



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany Ring Road Stage 2 and 3b

WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Amendments

Author / Reviewer	Name and Position	Revision Number	Revision Date
Author		Rev A	4/12/2019
Review		Rev 0	4/12/2019
Author		Rev 1	18/08/2021

1 BACKGROUND

Main Roads is proposing to construct the Albany Ring Road (ARR) to provide for the long-term transport needs of Albany and is the culmination of decades of planning. The ARR is a dedicated freight route around the City of Albany, in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia (WA). The ARR is intended to be the priority route for freight movement to and from the Port of Albany. The ARR will cater for the travel demands associated with growth in grain, woodchip and other agricultural industries, increased mining production, continued population growth and urban expansion and an expected increase in the number of tourists visiting the region.

The Proposal being referred (Stage 2 and 3b) by Main Roads Western Australia includes the construction of approximately 5 km of new dual carriageway within a footprint area of approximately 96.65 ha. The Proposal Area has been significantly altered by human activities, with approximately 15.67 ha (or 16.2 per cent) of the Proposal Area being cleared of native vegetation. Exploiting the paddock cleared landscape has been a key consideration in selection of the alignment and has limited clearing impacts to up to 15.67 ha of native vegetation and 36.03 ha of non-native vegetation (plantation or revegetation).

The Proposal will require the clearing of up to 15.67 ha of native vegetation which provides habitat for the conservation significant (Threatened, Critically Endangered) Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). Evidence of the presence of Western Ringtail Possum (WRP) was recorded during surveys of the Proposal Area and density estimates for the area have identified that the Proposal may intrude on the home ranges of up to 6 individual WRPs.

2 OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

2.1 Objective

This WRP Management Plan (WRPMP) has been prepared to:

- Reduce potential impacts on individual WRPs.
- Provide for the management of any WRPs encountered during road construction.

The management measures have been developed with the objective of minimising the risk of injury or mortality to any WRP encountered during the clearing operations.

2.2 Scope

The WRPMP highlights the key management actions to be undertaken during clearing operations. The scope of the WRPMP is to define actions to manage interactions with WRP during clearing operations and to allocate areas of responsibility for the implementation of those actions. Timeframes for the completion of actions and monitoring are also provided.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Implementation Responsibility

Main Roads Western Australia is responsible for the implementation of this WRPMP. Details of management measures, responsibilities, monitoring and reporting requirements are detailed in Appendix A.

Appendix A will be incorporated into the project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be prepared for the clearing operations, and included in contract documents and specifications used by Main Roads in engaging contractors and sub-contractors to work on the Project.

3.2 Monitoring

The Contractor shall monitor compliance with the WRP during the construction period. Monitoring of work activities (including subcontractors) must be conducted as an on-going activity during the normal supervision of works. Records of such surveillance should be kept if any significant issues are observed and should be documented as an information sheet or a diary note as appropriate.

3.3 Project Delivery and Accountability

Main Roads western Australia will manage the Project which will be implemented by appropriately experienced construction Contractors through a formal contractual arrangement.

For the purposes of this WRPMP the following definitions of roles and responsibilities have been used:

Role Defined in HMP	Potential Roles
Project Manager	Main Roads Delivery Manager Roads, Main Roads Contract Manager or Main Roads Superintendent's Representative
Contractor	Private Construction Contractor engaged by Main Roads
Construction Engineer	Main Roads Site Manager, Main Roads Contract Manager and/or Construction Contractor Site Manager
Environmental Officer	Main Roads Project Environmental Manager or Environmental Officer and/or Contractor's Site Environmental Representative

