT WITHIN EACH LGA* (%)
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Balingup, Blf	2,125.51	168.18	7.91	71.51
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Balingup, Bl	42,835.34	13,095.69	30.57	72.06
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Uplands	Bevan 1, Be1	777.66	642.07	82.56	1.01
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Bridgetown, Btf	737.89	116.64	15.81	30.20
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Bridgetown, Bt	7,110.08	1,611.43	22.66	33.10
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Catterick, Cc1	13,877.67	11,270.50	81.21	50.68
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Uplands	Dwellingup, D1	10,601.82	9,856.25	92.97	5.09
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Depressions And Swamps On Uplands	Goonaping, G	581.11	508.40	87.49	2.12

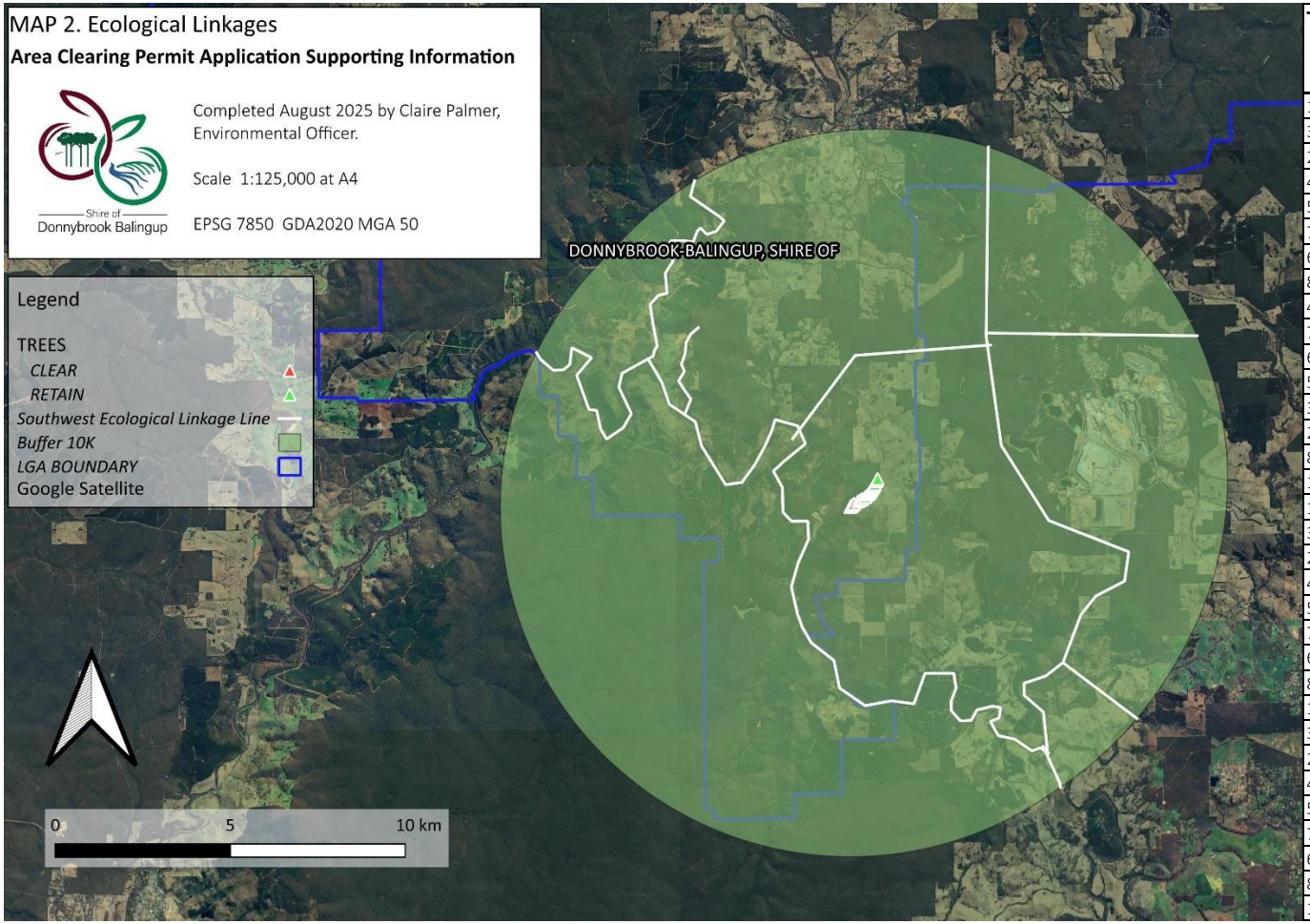
LOCAL GOVT. AUTHORITY NAME	SUBREGION OF THE SOUTH-WEST FORESTS	BROAD LANDFORM	*COMBINED VEGETATION COMPLEX AND CODE*	PRE-EUROPEAN EXTENT (HA)	CURRENT EXTENT (HA)	% REMAINING	PROPORTION OF THE VEGETATION COMPLEX CLASS MAPPING EXTENT WITHIN EACH LGA* (%)
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Grimwade, Gr	14,113.23	8,196.67	58.08	64.02
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Uplands	Hester, Hr	17,663.17	13,748.61	77.84	54.77
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Depressions And Swamps On Uplands	Kirup, Kr	3,423.99	2,031.73	59.34	98.98
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valley Floors And Swamps	Mumballup, Ml	2,581.46	337.70	13.08	100.00
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valley Floors And Swamps	Southampton, Sp	210.65	127.39	60.48	26.35
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Wheatley, Wh1	33.73	24.93	73.90	0.17
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Uplands	Wishart, Ws2	879.44	540.03	61.41	26.39
Donnybrook-Balingup, Shire Of	Darling Plateau	Valleys	Yanmah, Yn1	31.49	28.29	89.85	0.13

