



## CLEARING PERMIT

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

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 7523/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Shire of Cuballing
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	16 December 2017 – 16 December 2022

The Permit Holder is authorised to clear native vegetation subject to the following conditions of this Permit.

### PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

**1. Purpose for which clearing may be done**

Clearing for the purpose of road upgrades and road safety.

**2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Stratherne Road reserve (PIN 11523624), Commodine

**3. Area of Clearing**

The Permit Holder must not clear more than 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within the area shaded yellow on attached Plan 7523/1a.

**4. Application**

This Permit allows the Permit Holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the Permit Holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this Permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this Permit and approval from the Permit Holder.

**5. Type of clearing authorised**

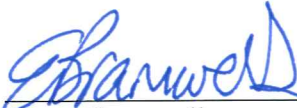
This Permit authorises the Permit Holder to clear native vegetation for the activities described in condition 1 of this Permit to the extent that the Permit Holder has the power to carry out works involving clearing for those activities under the *Local Government Act 1995* or any other written law.

### PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

**6. Offset – Lot 434 on Deposited Plan 84296 (being Crown Reserve 2556)**

- (a) By 16 June 2018, the Permit Holder shall provide to the CEO a copy of the executed change in purpose of the area cross-hatched red on attached Plan 7523/1b within Lot 434 on Deposited Plan 84296 (being Crown Reserve 2556) from 'Gravel' to 'Conservation'.
- (b) In the event that the change in purpose of Lot 434 on Deposited Plan 84296 (being Crown Reserve 2556) is not achieved in accordance with condition 6(a):
  - (i) submit a new offset proposal for the CEO's approval by 16 September 2018; and

- (ii) in preparing an offset proposal in accordance with condition 6(b)(i), the Permit Holder must comply with the principles in the Government of Western Australia's *WA Environmental Offsets Policy* (September 2011) and have regard to the *WA Environmental Offsets Guidelines* (August 2014).



Emma Bramwell  
A/ MANAGER  
CLEARING REGULATION



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

15 November 2017

# Plan 7523/1a



## Legend

-  Clearing Instruments Proposal
  -  LGA
  -  Cadastre
  -  Roads
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994  
1:5,486

