



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

### PERMIT DETAILS

Area Permit Number: CPS 11298/1  
File Number: DWERVT20197  
Duration of Permit: From 09 April 2026 to 09 April 2031

### PERMIT HOLDER

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

### LAND ON WHICH CLEARING IS TO BE DONE

Southampton Road reserve (PINS 11528951, 1164168 and 1164175), Southampton

### AUTHORISED ACTIVITY

The permit holder must not clear more than twenty (20) 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 09 April 2028.

#### 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

- (a) The permit holder must, within 12 months of undertaking *clearing* authorised under this permit:
  - (i) undertake deliberate *planting* and maintenance of at least 26 *Corymbia calophylla* trees within the area cross hatched red on Figure 1 of Schedule 2 located at Southampton Road reserve (PIN 1164174), Southampton;
  - (ii) ensure only *local provenance* propagating material is used;
  - (iii) ensure planting is undertaken at the *optimal time*;
- (b) The permit holder must undertake *weed* control and watering of *plantings* for at least two years post *planting*.
- (c) Within 24 months of undertaking *planting* of the 26 *Corymbia calophylla* trees; in accordance with condition 5(a) of this permit, the permit holder must:
  - (i) make a determination that at least 26 *Corymbia calophylla* trees will persist and survive; and
  - (ii) where, in the opinion that the 26 *Corymbia calophylla* trees will not survive, the permit holder must undertake additional *planting* of *Corymbia calophylla* trees that will result in 26 *Corymbia calophylla* trees persisting within the area cross hatched red on Figure 1 of Schedule 2.
- (d) 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) and 5(d) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area;</li> <li>(b) the location where the clearing occurred,</li> </ul>

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		<p>recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(c) the date that the area was cleared;</p> <p>(d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</p> <p>(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 2; and</p> <p>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> and <i>dieback</i> in accordance with condition 3; and</p> <p>(g) actions taken in accordance with condition 4.</p>
2.	In relation to planting pursuant to condition 5	<p>(a) the size of the <i>planted Corymbia calophylla</i> trees;</p> <p>(b) the date(s) on which the <i>planting</i> was undertaken;</p> <p>(c) the boundaries of the <i>planted</i> area (recorded digitally as a shapefile);</p> <p>(d) a description of the <i>planting</i> activities undertaken pursuant to condition 5, including <i>planted</i> species density, and actions taken to implement watering and <i>weed</i> control;</p> <p>(e) evidence of monitoring and determination; and</p> <p>(f) a description of any residual actions undertaken pursuant to conditions 5 (e) and 5(f) where monitoring indicates that the <i>planted</i> trees will not survive.</p>

## 7. Reporting

- (a) The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* on or before 30<sup>th</sup> 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 <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
dieback	means the effect of <i>Phytophthora</i> species on native vegetation.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (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.
optimal 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 <i>local provenance</i> native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or <i>planting</i> , 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

Term	Definition
	improve the ecological function of the area
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>

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**END OF CONDITIONS**


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Caitlin Conway  
 MANAGER  
 NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

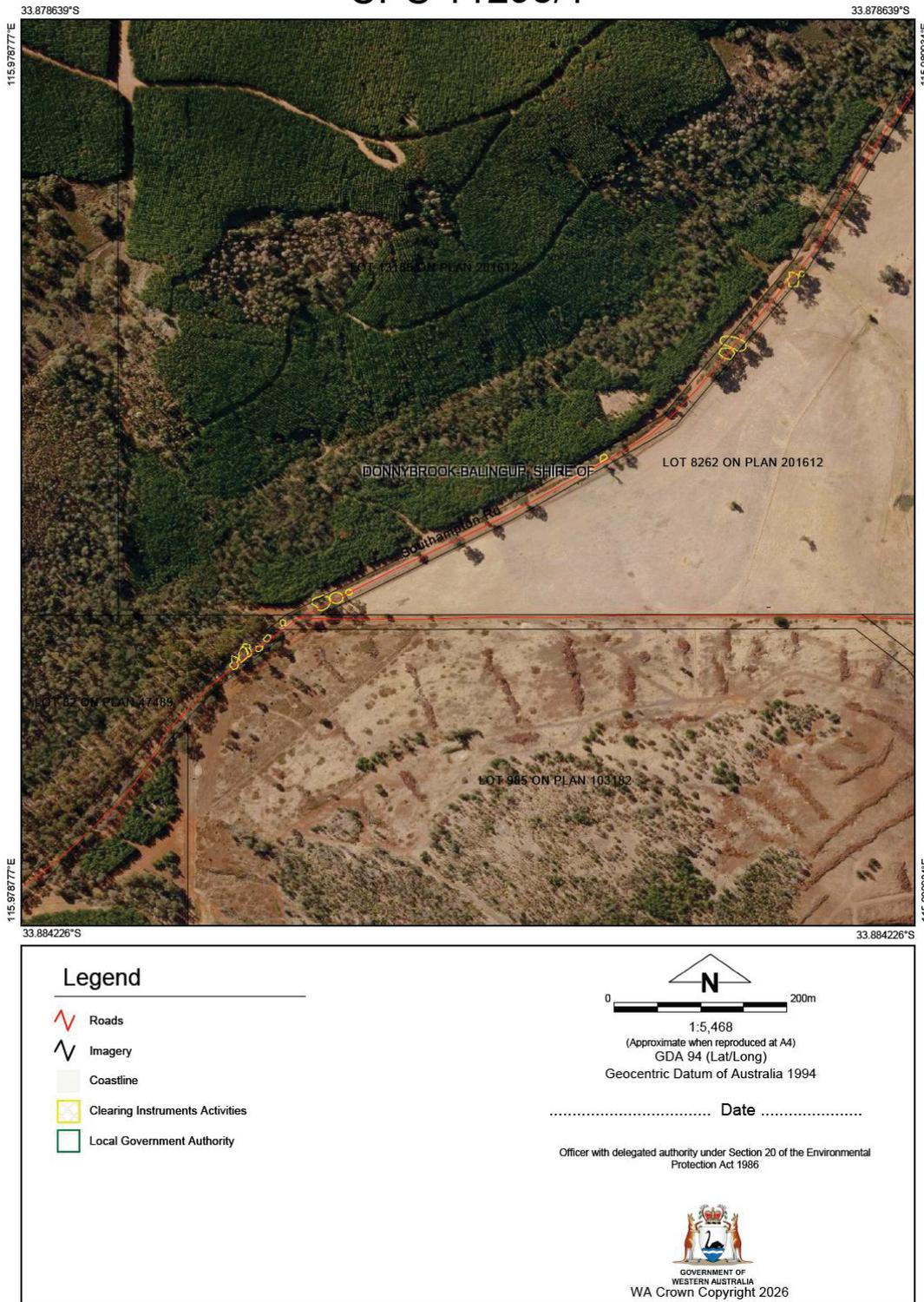
*Officer delegated under Section 20  
 Of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