Aerial Imagery

SITE LOCATION

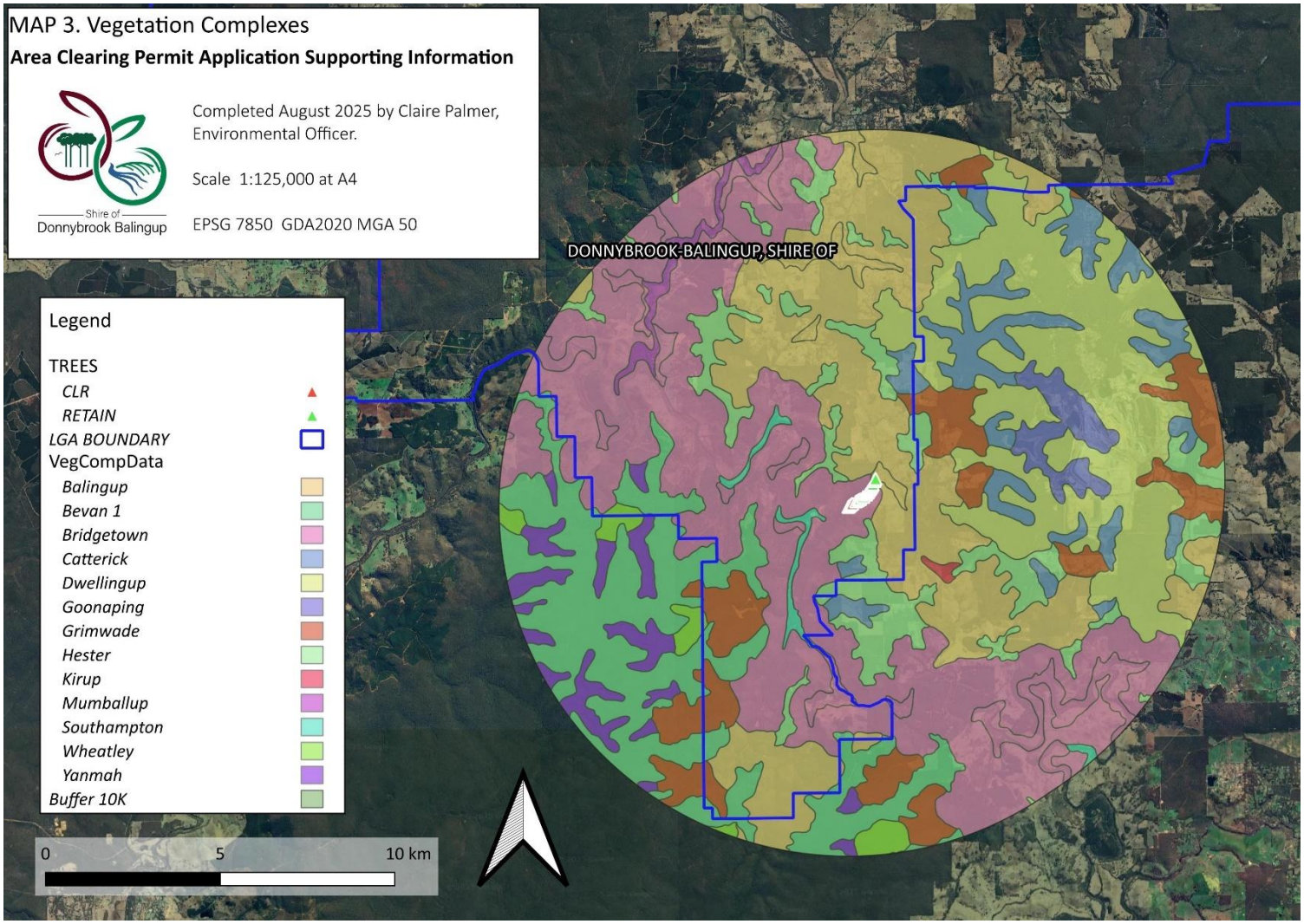


ECOLOGICAL LINKAGES

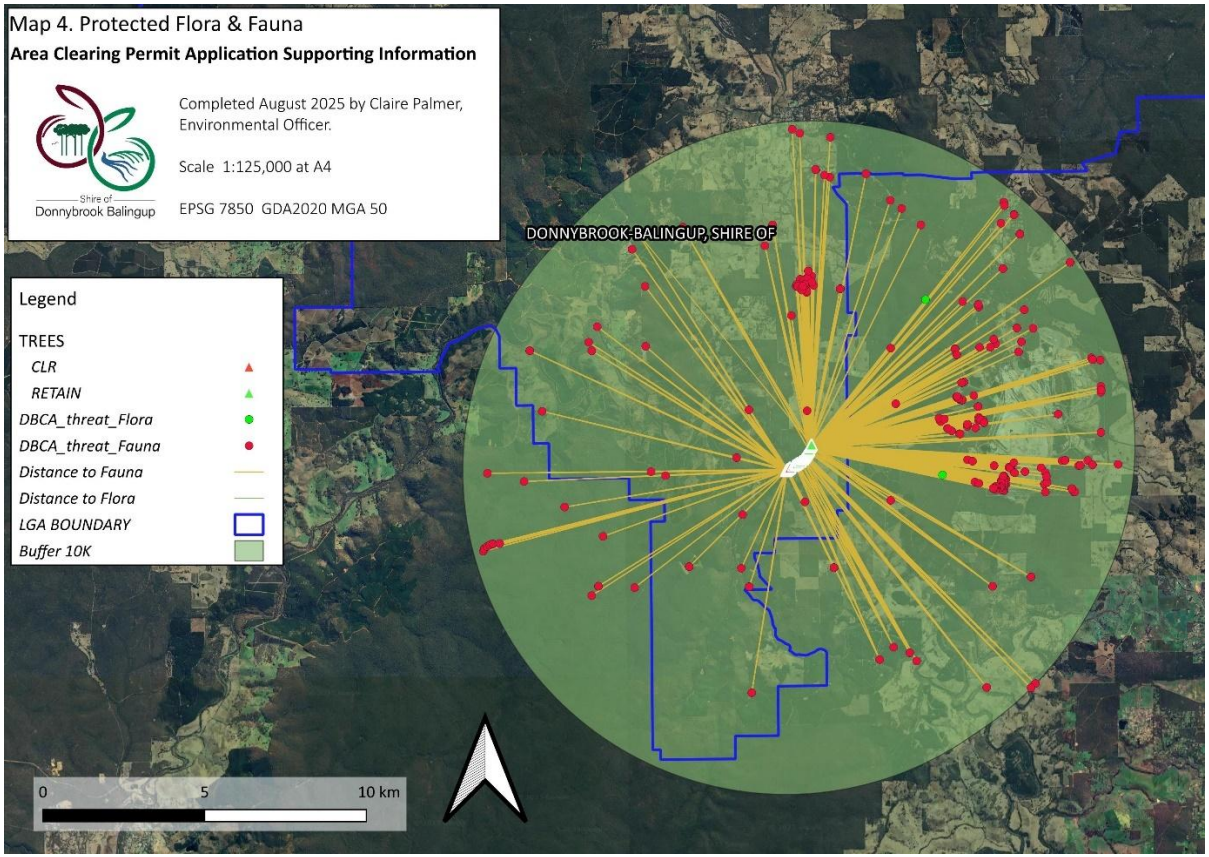


Tree ID	TO CLEAR	Distance to Eco Linkage Line (m)
1	CLR	1282
3	CLR	1297
2	CLR	1297
4	CLR	1301
5	CLR	1312
7	CLR	1329
6	CLR	1329
8	CLR	1334
4	CLR	2551
7	CLR	2551
6	CLR	2551
5	CLR	2552
3	CLR	2552
2	CLR	2552
8	CLR	2552
10	CLR	2553
1	CLR	5420
3	CLR	5423
2	CLR	5423
4	CLR	5424
5	CLR	5429
7	CLR	5435
6	CLR	5435
8	CLR	5437
1	CLR	6800
3	CLR	6806
2	CLR	6806
4	CLR	6807
5	CLR	6813
7	CLR	6821
6	CLR	6821
8	CLR	6823
15	CLR	8763

VEGETATION COMPLEXES WITHIN 10KM OF ROAD PROJECT



PROTECTED FLORA AND FAUNA



Assessment of Clearing Principles against proposed works

The principles for clearing native vegetation under the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (Schedule 5) states that –

Native Vegetation should not be cleared if -

a) It comprises a high level of biological diversity
b) It comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia
c) It includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora
d) It comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community
e) It is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared
f) It is growing in, or in associated with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland
g) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation
h) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area
i) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water
j) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of Flooding

Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

The road upgrade project requires the road be widened to increase safety for road users. Unfortunately, there are several mature and post mature native trees growing within the Shire's Road reserve, and these trees are proposed to be removed to ensure that the road is able to be upgraded to the necessary standard as a major connecting road and truck route in the Shire.

As part of the design process, the following design changes were made:

- Road design developed to keep clearing to a minimum, installing kerbing and subsoil drainage where possible
- The road direction was altered to facilitate the retention of all possible native vegetation.
- Where possible, healthier and more significant trees were retained over more degraded or less valuable vegetation.
- Trees will be investigated for presence of protected fauna use 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 (dieback status is not known in this area).
- Shire machinery and staff will follow dieback and weed management procedures (arrive clean, leave clean).
- All blackberry in the clearing area will be managed in accordance with the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007.*

Assessment of Clearing Impacts

To quantify the level of variance the road upgrade may pose to these clearing principles, the Shire of Donnybrook carried out a desktop assessment between November 2024 and July 2025, to investigate available data and identify the levels of environmental significance of this project. An overview of the results are as follows (Table 2).

