

VEGETATION SURVEY BAANDEE NORTH RD.



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**FOLLOW UP NOTES FOR DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY,
CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS.**

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FOLLOW UP NOTES TO BAANDEE NORTH ROAD, KELLERBERRIN FLORA SURVEY.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has requested follow up information on three sections of the previous flora survey conducted on Baandee North Road in the Shire of Kellerberrin.

TIMING OF PREVIOUS VISITS.

Three visits to site were performed during the survey.

The first visit to the site was on 24th October 2018. This was a targeted survey looking for any rare or priority flora. Further, vegetation types were described, as 22 separate sections along the survey area of Baandee North Road, Kellerberrin. The sections were described and scored in a way which would assist assessors in determining their status as Wheatbelt Woodlands, as determined by the Federal Department of Water and Environment. The list was outlined in the report. During this first survey the P2 taxon *Aluta aspera* ssp *localis* was found in flower, samples picked and sent to the DPAW Herbarium. At this stage we were unaware of its, status.

The second visit was on 7th November 2018 after confirmation of its' status. Further samples were picked, as it was still flowering, to be sent to the Herbarium for confirmation. I was able to determine, roughly, that there were numerous plants (approx. 100 plus) within the coordinates: S31°26.731', E117°58.562'. and S31°26.831', E117°58.676'. The occurrence was on both sides of the road and extended to the edge of the road reserve, which is 20 metres either side of the constructed road width. No survey has been undertaken on the 30 hectares of similar bushland remnant, existing on private land either side of the road.

The third visit was on 14th January for the express purpose of collecting seed from the plants. Mike Hislop from the WA Herbarium informed me that they had no seed of the *Aluta* species and would be very grateful for a sample for their collection of rare plant seed. A small sample of seed was duly collected, cleaned and delivered to the WA Herbarium.

DETAILED FLORA DESCRIPTIONS FOR VEGETATION TYPE SECTIONS 2, 11, 15.

VT SECTION 2:

VT2: GOOD

Veg Type	Overstorey canopy %	Midstorey canopy %	Understorey canopy %	Senesced %	Weed cover %	Mallet density
VT2	40	20	20	80	60	20/ha

An amendment to section VT2 should be made to change *Eucalyptus capillosa* to *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* as the dominant Eucalypt. This was a misread of notes, but all other information is correct in the report. Species which occur on this section in association with it

are: *Maireana brevifolia*, *Enchylaena tomentosa*, *Acacia acuminata*, *Sclerolaena diacantha*, *Lepidosperma* sp, *Dianella revoluta*, *Acacia hemetiles*, *Austrostipa scabra*, *Atriplex nummularia*, *Melaleuca pauperiflora*.

All secondary species are sparse and appear more to the northern than the southern end. Extensive maintenance has been carried out around the culvert, which services a creek line running across the road, and around this area there are few plants. The vegetation, including *E. salmonophloia*, extends both sides of the road into farmland following the creek.

VT SECTION 11:

VT11: GOOD

Veg Type	Overstorey canopy %	Midstorey canopy %	Understorey canopy %	Senesced %	Weed cover %	Mallet density
VT10	90	20	10	10	10	50/ha

Sections 9 through 11 are very similar ecosystems, but with the added complexity of having *Eucalyptus capillosa* (tree form) and *Eucalyptus capillosa* ssp *polyclada* (mallee form) and *E. salubris* interspersed. Splitting the area into 3 sections was a way to delineate where the tree form of *E. capillosa* and *E. salubris* were present and where it wasn't, as it impinged on the classification of Federal Wheatbelt Woodlands EPBC legislation.

VT 9 was very mallee dominant, with little or no mallets. VT 10 saw the introduction of *Eucalyptus salubris* to the mix with associated *Eucalyptus erythronema*. This section was scored similarly to VT11, which was delineated by the change from *E. salubris* to *E. capillosa* as the dominant mallet. Other Eucalypts making up the overstorey in VT11 are *E. sheathiana* and *E. yilgarnensis* with the odd *E. kochii* ssp *plenissima*. In essence the distinction between VT 10 and VT 11 are the dominant overstorey mallet Eucalypts.

Secondary species are *Westringia cephalantha* var *cephalantha*, *Astralaria serratifolium*, *Allocasuarina acutivalvis*, *Baeckea muricata*, *Lepidosperma* sp., *Melaleuca uncinata*, *Acacia acuminata*.

Weed cover is light as is any ground cover apart from *Austrostipa scabra* and *Waitzia acuminata*. The density of Eucalypt overstorey species is such as to inhibit any meaningful ground cover or secondary storey.

VT SECTION 15:

VT15: GOOD

Veg Type	Overstorey canopy %	Midstorey canopy %	Understorey canopy %	Senesced %	Weed cover %	Mallet density
VT15	20	40	50	40	80	0

This section is not a coherent vegetation type, in that it has a bit of everything. Not enough mallet to form a patch under Federal legislation, but a few very large *E. capillosa*. Other Eucalypts in the section are *E. rigidula*, *E. horistes* and *E. loxophleba* ssp *lissophloia*, which are scattered among previously disturbed areas and sporadic patches of secondary storey species. The second storey consists of *Allocasuarina acutivalvis*, *Santalum acuminata*, *Alyxia buxifolia*, *Acacia hemetiles*, *Senna artemisioides* sp, *Leptospermum erubescens*, *Melaleuca neurophylla*, *Acacia acuminata* and *Melaleuca uncinata*. Understorey species are confined to *Dianella revoluta*, *Enchylaena tomentos*, *Waitzia acuminata* and *Austrostipa scabra* and agricultural weeds.

END