24 March 2026

# SCHEDULE 1

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

## CPS 11298/1



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

## SCHEDULE 2

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

### CPS 11298/1 - Rehabilitation Action

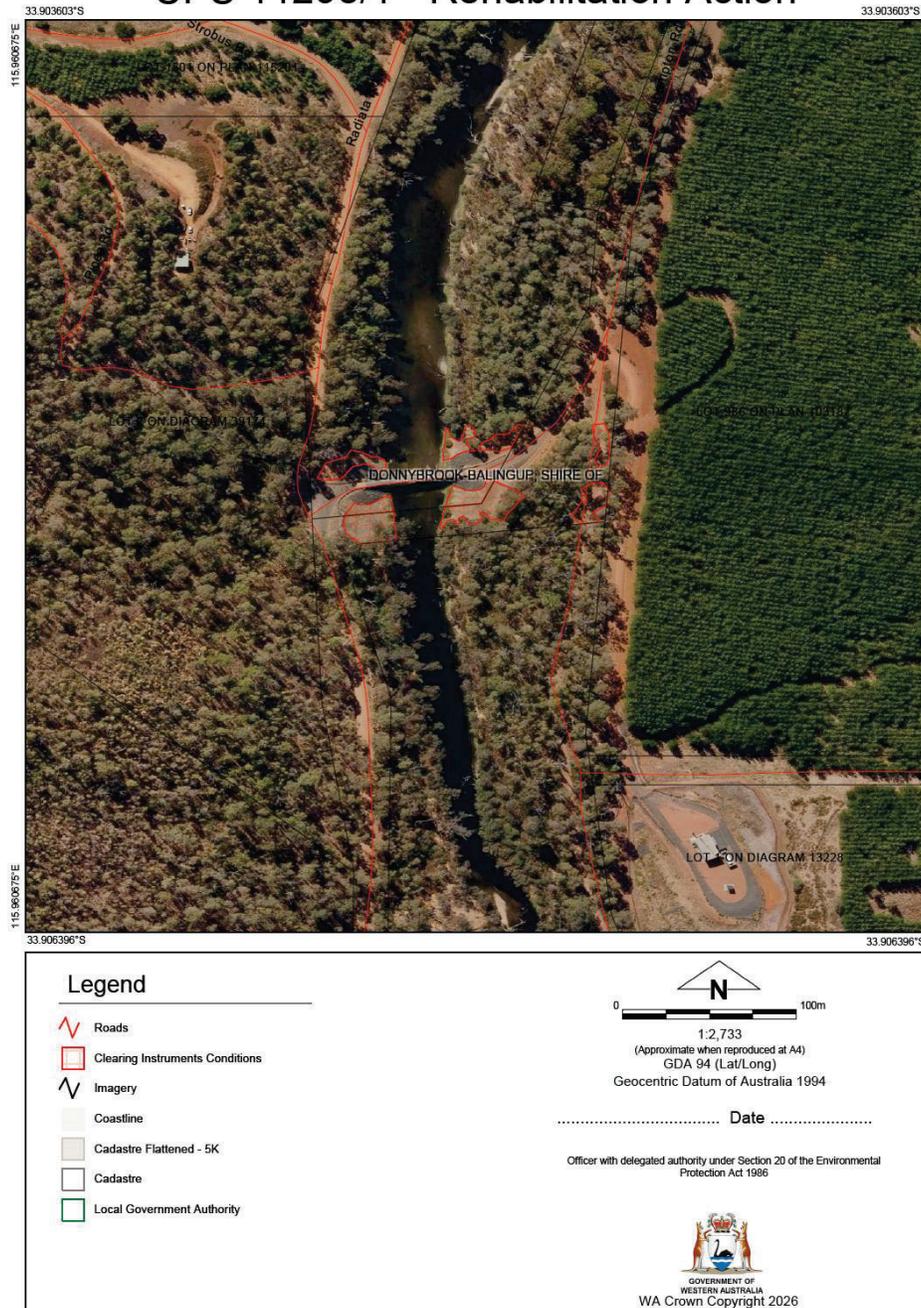


Figure 2. Map of the boundary of the area within which mitigation planting must occur.



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1 Application details and outcome

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	CPS 11298/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Area permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
<b>Application received:</b>	15 October 2025
<b>Application area:</b>	20 native trees
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Road widening
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical
<b>Property:</b>	Southampton Road Reserve (PINS 11528951, 1164168 and 1164175)
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
<b>Localities (suburb/s):</b>	Southampton

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across multiple areas within the same road reserve (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