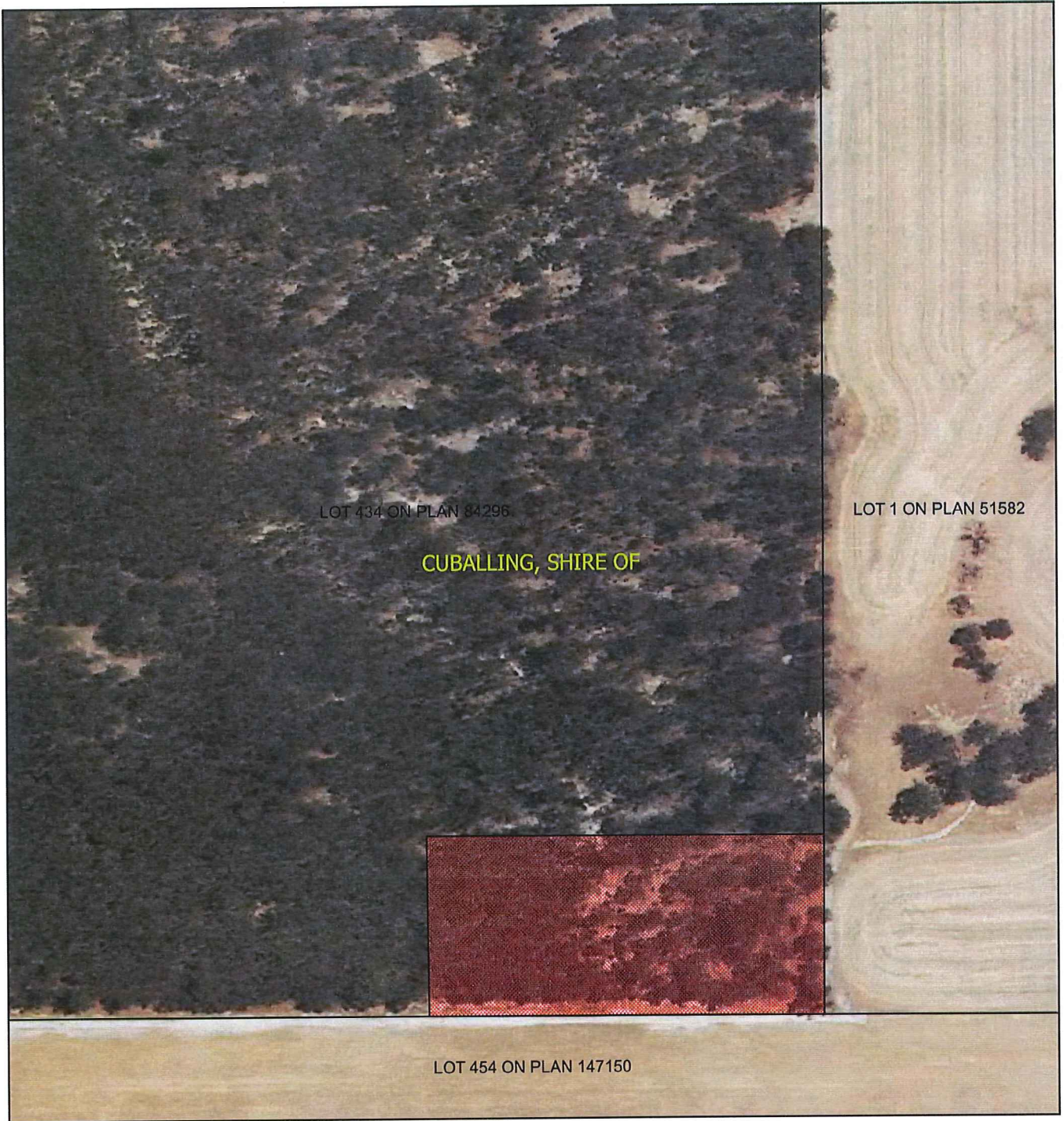
*E. Bramwell* Date 15/11/17  
**E. BRAMWELL**

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





# Plan 7523/1b



## Legend

-  Clearing Instruments Conditions
  -  LGA
  -  Cadastre
- Virtual Mosaic (LGATE-V001)
- ^v



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

1:1,400

*E Bramwell* Date 15/11/17  
**E BRAMWELL**

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







## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 7523/1  
Permit type: Purpose Permit

### 1.2. Applicant details

Applicant's name: Shire of Cuballing

### 1.3. Property details

Property: ROAD RESERVE - 11523624, COMMODINE  
Colloquial name: Stratherne Road  
Local Government Authority: SHIRE OF CUBALLING  
DWER Region: Greater Swan  
DBCA District: GREAT SOUTHERN  
LCDC: East Yornaning  
Localities: YORNANING and COMMODINE

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
0.4		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or upgrades

### 1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant  
Decision Date: 15 November 2017  
Reasons for Decision: The clearing permit application was received on 16 March 2017 and has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. It has been concluded that the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (e), may be at variance to clearing principle (h), and is not likely to be at variance to the remaining clearing principles.

The Delegated Officer determined that the application area is a significant remnant within an extensively cleared area as it contributes to landscape connectivity and fauna dispersal between bushland remnants in the local area, and that the proposed clearing will impact on a mapped vegetation association that retains approximately 11 per cent of its pre-European extent within the Avon Wheatbelt bioregion. The Delegated Officer had regard for the purpose of the proposed clearing in the decision to grant a clearing permit subject to offsets.

## 2. Site Information

**Vegetation Description** The application area is mapped as: Beard vegetation association 1023, described as Medium woodland; York gum (*Eucalyptus loxophleba*), wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*) and salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) (Shepherd et al., 2001).