TABLE 1 CLEARING PRINCIPLES-SUMMARY OF RESULTS

CLEARING PRINCIPLE	AT VARIANCE?	SHIRE COMMENTS
a) It comprises a high level of biological diversity	Unlikely to be at variance	Vegetation to be cleared are isolated trees with either pasture grasses or blackberry and cottonbush understory. Road abuts pine plantations or agricultural paddocks. There are no recorded significant biological diversity values in association with this vegetation
b) It comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia	May be at variance	Trees are of Corymbia Calophylla, Eucalyptus Marginata or Eucalyptus Rudis. No other native vegetation will be cleared. No hollows were observed in any of the trees during the site visit. The road design has been negotiated to allow for the retention of 45 mature trees, however 20 were not able to be retained. Higher quality vegetation was selected over lower quality where possible to reduce the loss of feeding and roosting habitat for protected birdlife.
c) It includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora	Not at variance	No protected flora identified in the project area; 1 within the 10km Buffer.

d) It comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community	Not at variance	Project areas and their buffers do not contain TEC's or PEC's
e) It is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared	Not at variance	Vegetation consists of isolated trees with pasture grasses and woody/herbaceous weeds as understory.
f) It is growing in, or in associated with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland	Not at Variance	No waterways will be impacted during the road works
g) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation	Not at variance	Clearing is small and constrained to within 1.5m of existing road surface. All outdoor workers abide by arrive clean/leave clean procedures to avoid contamination. Soils will not be subjected to any increases in erosion, salinity, or acidity. Dieback has not been identified in the project area or within the 10km buffer. The works are considered to improve the overall health of the area, as the Shire will be controlling the blackberry in the road reserve and in the immediately adjacent pine plantations.
h) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area	Not at variance	No conservation areas within the Project Area. The area contains large areas of both native trees, but none are connected to the project area. The nearest Southwest Regional Ecological Linkage is approximately 1.3km away
i) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water	Not at variance	No water quality parameters will be impacted as part of this project.
j) The clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of Flooding	Not at variance	Overflow will be managed via subsoil drainage where possible. Flooding of the lower lying areas will be managed better by improving the infrastructure and drainage over the road.

Detailed Analysis of Environmental Values

PRINCIPLE A

Vegetation Association:

Bridgetown_3

Medium forest; Jarrah-Marri

Description: Mainly jarrah and marri Eucalyptus marginata, Corymbia calophylla

Bridgetown Association- Pre European Extent:

Statewide: 700920.83ha

LGA Donnybrook Balingup: 93291ha

Percent Remaining in Shire: 66 % (61,614ha remaining)

Priority Fauna/Flora:

Flora:

No Threatened or Priority Flora were identified in the Project area.

Two Herbarium records were identified within the buffer

Object ID	Database #	CONSERVATION CODE	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
4849	91235	VU	116.03360217	-33.88544328
35519	Thysanotus unicupensis	3	116.0284699	-33.83656382

Fauna:

No threatened or protected fauna have been recorded within the project site. Nearest record is approximately 1km away. A summary of records for protected fauna identified in the 10km buffer zone is below

Fauna Class	WA LISTING & STATUS	COUNT
Bird	Priority P3	7
Mammal	Priority P4	102
Mammal	Specially protected conservation dependent CD	94
Bird	Specially protected- Migratory	1
Mammal	Threatened- Critically Endangered	9
Bird	Threatened- Endangered	54
Mammal	Threatened- Endangered	1
Bird	Threatened- Vulnerable	76
Invertebrate	Threatened- Vulnerable	101
Mammal	Threatened- Vulnerable	52
	TOTAL RECORDS in 10km Buffer	515

Ecological Linkages:

Nearest connection 1.3km away.

Other Recognised Conservation Values:

Bush Forever Sites: None in LGA

Conservation Category Wetlands: None in LGA

PRINCIPLE B

Potential Fauna Habitat:

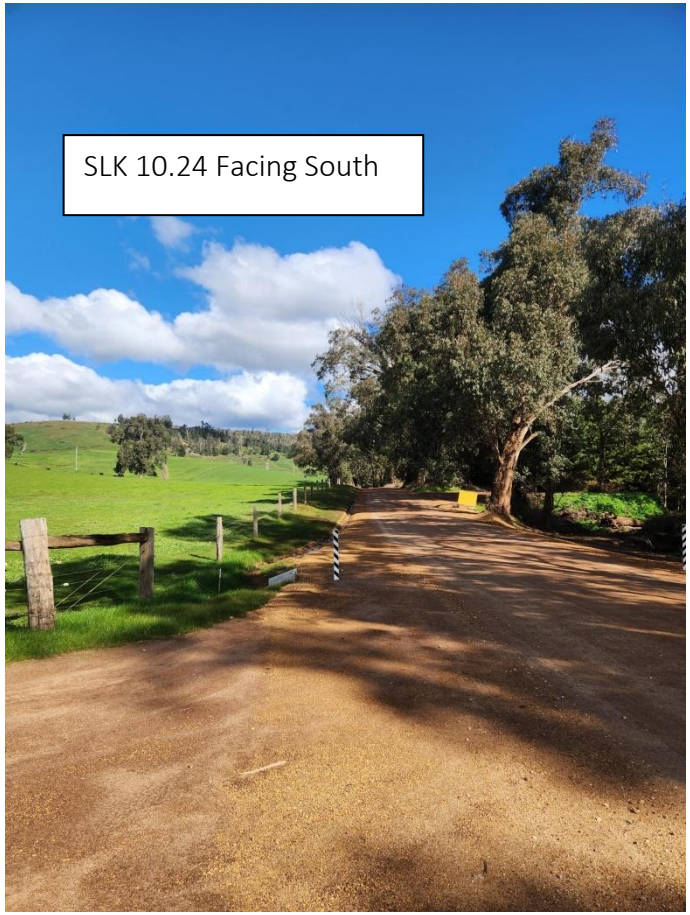
20 Trees are being considered for clearing during 2025-26. 15 Marri trees, and 1 Jarrah tree are considered a potential source of food or habitat to local black cockatoos; the remaining 4 trees are Flooded gums. the three vegetation complexes proposed to be impacted by this clearing are considered potential feeding habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo. The closest confirmed Roosting Site for Black Cockatoos is over 5km away; four roosting sites were identified within the buffer. The total canopy loss as a result of the proposed clearing is .0286 Hectares.

