

Environment Survey

Proposed Emergency Access Way (EAW)

Marshwood Place, Lot 11099 and Lot 12394 Lance St, Sawyers Valley

Project Overview

In 2022, fire mitigation works were carried out in Alp Street Reserve to the north of Marshwood Road. The works were made possible through Mitigation Activity Funding (MAF). As part of the works the community improvements to emergency exist routes for properties on Marshwood Place and Malabar Road.

Two options were investigated for the emergency exit:

Option 1 – Western Route: This option proposed using the existing Right of Way (ROW) through Alps Street Reserve. However, it was deemed unviable due to safety concerns during an emergency. Additionally, Alps Street Reserve is one of the Shire's top 10 conservation reserves, and constructing a 6-metre firebreak through this Class "A" reserve was not considered environmentally appropriate.

Option 2 – Eastern Route: The preferred option involves exiting via the ROW and through the Landgate reserve to the east. Community engagement on this proposal has shown strong support. The Shire is currently in discussions with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to establish an easement over sections not under the Shire's management authority.

The Shire has secured \$20,500 in MAF funding for the works, which must be acquitted by 30 June 2026. The design is expected to be finalised by mid-September, with construction planned to begin by the end of September, subject to all necessary permits in place.

This location is identified in the Shire's Bushfire Area Access Strategy and is ranked 15th out of 344 roads with poor emergency egress, placing it in the "extreme" risk category. The Shire is committed to improving the top 20 high-risk roads each financial year.

Photos – Clearing Area A (Managing Authority - Shire of Mundaring)

Vegetation within Area A: There is a mix of canopy of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah), *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri), *Allocasuarina fraseriana* (Sheoak), *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia) along with a diverse understorey (including *Bossiaea* sp, *Banksia dallanneyi*, native grasses and sedges) and midstory (mainly *Xanthorrhoea preissii* and *X. gracillis*). Several significant / habitat trees are within the area proposed to be cleared. Details and pictures recorded below.



Photo 1: *Allocasuarina fraseriana* (Sheoak), bifurcated, in average condition with some decline noted in the canopy. No hollows visible with a diameter at breast height over 100cm. This tree is in the middle of the EAW.

Photo 2: Another view of the Sheoak. Surveyed pegs (seen in the background) indicate the boundary of the EAW. All options were explored to consider retaining the tree however due to the location, removal is considered unavoidable.



Photo 3 (above): Vegetation in the southern section of the Shire ROW. There is a mix of canopy of *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah), *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri), *Allocasuarina fraseriana* (Sheoak), *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia) along with a diverse understorey (including *Bossiaea* sp, *Banksia dallanneyi*, native grasses and sedges) and midstory (mainly *Xanthorrhoea preissii* and *X. gracillis*).

The existing track currently meanders through both private property and the Shire reserve. The area has been surveyed and the project aims to create an Emergency Access Way (EAW) within the Shire road reserve for fire access, while working with private property owners to establish fire breaks within their boundaries.

Photo 4 (above right): EAW impacts vegetation as seen in the right of photo 2. The cleared area shown (existing track) is on private property.

Photos – Clearing Area B (Managing Authority - Shire of Mundaring)

Vegetation within Area B: Several significant trees being *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) and *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) that are within the EAW, proposed to be removed. Removal in this section is tree removal only.



Photo 5 (left): Two (2) *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) in the EAW. Diameter at breast height (DBH) measurements of approximately 10cm and 30cm. No hollows in either tree.

Photos 6 and 7 (above right): *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) within the EAW. Average condition, showing decline in the canopy. DBH of approximate 80cm. No hollows are visible.



Photo 8 and 9: *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) tree with a DBH of approximately 60cm. It is on the edge of the EAW and all efforts will be made to retain this tree.

Photos – Clearing Area C (Managing Authority - Shire of Mundaring)

Vegetation within Area C: Several significant trees mainly *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) and *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) species. Midstorey of *Banksia grandis* (Bull Banksia) along with a diverse understorey.