The application is to selectively clear trees which impacting existing road infrastructure. The applicant will adjust the road centreline where possible to avoid impacting existing trees and where road safety will not be affected.

### 1.3. Decision on application

<b>Decision:</b>	Granted
<b>Decision date:</b>	24 March 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	20 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 (the department) 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 Appendix C), 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 will improve community safety and provide a benefit to the public.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of 17 trees (16 marri and one jarrah) that are suitable foraging habitat for black cockatoos

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values; and
- the potential impact to fauna present on site at the time of clearing.

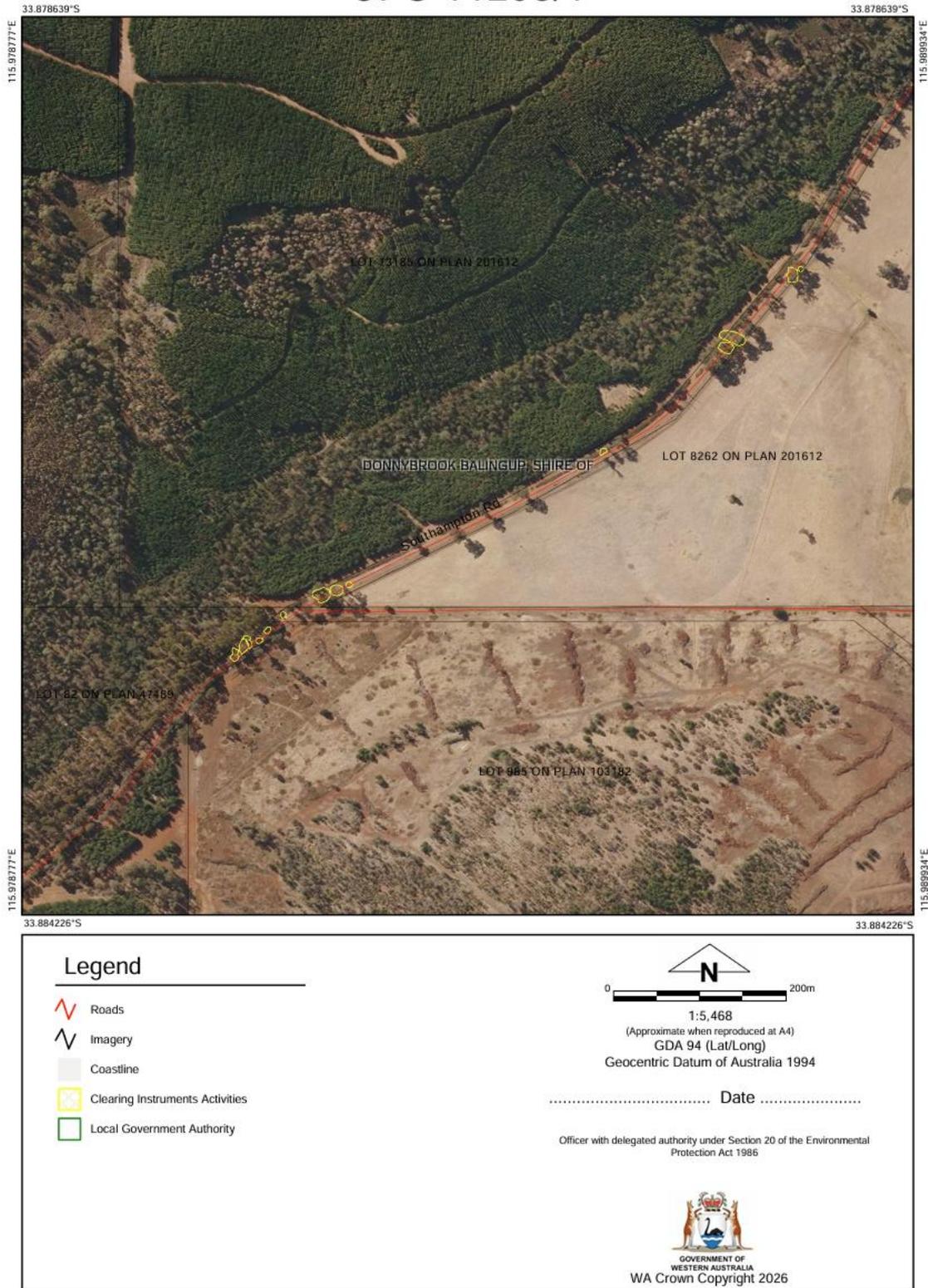
After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is environmentally acceptable, as impacts can be minimised and managed to avoid long-term significant residual impacts. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures and no significant residual impact remains as a result of clearing native vegetation.