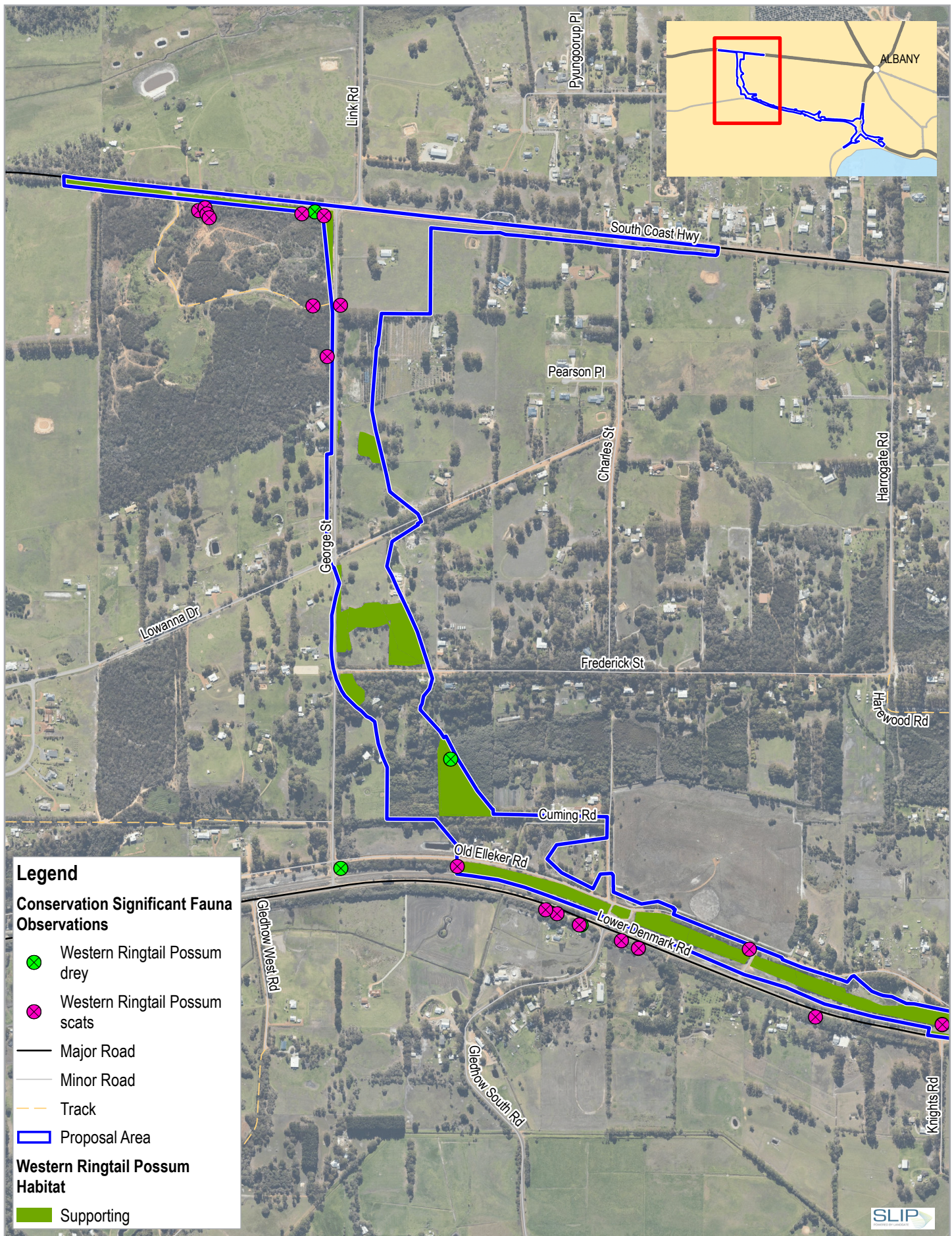
3.4 Communication

WRP management will be communicated at induction, toolbox or contract meetings. Relevant management measures detailed in the WRPMP will be communicated to project and construction personnel, (including sub-contractors) prior to the commencement of project activities and during project implementation.

4 APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Project Locality Plan and Identified WRP Habitat
Appendix B	Western Ringtail Possum Management Plan

Appendix A: Project Locality Plan and Identified WRP Habitat



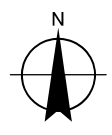
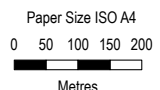
Legend

Conservation Significant Fauna Observations

- Western Ringtail Possum drey
- Western Ringtail Possum scats
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Track
- Proposal Area