**Clearing Description** The application is for the clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within Stratherne Road reserve (PIN 11523624), Commodine, for the purpose of road upgrades and road safety.

**Vegetation Condition** Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery, 1994).  
To  
Completely Degraded: no longer intact, completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

**Comment** The condition and description of the vegetation within the application area was determined by a site inspection undertaken by officers of the former Department of Environment Regulation (DER site inspection) on 17 May 2017 (DER, 2017).

## 3. Avoidance and minimisation measures

The applicant advised that in developing this project the following avoidance and minimisation measures were applied:

- preserving habitat by minimising the transfer of weed seeds within and outside of the project area, and retaining any significant habitat trees wherever possible;
- marking any significant trees that may be saved (prior to clearing);
- retaining any suitable hollow/habitat logs for transferring to the rehabilitation site; and
- if possible the mulching of all remaining vegetation and leave biomass on the backslopes as a mulch.

#### 4. Assessment of application against clearing principles

##### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

###### Proposed clearing not likely to be at variance to this Principle

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within the Stratherne Road reserve (PIN 11523624), Commodine, for the purpose of road upgrades and road safety. The applicant proposes to clear up to two metres to the top of the backslope along both sides of the road, to facilitate widening of the sealed surface and improved drainage.

The local area considered in the assessment of this application is a 10 kilometre radius surrounding the application area. The local area retains approximately 17 per cent (5,739 hectares) vegetation cover.

The DER site inspection determined that the vegetation within the application area ranged from very good to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, with the majority in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2017). Approximately 0.1 hectares of native vegetation within the application area is in a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition, 0.21 hectares is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, and 0.09 hectares is in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The vegetation within the application area consists of mainly wandoo, with scattered *Allocasuarina* and *Acacia* species; most of the understorey was in a completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition dominated by grassy weeds with the occasional *Hibbertia* species (DER, 2017). A small portion of native vegetation at the northern end of the application area near Fairheads Road consists of *Allocasuarina* species thicket with occasional *Eucalyptus* and *Santalum* species over an understorey of primarily leaf litter, *Lepidosperma* species and grassy weeds, and is in a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2017).

As discussed under Principle (b), four conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the local area (DBCA, 2007-). The application area may contain significant habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*). The application area may function as an ecological linkage between areas of remnant vegetation in an extensively cleared landscape.

According to available databases, two rare and seven Priority (P) flora species have been recorded within the local area (DBCA, 2007-). The nearest record of Priority flora is *Eucalyptus loxophleba x wandoo* (P4), located approximately 5.5 kilometres east of the application area. This species favours sandy clay or loam soils (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Noting the sandy soils present, this species is not likely to occur within the application area. Noting the condition of the understorey vegetation within the application area, the application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for conservation significant flora. Rare flora are discussed further under Principle (c).

As discussed under Principle (d), two occurrences of the Commonwealth-listed 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' (Wheatbelt Woodlands) threatened ecological community (TEC) intersect the application area. A site inspection identified that the vegetation within the application area is not consistent with this TEC (DER, 2017).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

###### References:

DBCA (2007-)

DER (2017)

Keighery (1994)

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-)

###### GIS Databases:

SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 2017)

##### (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 indigenous to Western Australia.

###### Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle

According to available databases, four species of conservation significance have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometres) (DBCA, 2007-). These are Carnaby's cockatoo and numbat (*Myrmecobius fasciatus*), both classified as rare or likely to become extinct under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*, rainbow bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) listed as protected under international agreement, and red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) listed as other specially protected fauna under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

Carnaby's cockatoo listed as endangered under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests or in isolated trees (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). These species nest in hollows in live or dead trees of wandoo, York gum, salmon gum, *Eucalyptus accedens* (powder bark), *Corymbia calophylla* (marri), *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah), *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum), *Eucalyptus megacarpa* (bullich), *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart), *Eucalyptus diversicolor* (karri) and *Eucalyptus* sp. (blackbutt) (Commonwealth of Australia, 2012). Two large mature trees containing hollows were observed within the application area, however the hollows were not of a suitable size to provide breeding habitat for this species (DER, 2017).