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
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- deliberately plant at least 26 marri trees (which provide suitable black cockatoo foraging habitat) within or adjacent to Southampton Road Reserve

1.5. Site map(s)

# CPS 11298/1



**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 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)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

## 3 Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

#### Avoidance measures:

During the design development phase, the applicant considered the following measures:

- Reducing clearing footprints where possible to avoid the clearing of native vegetation, through altering plans relating to the road width, centerline location, 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.

#### Rehabilitation actions

The applicant has agreed to plant 26 marri trees within Southampton Road reserve to reduce the onsite impacts of the loss of foraging habitat for black cockatoos in the immediate vicinity of the clearing (see Figure 2 and Figure 3).

# CPS 11298/1 - Rehabilitation Action



### Legend

- Roads
- Clearing Instruments Conditions
- Imagery
- Coastline
- Cadastre Flattened - 5K
- Cadastre
- Local Government Authority

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Date .....

Officer with delegated authority under Section 20 of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

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**Figure 2:** Map of the rehabilitation action area

# CPS 11298/1 - Rehabilitation context



### Legend

- Clearing Instruments Conditions
- Imagery
- Coastline
- Clearing Instruments Activities
- Local Government Authority

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**Figure 3:** Map of the rehabilitation action area in proximity to the clearing area

In accordance with the WA Offsets Guidelines, the Department will only consider environmental offsets where the residual impacts of a project are determined to be significant, after avoidance, minimisation and rehabilitation have been pursued. There are four steps in the mitigation hierarchy – Avoid, Minimise, Rehabilitate and Offset. In developing a project, the Applicant applied this hierarchy to reduce the potential impacts of clearing on the environment. This is consistent with principle 2 of the offsets policy, which states that while environmental offsets may be appropriate for significant residual impacts or risks, they will not be applied to minor environmental impacts (i.e. where the residual impact is not considered to be significant, no offset will be required).

The Delegated Officer determined the rehabilitation credit is accordance with the WA Environmental Offsets metric and determined that clearing of 16 marri trees and one (1) jarrah tree which provide foraging habitat for black cockatoos can be counterbalanced by planting of 26 marri trees (see Figure 4 and 5).

### Step 2: Calculating significant residual impact

**Key:**  
 Data to be entered  
 Drop-down selection  
 Automatically-generated scores

Clear Data					
Environmental value (step 1)	BC foraging				
<b>Area (impact site)</b>					
<b>Part A: Significant impact calculation Area</b>					
Significant impact	Description	Quantum of impact			
	BC foraging habitat	Significant impact (hectares)	0.17		
		Quality (scale)	4.00		
		Total quantum of impact	0.07		
<b>Part B: Rehabilitation credit calculation Area (onsite)</b>					
Rehabilitation Credit	Description	Proposed rehabilitation (area in hectares)	0.26	Time until ecological benefit (years)	17.00
	BC foraging habitat	Current quality of rehabilitation site (scale)	1.00	Confidence in rehabilitation result (%)	80.0%
		Future quality WITHOUT rehabilitation (scale)	1.00	Rehabilitation credit	0.07
		Future quality WITH rehabilitation (scale)	5.00		
<b>Part C: Significant residual impact calculation Area</b>					
Significant residual impact	Total quantum of impact		0.07		
	Rehabilitation credit		0.07		
	Significant residual impact		0.00		