Western Ringtail Possum Habitat

- Supporting



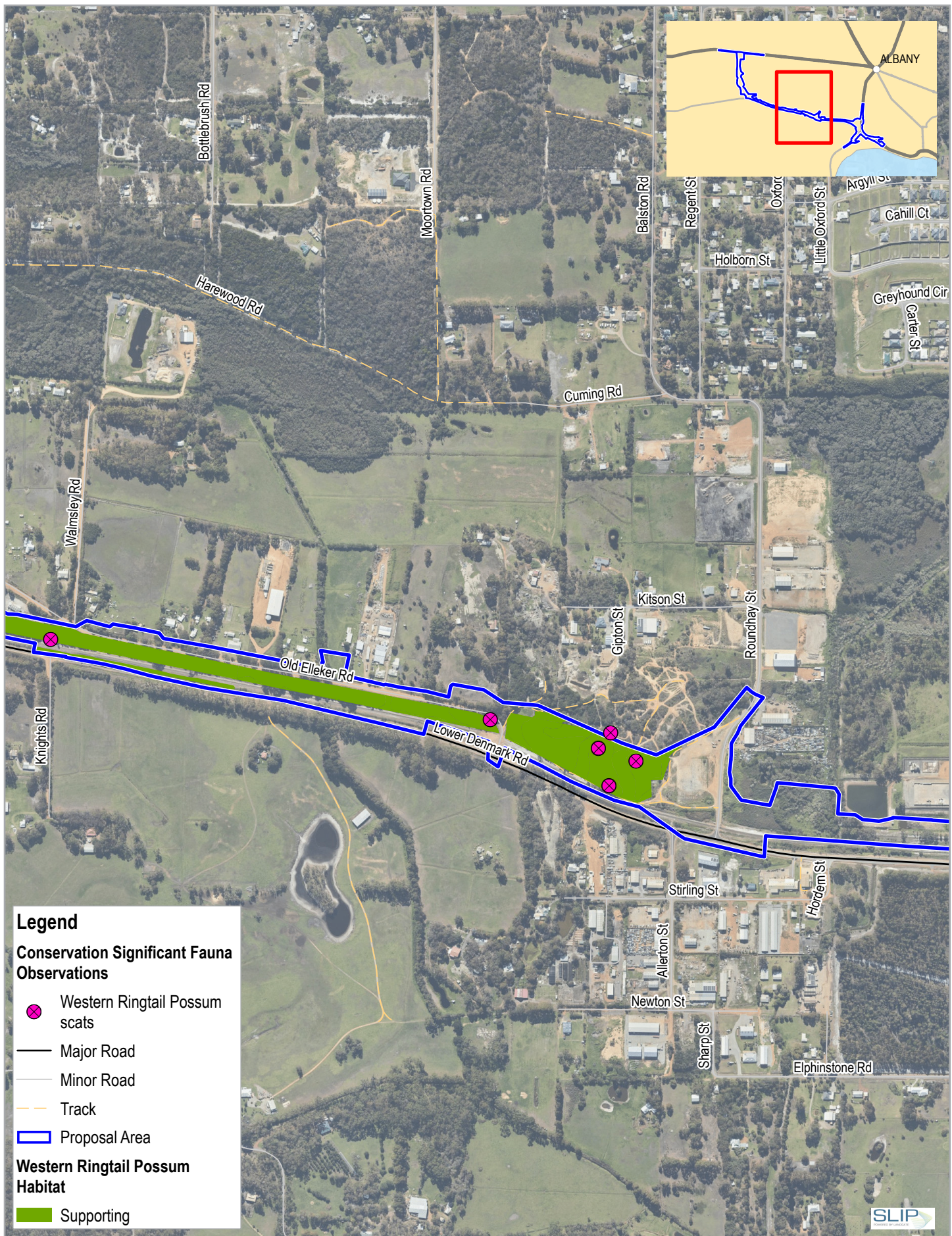
Main Roads Western Australia Albany Ring Road
Project Stages 2 and 3b

Project No. 12533824
Revision No. 0
Date 8/07/2021

**Western Ringtail Possum Habitat
within the NVCP Application Area**

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Print date: 08 Jul 2021 - 16:49

Data source: GHD; Proposal Area - 20210608; DA & Gilfillan, S: NVCP Area - 2020; Western Ringtail Possum Habitat - 2020; LGATE: Roads - 20201112; Imagery accessed on 20210708. Created by: sle



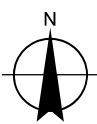
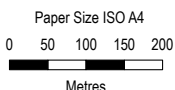
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Conservation Significant Fauna Observations

- Western Ringtail Possum scats
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Track
- Proposal Area