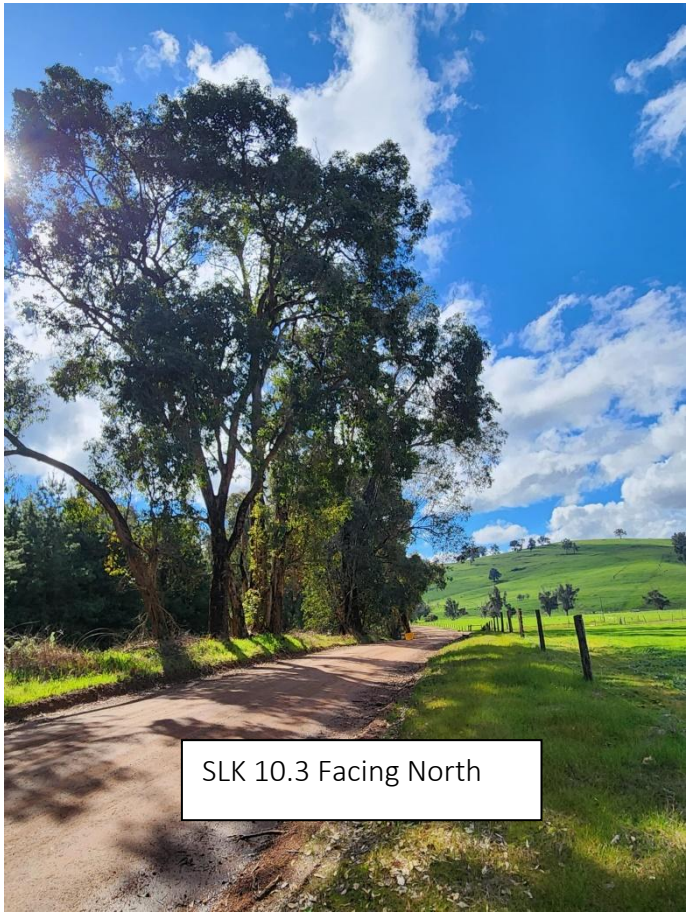
The vegetation will be inspected by the Shire's Environmental Officer for use of native fauna prior to clearing. Should fauna be using the area, clearing will cease until the fauna are no longer using the site. No hollows were observed during the site visit.

Further Information: Trees to be cleared

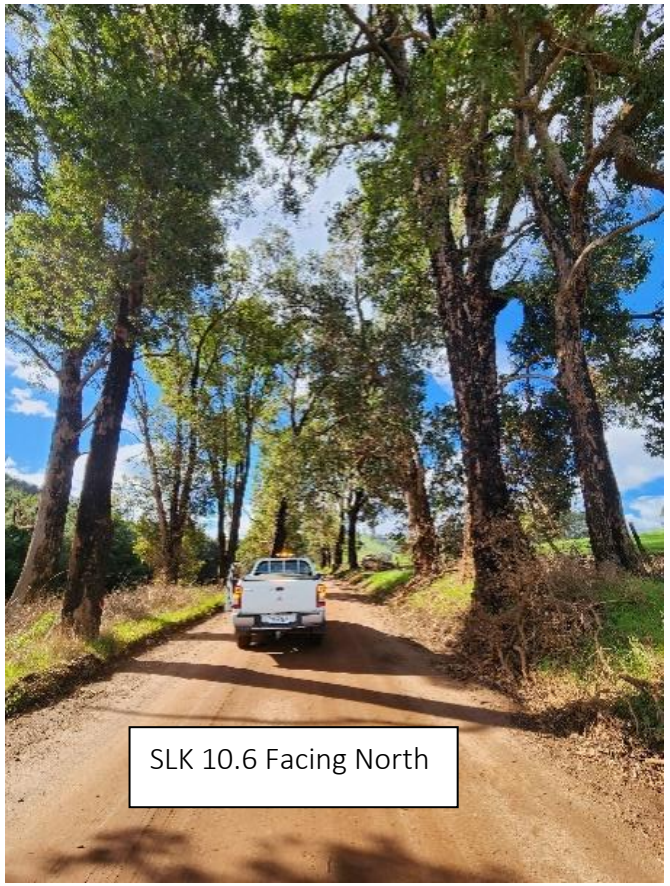
LOCATIONS AND IMPACTS:

Shapefiles have been provided to support this document. See site photos below.