The preferred habitat of the red-tailed phascogale is *Allocasuarina* woodlands with hollow-bearing eucalypts. The application area includes *Allocasuarina* species (DER, 2017). Noting this, the application area may contain suitable habitat for the red-tailed phascogale.

No hollow horizontal logs, heavy leaf litter, or rocky crevices were observed within the application area (DER, 2017). Given this, the application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for the numbat.

The rainbow bee-eater is known to occur in numerous habitats including open forests and woodlands, shrublands, in cleared or semi-cleared habitats such as areas of human habitation and farmland. It prefers open, cleared or lightly-timbered areas that are often, but not always in close proximity to permanent water (Department of the Environment and Energy, 2017). The application area may contain suitable habitat for the rainbow bee-eater, however noting the mobile nature of this species, the application area is not likely to comprise significant habitat for this species.

There are several remnant patches of native vegetation remaining within the local area. Noting the position of the application area in relation to these patches, the application area provides and contributes to ecological linkages and landscape connectivity, and contributes to fauna dispersal between larger isolated bushland fragments in an extensively cleared landscape. The proposed clearing is likely to impact on the functionality of this linkage. On this basis, the application area may comprise significant habitat for indigenous fauna.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

References:

Commonwealth of Australia (2012)  
DBCA (2007-)  
DER (2017)  
Department of the Environment and Energy (2017)

GIS Databases:

SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 2017)

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

According to available databases, two rare flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (DBCA, 2007-). These rare flora species are referred to below as species (a) and species (b).

The former Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) advised that the closest known record of rare flora is species (a) located approximately six kilometres east of the application area. This species is a spindly shrub, 0.6 to 1.2 metres high with yellow-cream flowers which flowers in late winter (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). This species is known to occur on exposed lateritic breakaways and lateritic soils, in shallow sandy clay supporting open low wandoos and *Allocasuarina huegeliana* woodland over open scrub of *Banksia nobilis*, *Banksia sessilis*, *Gastrolobium* species and sedges (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). This species is known from two populations, both of which are in decline due to loss of quality of habitat, seasonal conditions, kangaroo activity and fire regimes, and has therefore been listed as 'critically endangered' (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). Parks and Wildlife advised that given the conservation status of this species, any new population would be considered significant for the continued survival of this species (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). Suitable habitat for this species may occur within the application area, however no evidence of this rare flora species was observed within the application area (DER, 2017). Noting this, the application area is not likely to include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, species (a).

Species (b) is an erect or straggling, non-lignotuberous shrub, 0.3 to 1.5 metres high, that occurs within gravelly loamy soils (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). This species is known from three populations that all occur within the Cuballing area, with the closest population recorded approximately 6.5 kilometres from the application area (Parks and Wildlife, 2017). Suitable habitat for this species may occur within the application area, however no evidence of this rare flora species was observed within the application area (DER, 2017). Noting this, the application area is not likely to include, or be necessary for the continued existence of, species (b).

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

References:

DBCA (2007-)  
DER (2017)  
Parks and Wildlife (2017)

GIS Databases:

SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 2017)

**(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.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

According to available databases, two occurrences of the Wheatbelt Woodlands TEC intersect the application area. These occurrences coincide with the two remnant patches of native vegetation that adjoin the northern and central portions of the application area.

As discussed under Principle (a), a small portion of native vegetation at the northern end of the application area near Fairheads Road consists of *Allocasuarina* species thicket with occasional *Eucalyptus* and *Santalum* species over an understorey of primarily leaf litter, *Lepidosperma* species and grassy weeds, and is in a very good (Keighery, 1994) condition, and the majority of the remainder of the application area is in a degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition (DER, 2017).