Western Ringtail Possum Habitat

- Supporting



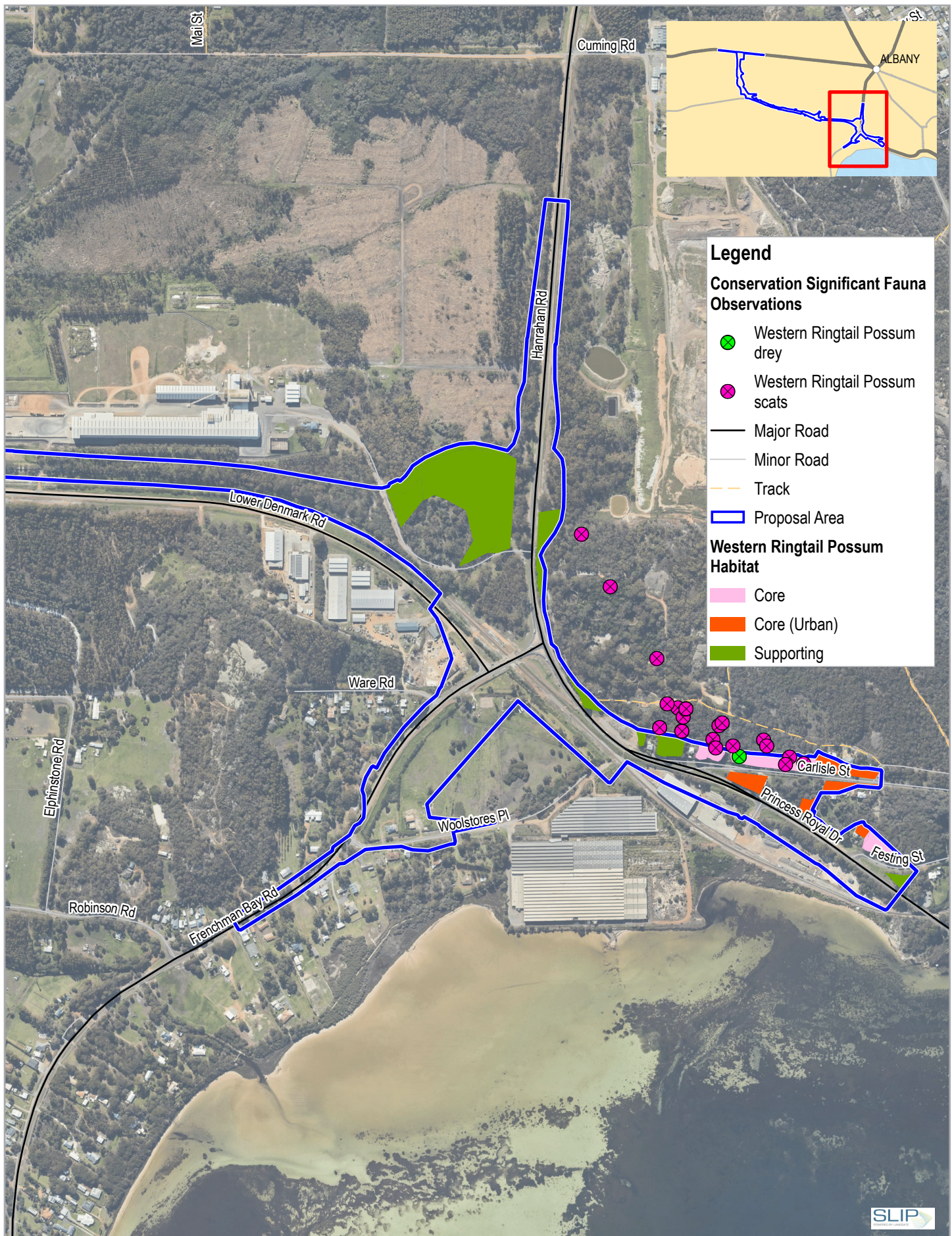
Main Roads Western Australia Albany Ring Road
Project Stages 2 and 3b

Project No. 12533824
Revision No. 0
Date 8/07/2021

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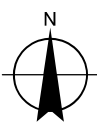
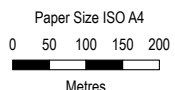
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Conservation Significant Fauna Observations

- Western Ringtail Possum drey
- ⊗ Western Ringtail Possum scats
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Track
- ▭ Proposal Area