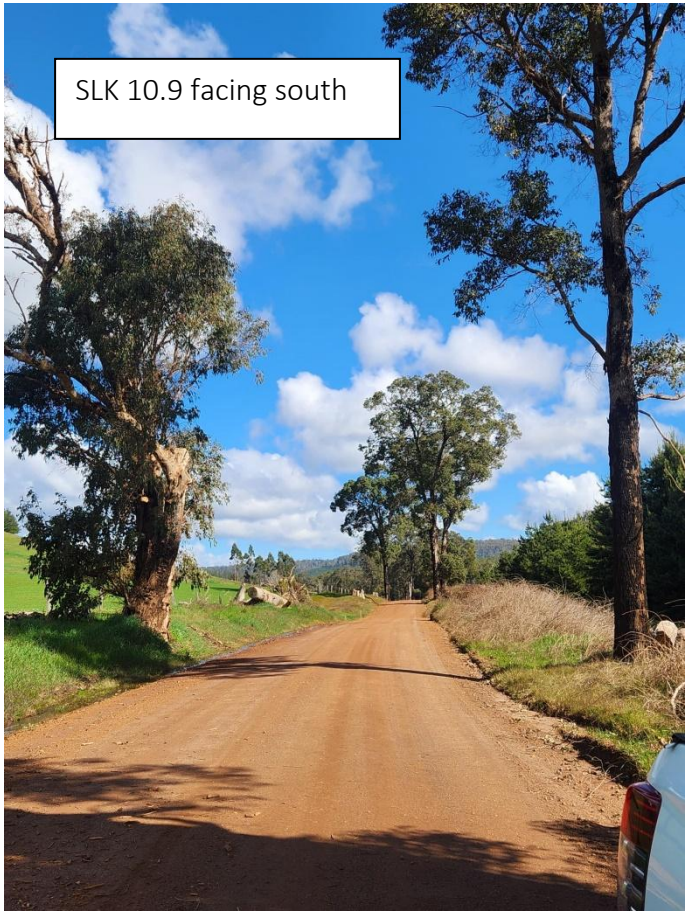

SLK 10.24 Facing South

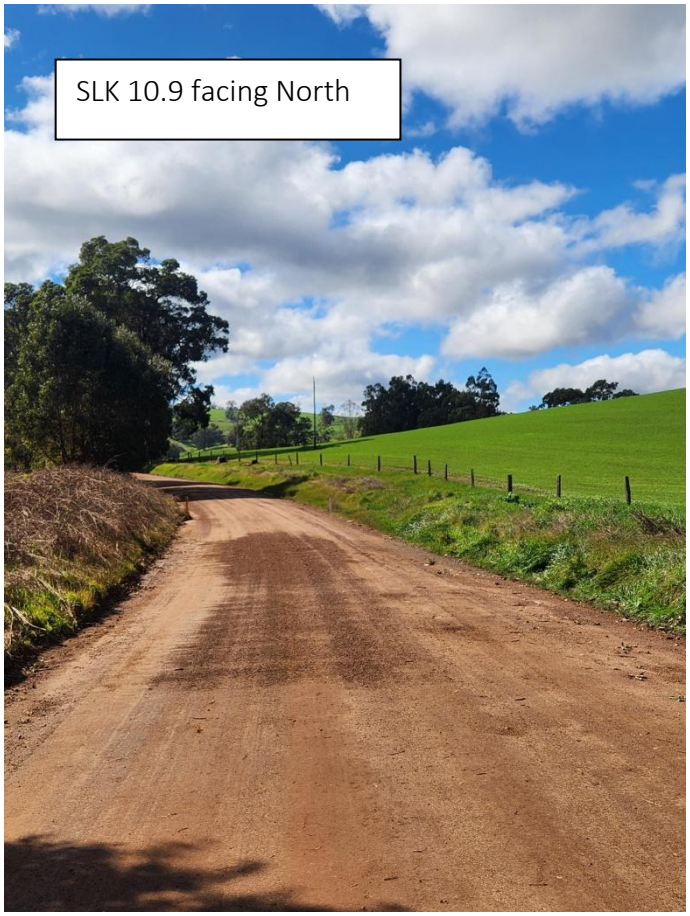

SLK 10.3 Facing North

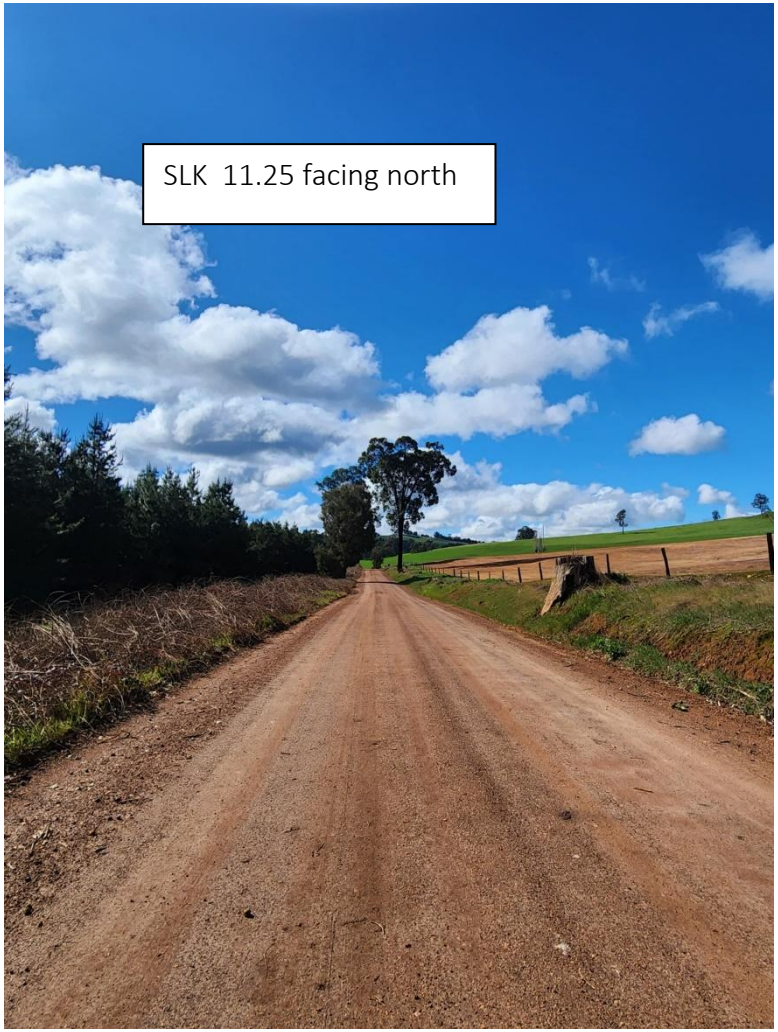
SLK 10.3 Facing South

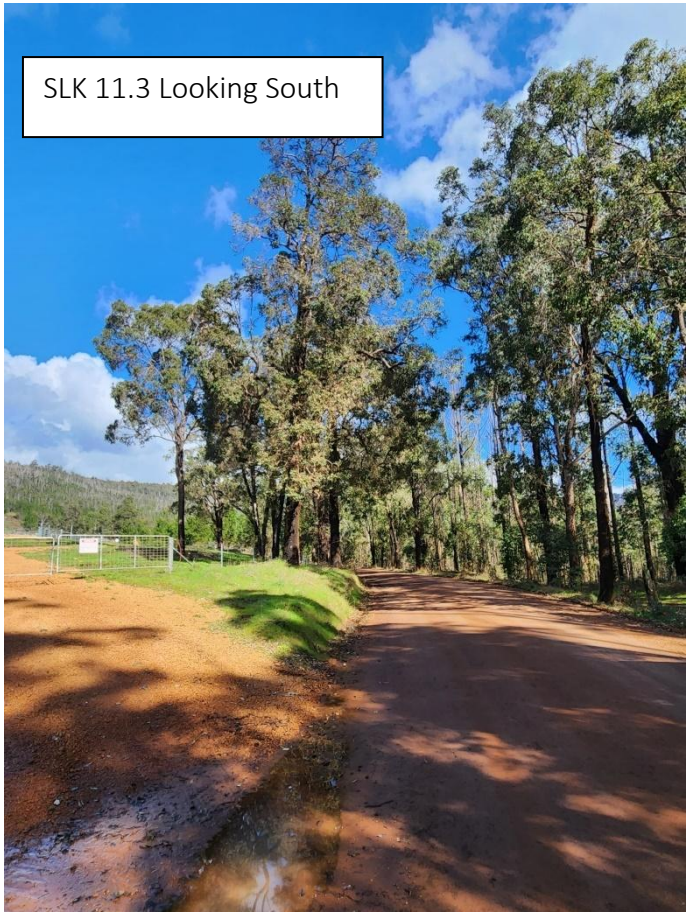


SLK 10.6 Facing North


SLK 10.9 facing south


SLK 10.9 facing North