The 'Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) Approved Conservation Advice (including listing advice) for the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt' for this TEC states that these woodlands are dominated by a complex mosaic of eucalypt species with a tree or mallet form over an understorey that is highly variable in structure and composition (Threatened Species Scientific Community, 2015). Noting the vegetation type and condition outlined above, it is considered that the vegetation within the application area does not meet the criteria outlined in the Approved Conservation Advice for this TEC, and is therefore not considered to be a representative of this TEC.

Given the above, the application area is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

References:

- DER (2017)
- Keighery (1994)
- Threatened Species Scientific Community (2015)

GIS Databases:

SAC Bio Datasets (Accessed July 2017)

**(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.**

**Proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle**

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

In assessing the risk of further loss and subsequent cumulative effects, consideration has been given to the extent of native vegetation remaining and what is currently managed as conservation estate:

- as indicated in Table 1, the current vegetation extents for the bioregion, Shire of Cuballing and mapped Beard vegetation association within the bioregion are all below the 30 per cent representation threshold;
- as indicated in Table 1, less than two per cent of the pre-European extent of the mapped Beard vegetation association within the bioregion is contained in conservation estate; and
- the local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 17 per cent (5,739 hectares) pre-European native vegetation cover, and the proposed clearing will reduce this to approximately 16.9 per cent.

Noting the above, the application area is considered to be within an extensively cleared area.

As discussed under Principle (b), the application area may contain suitable habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo and red-tailed phascogale, is likely to function as an ecological linkage between areas of remnant vegetation in the local area and portions of the application area containing native vegetation in good (Keighery, 1994) or better condition may provide refuges for fauna moving through the landscape. On this basis, and noting the extent of vegetation cover in the local area, the application area is considered to be a significant remnant.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is at variance to this Principle.

**Table 1: Vegetation representation statistics**

	Pre-European (ha)	Current Extent (ha)	Remaining (%)	Current Extent in DBCA Managed Lands	
				(ha)	(%)
<b>IBRA Bioregion*</b>					
Avon Wheatbelt	9,517,110	1,763,071	18.5	173,880	9.8
<b>Local government*</b>					
Shire of Cuballing	119,533	26,512	22.2	9,461	35.7
<b>Beard vegetation association in Bioregion*</b>					
1023	1,522,676	165,822	10.9	17,236	10.4

References:

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001)
- \*Government of Western Australia (2016)
- Keighery (1994)

GIS Databases:

NLWRA, Current Extent of Native Vegetation

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

According to available databases, no watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area. The closest hydrological feature is the Hotham River mapped approximately 300 metres south west of the application area. The DER site inspection did not record the presence of riparian vegetation within the application area (DER, 2017).

On this basis, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on native vegetation growing in association with a watercourse.



Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

References:  
DER (2017)

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear  
Hydrography, hierarchy

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The soils within the application area have been mapped by the former Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) as the following:

- Norrine Subsystem (Dryandra) which consists of a complex of lateritic residuals and associated pediment; gravely sand, sand, duplex yellow soils and duricrust;
- Noombling Subsystem (Dryandra) described as long gentle and undulating hillslopes and divides. Colluvium / weathered granite, gneiss and some dolerite; yellow/brown and grey deep sandy duplexes, brown deep loamy duplexes, sandy gravels and shallow duplexes; marri-wandoo/jam-sheoak (majority of the application area); and
- Popanyinning Subsystem (Pumphreys) described as broad valley floor; yellow duplex soils and a narrow lower sandy terrace, spodic sand dunes (Schoknecht et al., 2004).

The DER site inspection observed lateritic mesas and buttes on the shallow ridge at the northern end of the application area near Fairheads Road (DER, 2017). The soils within the remainder of the application area were identified as grey sandy soils (DER, 2017).