**Figure 4:** Rehabilitation action credit values from the WA Environmental Offsets metric

### Rationale for scores used in the offsets calculator

Clear Data

Environmental value to be offset		
Calculation	Score (Area)	Rationale
<b>Conservation significance</b>		
Description	BC foraging	The area proposed to be cleared comprises significant foraging habitat trees for Carnaby's cockatoo ( <i>Zanda latirostris</i> ), Baudin's cockatoo ( <i>Zanda Calyptorhynchus</i> ) and forest red-tailed black cockatoo ( <i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i> ), listed as threatened species under the BC Act. Based on the desktop assessment and supplied (supporting) information, the application area comprises of 16 black cockatoo habitat trees including 15 marri trees and 1 jarrah tree.
Type of environmental value	Species (flora/fauna)	Black cockatoos
Conservation significance of environmental value	Rare/threatened species - endangered	Carnaby's black cockatoo and Baudin's black cockatoo are listed as endangered under the BC Act (state) and EPBC Act (federal); Forest red-tailed black cockatoo is listed as vulnerable under the BC Act (state) and EPBC Act (federal). The highest attribute was used for the calculation.
Landscape-level value impacted	yes/no	
<b>Significant impact</b>		
Description	BC foraging habitat	Clearing of 17 trees that provides high quality foraging habitat for all three species of black cockatoos.
Significant impact (hectares) / Type of feature	0.17	17 (16 marri and 1 jarrah) trees that provides high quality foraging habitat for all three species of black cockatoos.
Quality (scale) / Number	4.00	A desktop assessment identified 10 BC roosting sites within the 12 kilometre radius, the closest roost record being 6km from the application area. The application area contains primary foraging species for black cockatoo. The total remnant vegetation within the local area is approximately 47% of the pre-European extent. Several waterdams (man-made) near the application area which may support roosting. Age, quality and canopy extent of vegetation proposed to be cleared have been averaged to a score of 4 across the 17 trees.
<b>Rehabilitation credit</b>		
Description	BC foraging habitat	Planting marri trees that provide foraging habitat for black cockatoos in close proximity to natural water resources.
Proposed rehabilitation (area in hectares)	0.26	26 trees that provides high quality foraging habitat for all three species of black cockatoos.
Current quality of rehabilitation site / Start number (of type of feature)	1.00	Trees will be planted in areas comprised of degraded to completely degraded quality vegetation (cleared areas).
Future quality WITHOUT rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITHOUT rehabilitation	1.00	It is assumed the future quality of vegetation is not expected to improve in the foreseeable future in the absence of rehabilitation actions.
Future quality WITH rehabilitation (scale) / Future number WITH rehabilitation	5.00	With appropriate rehabilitation measures, the quality of the vegetation is expected to provide moderate foraging habitat for black cockatoos. The condition of the trees is expected to be similar to those cleared however noting the additional benefit of their location near a natural waterway.
Time until ecological benefit (years)	17.00	This value represents the average time until planted vegetation can be used reliably as foraging habitat by black cockatoos (15 years). An extra two years has been added to account for the delay in commencement of the revegetation (assumed to commence within two years of the permit start date).
Confidence in rehabilitation result (%)	0.8	Based on premise that there is low risk of the vegetation being cleared under exemption in future and there will be appropriate ongoing management

**Figure 5:** Rationale for the rehabilitation action credit values from the WA Environmental Offsets metric (see Figure 4).

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 and that after the application of the rehabilitation action there are no significant residual impacts, associated with this proposal, that require offsetting.

### 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 conservation significant fauna habitat. 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 & b)

#### Assessment

Noting the site characteristics (see Appendix C), the findings of a tree survey and habitat assessment (Natural Area, 2025), and the habitat preferences of the conservation significant fauna species recorded in the local area (10-kilometre radius), the application area is considered to contain suitable habitat for the following fauna species:

- *Calyptorhynchus banksii naso* (forest red-tailed black cockatoo) (listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act and EPBC Act),
- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon) (listed as other specially protected fauna species by DBCA),
- *Zanda baudinii* (Baudin's cockatoo) (listed as Endangered under the BC Act and EPBC Act), and
- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) (listed as Endangered under the BC Act and EPBC Act).

Given the Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition of the application area, sparsely distributed native vegetation, and weed-dominated understorey, it is not considered likely that the application provides suitable habitat for ground-dwelling native fauna. The implementation of slow, directional clearing measures will allow individuals to move ahead of the clearing and into adjacent suitable habitat, in the unlikely event that individuals are present during clearing.

#### **Black cockatoo species**

##### Breeding and roosting habitat

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, jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*), karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), flooded gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*), and other *Eucalyptus* spp. (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022). '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 suitable DBH for nest hollows is 500 millimetres for most tree species (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022). Habitat trees that provide potential breeding habitat may also represent suitable roosting habitat for black cockatoo species.

The applicant advised that no trees have nesting hollows or are considered potential breeding trees (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2025). Photographs provided by the applicant identify several trees of substantial girth, however, the absence of suitable hollows and evidence of black cockatoo use of these trees means it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will result in the loss of suitable breeding trees for black cockatoo species.

Roosting is typically noted to occur within suitable trees close to an important water source and within an area of quality foraging habitat (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022). The application area is located in close proximity to artificial water resources and contains primary foraging habitat, making it a potentially suitable location for roosting. There are also ten (10) confirmed roosting sites with 12 kilometres of the application area, the closest of which is over 5 kilometres from the application area. In considering the above, black cockatoos have the potential to utilise the site for roosting. However, given the location of the application area on the edge of a linear roadside remnant and the extent of roosting habitat in the local area, it is unlikely to be utilised as a regular night roosting site.