SLK 11.25 facing north


SLK 11.3 Looking South

References

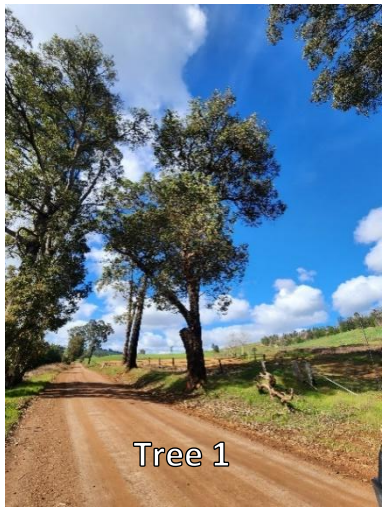
DER.*A guide to the assessment of applications to Clear Native Vegetation*.2014.https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

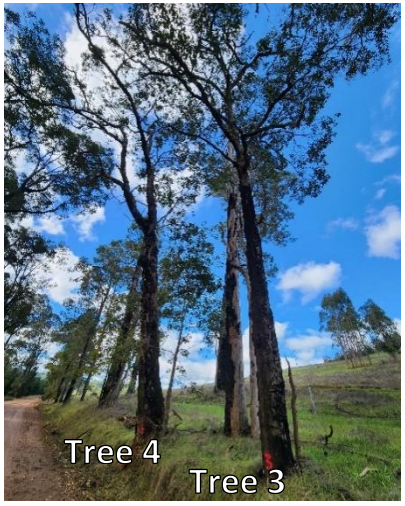
Datasets Accessed between June and September 2025