DAFWA mapped 10 to 30 per cent of the mapped soil units within the application area as having a high to extreme risk of wind erosion. Noting the presence of sandy soils within the application area, the proposed clearing may result in wind erosion. However noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the linear shape of the application area and its location within the existing maintenance zone of a road, and the porous nature of the soils within the application area, the impacts are not likely to be appreciable.

The application area is situated on sloping land that slopes towards the Hotham River mapped approximately 300 metres south west of the site. Groundwater salinity within the application area has been mapped as saline at between 7,000-14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids. Noting the distance from the application to the watercourse, the permeable soil type within the application area, and linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to result in appreciable land degradation in the forms of waterlogging, water erosion or salinity.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

References:  
DER (2017)  
Schoknecht et al. (2004)

GIS Databases:  
Soils, Statewide  
Groundwater salinity  
Land Degradation datasets

**(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.**

**Proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle**

According to available databases, three A class conservation areas vested with the Conservation Commission of WA have been mapped within the local areas which include the Yornaning Nature Reserve, Commodine Nature Reserve and Montague State Forest mapped approximately 6.5 kilometres west, eight kilometres south east and eight kilometres south west of the application area.

As discussed under Principles (b) and (e), the application area functions as an ecological linkage between areas of remnant vegetation in the landscape. Given the extent of vegetation cover remaining in the local area, the application area may contribute towards fauna dispersal between these conservation areas, and the proposed clearing may therefore impact on the environmental values of these areas.

Given the above, the proposed clearing may be at variance to this Principle.

GIS Databases:  
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Tenure

**(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.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

As discussed under Principle (f), no watercourses or wetlands are mapped within the application area.

Noting the extent of the proposed clearing, the linear shape of the application area, and the porous nature of the soils within the application area, and that existing culverts are likely to be in place to manage water flow, any impacts to surface water quality as a result of the proposed clearing are likely to be short term and minimal.

Groundwater salinity mapped within the application area is between 7,000-14,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids (saline). Noting the extent of the proposed clearing and the linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the quality of underground water.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear  
Groundwater salinity

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

Noting the absence of watercourses or wetlands within the application area, the extent of the proposed clearing and the linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause or exacerbate flooding.

Given the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to be at variance to this Principle.

GIS Databases:  
Hydrography, linear  
Hydrography, hierarchy  
Topographic contours

**Planning instruments and other relevant matters.**

The application is for the proposed clearing of 0.4 hectares of native vegetation within Stratherne Road reserve for the purpose of road upgrades and road safety. The applicant proposes to clear up to two metres to the top of the backslope along both sides of the road,, to facilitate widening of the sealed surface and improved drainage.

The cumulative impacts to the extensively cleared Beard vegetation association mapped within the application area have been considered during the assessment of this application.

The application was advertised in *The West Australian* newspaper on 4 April 2017 for a 21-day submission period. One submission has been received from the public regarding the application, providing recommendations to the applicant in respect to environmentally sustainable methods for road design and upgrades in order to avoid/minimise the impacts of clearing roadside vegetation (Submission, 2017). The Delegated Officer has had regard for this submission in the assessment of the application.

There are no Aboriginal Sites of Significance mapped within the application area.

References:  
Submission (2017)

GIS Databases:  
Aboriginal Sites of Significance

**5. Applicant's submission**

On 23 August 2017, a Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Delegated Officer wrote to the applicant, outlining the environmental impacts identified during the assessment of the application, and inviting the applicant to provide advice on how the impacts would be avoided or minimised, and how any unavoidable impacts would be offset (DWER ref. A1510729).

In response to the Delegated Officer's letter, the applicant provided advice of measures undertaken to avoid and minimise impacts, and an offset proposal (DWER ref. A1521930). The avoidance and minimisation measures are discussed in Section 3 of this report, and the offset proposal is discussed in Section 6 of this report.