##### Foraging habitat

Black cockatoo species are noted to forage on a range of plant species, with the primary foraging resources varying between species (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022). Carnaby's cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts, and flowers of a variety of plants, including Proteaceous species (*Banksia* spp., *Hakea* spp., and *Grevillea* spp.), as well as Eucalyptus species and marri (Valentine and Stock, 2008). Forest red-tailed black cockatoos feed predominantly on the seeds of marri and jarrah, which comprise approximately 90 per cent of their diet (DEC, 2008). Baudin's cockatoos primarily feed on the seeds of marri, but may also forage on the seeds of jarrah and Proteaceous species (DEC, 2008).

Based on information provided by the applicant (Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, 2025), the application area contains two species that provide foraging habitat for black cockatoos; marri and jarrah (BCE, 2013; DEC, 2011). While marri is a primary foraging resource for all three species, Jarrah is considered to be of lower foraging value when compared to other species (Stock et al., 2013) and provide only secondary or supplementary foraging habitat for Carnaby's and/or Baudin's cockatoos.

Critical habitat is defined as any habitat that provides for feeding, watering, regular night roosting, and potential for breeding for Carnaby's cockatoo (DPAW, 2013) and all marri, karri and jarrah forests, woodlands and remnants in

the south-west of Western Australia receiving more than 600 millimetres of annual average rainfall for Baudin's and forest red-tailed black cockatoo (DEC, 2008). Foraging habitat within 12 kilometres of a nesting site and six kilometres of a roosting site is also of particular importance in supporting populations (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022; Le Roux, 2017; Glossop, et al., 2011; DPAW, 2013; DEC, 2008).

As the application area comprises primary foraging habitat it meets the definition of critical habitat for all three black cockatoo species. While it is acknowledged that the application area represents less of 0.01 per cent of foraging habitat within six kilometres of confirmed roosting sites, the cumulative loss of critical habitat represents a significant risk to local populations. Noting the cumulative loss of foraging habitat and ongoing threats such as land clearing and fragmentation, weed invasion, and dieback in the region, the clearing of 17 trees providing critical foraging habitat which supports roosting flocks represents a significant residual impact to black cockatoo foraging habitat.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of 17 (marri and jarrah) trees which provide moderate quality foraging habitat for black cockatoos.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on black cockatoo foraging habitat can be managed by the rehabilitation actions proposed (see Section 3) such that a significant residual impact will not remain.

#### Conditions

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

- Slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individuals
- Rehabilitation planting: to mitigate the loss on native vegetation which provides foraging habitat for black cockatoos.

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

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
Rehabilitation actions	The applicant advised the department of additional mitigation actions applied to the project to further counterbalance the loss of foraging habitat for black cockatoos. These measures have been considered under Section 3 of this report.

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared part of an expansive tract 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.</p> <p>The local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 47.7 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area does not intersect any formally mapped ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	Application area is immediately adjacent to the Greenbushes State Forest.
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs and supporting information (Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, 2024) supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of 16 marri (<i>Corymbia calophylla</i>) trees, one (1) jarrah (<i>Eucalyptus marginata</i>) tree and three (3) flooded gum (<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>) trees. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>This is consistent with the mapped vegetation types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridgetown, which is described as 'Mixture of open forest of <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i>-<i>Corymbia calophylla</i> with some <i>Eucalyptus patens</i> on slopes to low open forest of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>-<i>Melaleuca raphiophylla</i> on the valley floors in the humid zone'</li> <li>Balingup, which is described as 'Woodland of <i>Eucalyptus rudis</i> on valley floors and woodland of <i>Eucalyptus patens</i>-<i>Corymbia calophylla</i> on footslopes with some <i>Eucalyptus marginata</i> subsp. <i>marginata</i> on lower slopes in the humid zone'.</li> </ul> <p>The mapped vegetation type/s retain approximately 21 and 9.1 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019) respectively.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Photographs and supporting information (Shire of Donnybrook Balingup, 2024) supplied by the applicant indicate the vegetation proposed to be cleared is in Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p>

Characteristic	Details
Climate and landform	Climate: The region experiences a Mediterranean climate with cool winters and hot summers with a mean annual rainfall of 720 millimetres. Landform: Moderate to steep valley slopes
Soil description	The soil is mapped as 'Bridgetown steep slopes Phase' which is described as 'Relief 100-180 metres, slopes 15-50 per cent, soils are loamy earths'.
Land degradation risk	The soils mapped within the application area are mapped as having a high risk of water erosion and subsurface acidification.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands or waterbodies transect the application area.
Hydrogeography	Groundwater salinity within the application area is mapped at 500-1000 milligrams per total dissolved solids.
Flora	There are records of five records conservation significant flora species within 10-kilometre radius of the application area with the closest record being <i>Caladenia harringtoniae</i> (threatened) approximately 4.4 kilometres from the application area. Preferred habitat for this species is not present within the application area.
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 30 kilometres northeast of the application area.  With consideration for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and relevant datasets (see Appendix F), the application area is not considered likely to contain vegetation representative of a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) or PEC.
Fauna	The desktop assessment and relevant datasets identified 18 conservation significant fauna within the 10-kilometre radius with the closest record of <i>Isoodon fusciventer</i> (quenda, P4) approximately 1.12 kilometres from the application area.  The assessment identified 10 black cockatoo roosts within a 12-kilometre radius of the application area.

### Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<b>Environmental value: biological values</b>		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging habitat for conservation significant black cockatoo species. The vegetation is in completely degraded condition, lacking basic native vegetation structure. Based on the condition of vegetation and the assessment of relevant datasets, no conservation significant ecological community are likely to be present within the application area. The vegetation is not likely to be representative of mapped vegetation units which are under-represented given the condition of the vegetation and the selective clearing method applied by the applicant.</p>	At variance	Yes  <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging habitat for conservation significant black cockatoo species.</p>	At variance	<p>Yes</p> <p><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i></p>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia however the mapped vegetation types are not. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to be representative of mapped vegetation types due to the Completely Degraded condition of the vegetation and selective method of clearing. A rehabilitation action proposed by the applicant will replace trees removed from the clearing.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the nearest conservation area is adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing may have an impact on the environmental values of adjacent conservation areas. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, hygiene measures imposed on the clearing permit are considered sufficient to mitigate potential impacts on adjacent conversation areas.</p>	May be at variance	No
<b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact riparian vegetation.</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (g)</u>: “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</p> <p><u>Assessment</u>:</p> <p>Given the proposed clearing is to selectively remove 20 trees and native vegetation will remain throughout the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i)</u>: “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</p> <p><u>Assessment</u>:</p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact the quality of surface or underground water resources.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j)</u>: “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment</u>:</p> <p>The 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.</p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.</p>	Not 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.