Western Ringtail Possum Habitat

- ▭ Core
- ▭ Core (Urban)
- ▭ Supporting



Main Roads Western Australia Albany Ring Road
Project Stages 2 and 3b

Project No. 12533824
Revision No. 0
Date 8/07/2021

**Western Ringtail Possum Habitat
within the NVCP Application Area**

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Appendix B: Western Ringtail Possum Management Plan

ALBANY RING ROAD STAGE 3A – WRPMP				
Project Component	Management Action	Monitoring Program	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<i>Pre-construction (Pre-clearing)</i>				
Fauna Specialist	Main Roads shall engage a fauna specialist with the appropriate licences to take, disturb or relocate any fauna (Section 40 authority), including WRP on-site.	A copy of the fauna specialists licence will be recorded in TRIM and a copy provided to the DBCA South Coast Regions Wildlife Officer.	Environment Officer	Pre Construction period
Contract documents and Specifications	WRPMP requirements will be included in contract documents and specifications used by Main Roads in engaging contractors and sub-contractors working on the Project.	Pre-construction documentation	Project Manager	Pre-construction period
<i>Construction (Clearing)</i>				
Communications	Site inductions and pre-start toolbox meetings shall include education regarding WRP management to avoid impacts as far as possible through awareness and behaviour change.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	WRP management will be communicated (as appropriate) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inductions, • toolbox meetings, and • contract meetings. 	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Relevant management measures detailed in the WRPMP will be communicated to project and construction personnel, (including sub-contractors) prior to the commencement of project activities and during project implementation.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
Environmental incidents	Environmental incidents shall be reported through the Case Accident Management Systems (CAMS) or Main Roads Western Australia's Incident Reporting Process.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
Clearing	Clearing of vegetation shall be limited to the area defined as the "approved clearing disturbance envelope".	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Identify and mark on the ground the extent of clearing prior to the commencement of clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Significant trees on the edge of the clearing line shall be assessed and where possible shall be retained.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Environmental Officer	Construction period
Zoologist	A suitably qualified zoologist or environmental scientist shall be on-site during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period
Traffic Management	Traffic management will be put in place to reduce speed limits during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Visual message boards will be used to warn drivers of the potential for WRP to cross the road during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period

ALBANY RING ROAD STAGE 3A – WRMP

Project Component	Management Action	Monitoring Program	Responsible Person	Timeframe
WRP Management	A pre-clearing WRP spotlight search shall be conducted prior to clearing operations commencing.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Environmental Officer	Construction period
	NOTE: The spotlight search will identify the trees and locations where WRP are likely to be encountered during the clearing operations.			
	Trees that are identified as containing possums may need to be left for a subsequent day when the tree may be vacant.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	If WRP are observed during clearing operations, the tree containing the animal shall be left for up to 48 hours to allow for the animal to vacate, while clearing continues in adjacent vegetation. If the tree continues to be occupied after 48 hours, the animal will be coerced / moved to a safe area outside of the clearing footprint by the fauna specialist.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer/ Fauna Specialist	Construction period
	Trees that have been identified as supporting WRP or possum dreys will be "bumped gently" with a machine prior to felling. The operator and zoologist will wait and observe the tree for a short time. If no possum appears to be present then the tree shall be pushed over slowly to minimise risk of injury to the animal.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	WRP encountered during the clearing operation shall be trapped or collected by the fauna spotter and relocated into nearby vegetation outside of the clearing area or encouraged to move into vegetation away from the highway.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Possums collected by the zoologist shall be immediately re-located into adjacent vegetation.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Fallen trees that contained possum dreys shall be mulched the day they are fallen, or moved at least 50 m from where they were fallen to prevent animals re-entering.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	A post-clearing survey shall be undertaken immediately following each days clearing operations within Core and Linkage Western Ringtail habitat and the following morning to identify the presence of any injured animals.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Clearing shall be undertaken in stages and along one front to allow fauna to move from the clearing area into adjacent habitats.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
Fauna shall not to be fed or intentionally harmed.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period	
Apart from the zoologist / environmental scientist no site personnel shall handle any fauna present on-site.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period	

ALBANY RING ROAD STAGE 3A – WRPMP

Project Component	Management Action	Monitoring Program	Responsible Person	Timeframe
	No pets or firearms shall be permitted on site.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Any reported injured fauna shall be taken to an approved wildlife carer identified through the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period