On 17 October 2017, DWER officers met with the applicant on-site to discuss the proposed clearing and the proposed offset. During the meeting, the applicant advised that the proposed clearing would impact a number of mature trees growing within the maintenance zone and up to the top of the backslope on both sides of the existing road. In relation to the offset proposal, DWER officers advised that some form of conservation tenure (such as a conservation covenant or change of vested purpose) would be required over the proposed revegetation.

Following the meeting with DWER officers, the applicant submitted a revised offset proposal (DWER ref. A1544948).

On 23 October 2017, a DWER Delegated Officer wrote to the applicant, requesting (among other things) confirmation of the extent of the proposed offset site that would be attributed as an offset for this application, and a copy of written support from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) for the proposed change in purpose (DWER ref. A1545567).

In response to the Delegated Officer's letter, the applicant provided a copy of correspondence from DPLH advising in-principle support for the proposed change in purpose of Crown Reserve 2556 to 'Conservation' subject to the necessary statutory referrals to relevant agencies (DWER ref. A1550485). The applicant also confirmed the combined extent of a broader offset proposal for this and two other applications (CPS 7524/1 and CPS 7678/1), indicating that 0.74 hectares of the proposed offset site would be attributed as an offset for this application (DWER ref. A1555477).

## 6. Suitability of proposed offset

The assessment against the clearing principles has identified that the proposed clearing is at variance to clearing principle (e). After consideration of the applicant's proposed avoidance and mitigation measures, it is considered that the significant residual impact of the proposed clearing is the loss of 0.4 hectares of an extensively cleared vegetation association.

To counterbalance the significant residual impact associated with this application, the applicant submitted an offset proposal to revegetate approximately 1.584 hectares of exhausted gravel resource areas within 'Parsons Pit' Crown Reserve 19021 (being Lot 3575 on Plan 111952), of which approximately one third would be attributed as an offset for the significant residual impact associated with this application. Crown Reserve 19021 is currently vested for the purpose of 'Gravel', and contains active gravel extraction operations.

Following a meeting with DWER officers on 17 October 2017, the applicant submitted a revised offset proposal to change the purpose of Crown Reserve 2556 (being Lot 434 on Plan 84296), currently vested for the purpose of 'Gravel', to the purpose of 'Conservation'. Crown Reserve 2556 is approximately 40 hectares in area, and is mapped as Beard vegetation association 1023, consistent with the extensively cleared vegetation association the subject of this application, and as the Wheatbelt Woodlands TEC.

In assessing whether the proposed offset is adequately proportionate to the significance of the environmental values being impacted, DWER undertook a calculation using the Commonwealth *Offsets Assessment Guide*. The calculation indicated that an area of approximately 0.74 hectares is required to counterbalance the loss of 0.4 hectares of an extensively cleared vegetation association. The applicant agreed with DWER's offset calculation.

Given the above, it is considered that a 0.74 hectare portion of Crown Reserve 2556 with the proposed purpose of 'Conservation' is adequate to counterbalance the significant residual impact of the proposed clearing consistent with the *Western Australian Environmental Offsets Policy* (September 2011).

## 7. References

- Commonwealth of Australia (2001) National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005, Canberra.
- Commonwealth of Australia (2012) EPBC Act referral guidelines for three threatened black cockatoo species, Canberra.
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2007-) NatureMap: Mapping Western Australia's Biodiversity. Department of Environment and Conservation. URL: <http://naturemap.dec.wa.gov.au/>. Accessed 04/07/2017
- Department of Parks and Wildlife (Parks and Wildlife) (2017) Flora and regional advice received in relation to clearing permit application CPS 7523/1, received 13 June 2017. Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1466653).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2017) Site Inspection Report for CPS 7523/1. Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (DER Ref: A1444893).
- Department of the Environment and Energy (2017) Merops ornatus in Species Profile and Threats Database, Department of the Environment, Canberra
- Government of Western Australia (2016). 2016 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of October 2016. WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, Perth.
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