Condition	Description
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**

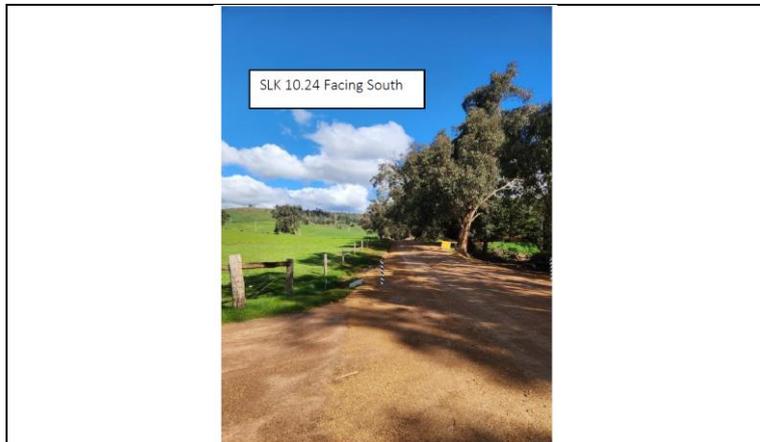


Figure 6: General view of application area from SLK 10.24 facing south

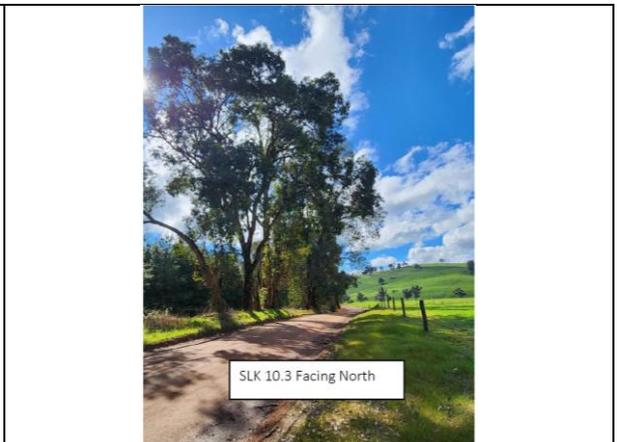


Figure 7: General view of application area from SLK 10.3 facing north

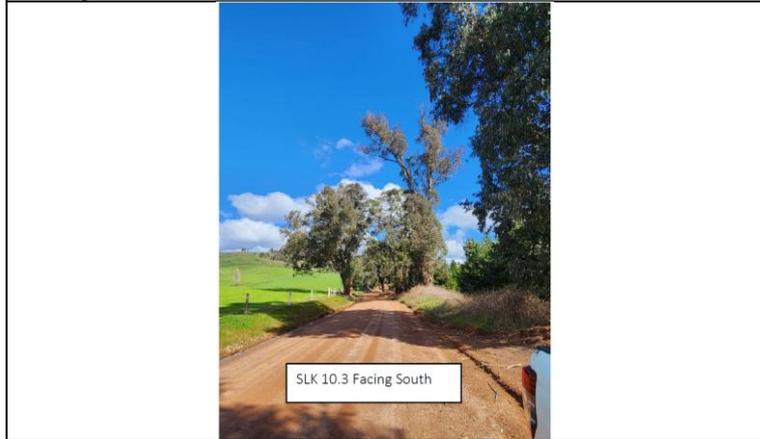


Figure 8: General view of application area from SLK 10.3 facing south

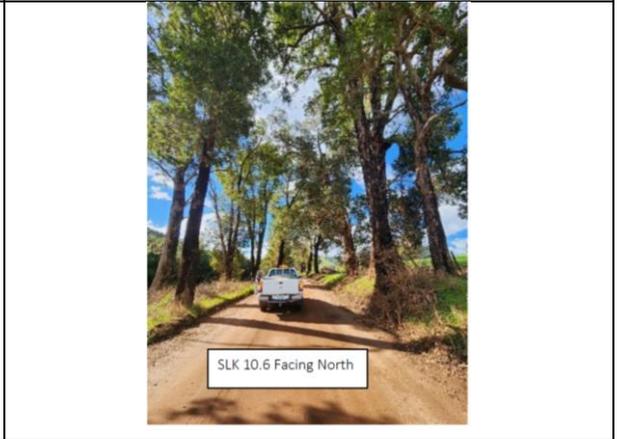


Figure 9: General view of application area from SLK 10.6 facing north

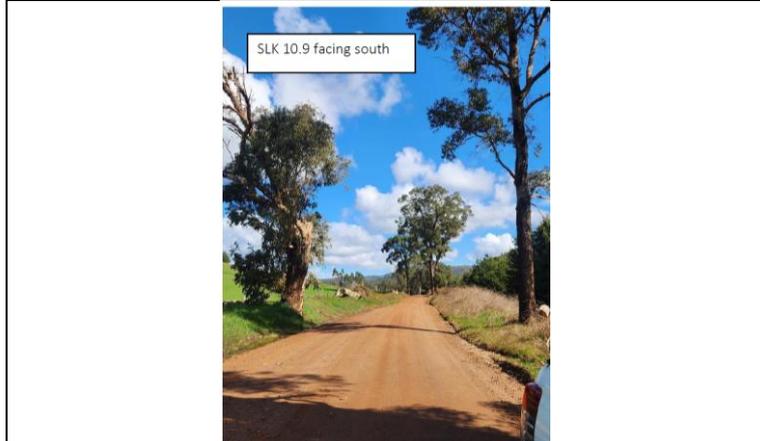


Figure 10: General view of application area from SLK 10.9 facing south

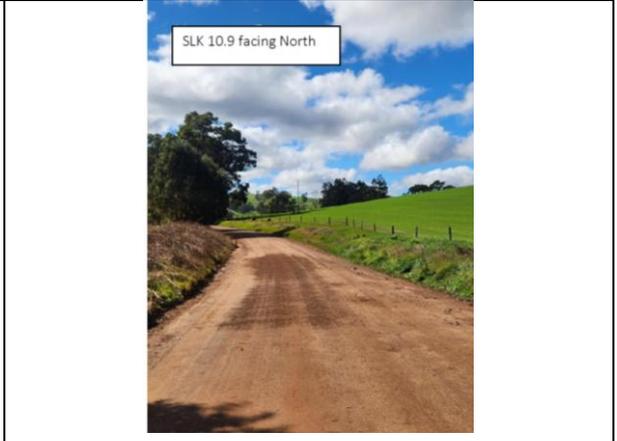


Figure 11: General view of application area from SLK 10.9 facing north



SLK 11.25 facing north

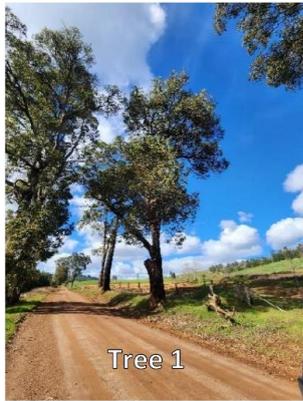


SLK 11.3 Looking South

Figure 12: General view of application area from SLK 11.25 facing north

Figure 13: General view of application area from SLK 11.3 facing south

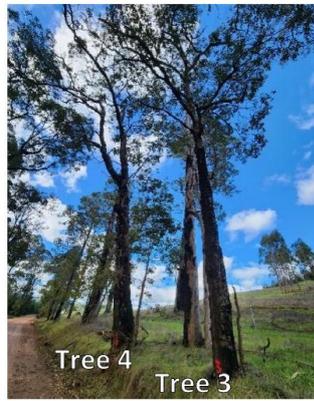
**Appendix 1: Photos of 20 Trees for potential clearing activity, taken August 2025**



Tree 1



Tree 2



Tree 4  
Tree 3



Tree 5



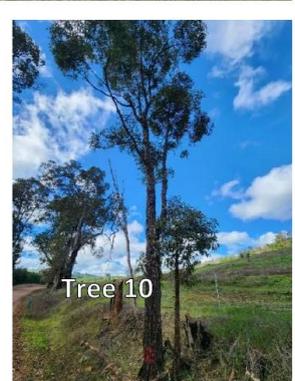
Tree 7  
Tree 6



Tree 8



Tree 9



Tree 10

Figures 14-20: Individual photos of trees proposed to be cleared (trees 1 – 10)



Figures 21-28: Individual photos of trees proposed to be cleared (trees 11-18)



Figures 29 and 30: Individual photos of trees proposed to be cleared (trees 19 and 20)

## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- 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)

## F.2. References

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