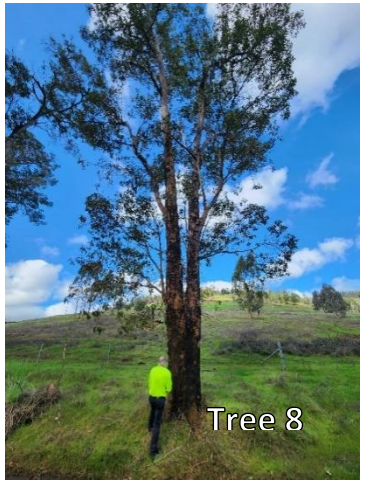
Dataset	Data Provider	Dataset	Data Provider
DWER 004	DWER	NRInfo for flood and soil data	DPIRD
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Enquiry System	DPLH	2020 Vegetation Retention Status for Beard Associations and by IBRA Region	DPIRD, WALGA
LGATE-067	DPLH	DBCA 047	DBCA
DWER-046	DWER	DPLH-001	DPLH
DBCA-029	DBCA	DWER-034	DWER
Danju	DBCA	DPIRD-037	DPIRD
Redbook Reserves	DBCA	Bush Forever Sites	DBCA
DPIRD-006	DPIRD		

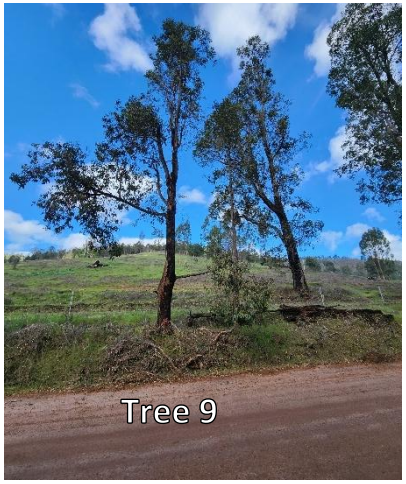
Appendices

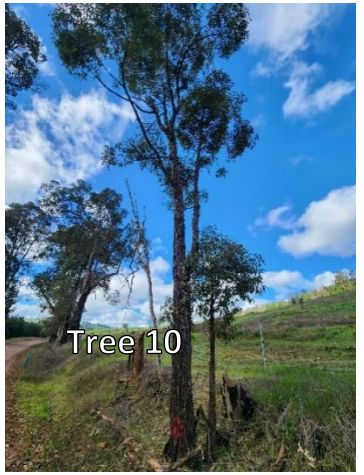
Appendix 1: Photos of 20 Trees for potential clearing activity, taken August 2025







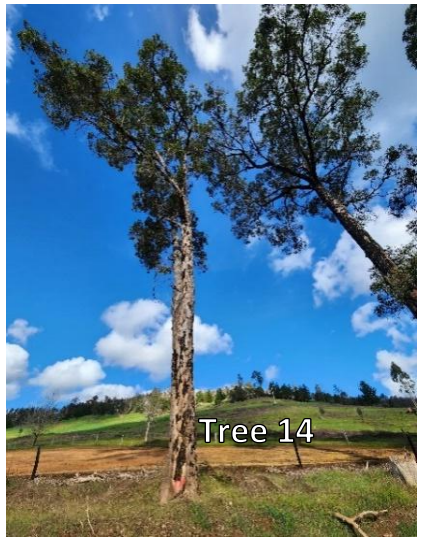


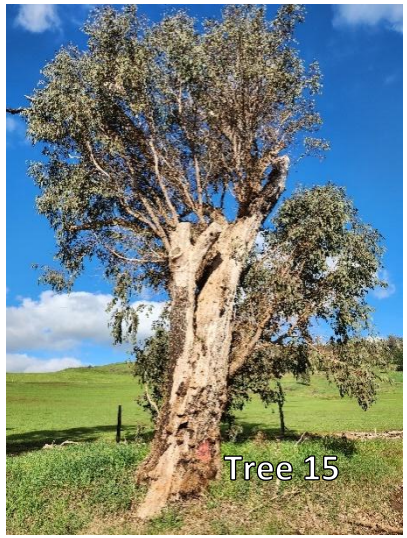



Tree 11


Tree 12


Tree 13

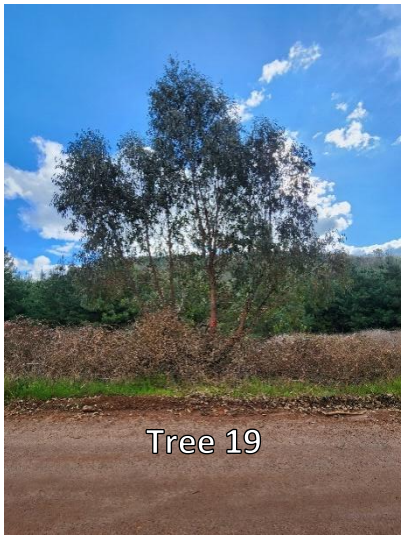

Tree 14

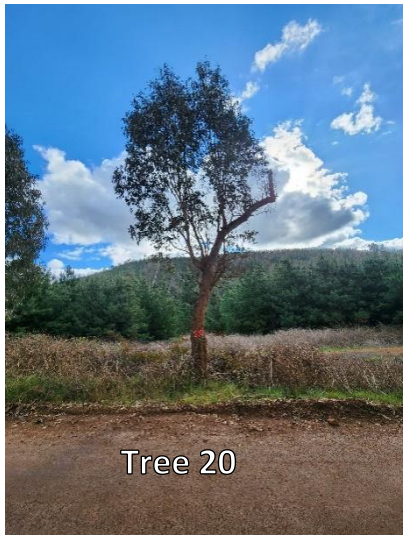

Tree 15


Tree 16


Tree 17


Tree 18


Tree 19


Tree 20