Photos 9 and 10: Two (2) *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) trees in the EAW. Both are in poor condition, with a declining canopy. Both with a DBH that measures approximately 90cm. No hollows visible. Nearby *Banksia grandis* was observed to be in decline or already dead. Phytophthora dieback may be present.

Recommend the following actions are in place prior to construction:

- Prepare a Dieback Management Plan outlining hygiene measures to prevent the spread of dieback
- Prior to construction, the Shire's Tree Supervisor to inspect habitat and significant trees to ensure no hollows or fauna are present.
- Any viable hollows placed in nearby bushland for ground dwelling animals.

Photo 11: Another view of the vegetation within area C.



Photo 12 and 13: Three (3) trees within the EAW. Left to right – *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) 20cm DBH, *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) 60cm DBH and *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) 80cm DBH. No hollows visible.

View of the tops of the tree shows they have been heavily pruned in the past.

Trees are in the middle of the EAW and removal is unavoidable.



Photo 14: *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) trees near the northern edge of Area C. Efforts will be made to retain this tree as it is on the edge of the EAW boundary.

Photos – Clearing Area D (Managing Authority - Landgate)

Vegetation within Area D: Several significant trees mainly *Corymbia calophylla* (Marri) and *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) species. Midstorey of *Xanthorrhoea* species, along with a diverse understorey.



Photo 15 (above left): Several grass trees along the edge of the existing track. Efforts will be made to retain where possible and the EAW has been designed for least impact. However, there are several that will be removed for the proposed works

Photo 16 (above right): Alternative view of the grass trees.



Photo 17: View of the existing track that the EAW will be constructed through. Trees can be retained in this location as seen above, however, some pruning of lower hanging branches is expected.



Photo 18: *Eucalyptus marginata* (Jarrah) trees that can be retained.

Photo 19 (above right): *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Grass trees) in the road reserve. Alignment of the EAW has been designed to retain as many grass trees as possible. However, there will be instances where this is unavoidable.

Recommend the following actions are in place prior to construction:

- Grass Trees Australia is contacted to investigate if it is viable to relocate the grass trees that will be removed for the proposed works.
- Prior to works it is recommended that grass trees are visually inspected for any nests and signs of Quenda activity (i.e. under the skirts).
- Works proceed in a single direction to allow fauna the opportunity to move away from machinery.



Photo 20 (above left): Cluster of grass trees that will be retained, as road will curve around to avoid them.

Photo 21: large tree as seen in the photo (left hand side) can be retained as road alignment can be constructed to avoid this tree. Marri tree 1100 DBH



Photo 22 (above right): Recent branch failure has occurred in this tree, creating a potential hollow at the fracture point. Removal is likely, as the road alignment is designed to avoid another significant tree. Shire's Tree Supervisor to inspect the hollow prior to work, to ensure no hollows or fauna present.



Photo 23 (above left): Shire's Tree Supervisor to assess the structure and health of the habitat tree. Efforts made to retain this tree if considered structurally sound. Jarrah DBH over 200cm

Photo 24 and 25: Tree to be removed. Hollow is currently occupied by European bees. Tree is not structurally sound. Bees at top and severe termite activity from the base to the top. Photo 25 shows the base of the tree and termite activity.



Photo 26 (above right): The EAW will follow the already constructed track and has been designed to retain and reduce overall impact to surrounding vegetation. There is potential for offset planting to the left; however, any planting must have trees spaced at 20-metre intervals and set back sufficiently from the EAW to ensure they are not impacting the road at maturity.

Photos – Clearing Area E (Managing Authority - Landgate)

Vegetation within Area E: Planted Eucalyptus species with a midstorey of *Calothamnus rupestris* (Mouse Ears) and weeds including Tagasaste and weedy grasses in the understorey.



Photo 27 and 28: Planted vegetation with evidence of past pruning. Many specimens are in poor condition. The midsection is dominated by *Calothamnus rupestris* (Mouse Ears) likely planted as part of the Shire Tree Canopy and Understorey Program.

Photo 29 (above right): The EAW will provide connection to Jamroz Court, and linkage through to Lion Street. Vegetation is mainly weedy with tagasaste and weedy grasses and a few planted natives.