

# Habitat Tree Assessment

## Old Vasse Road/Hawk Road Intersection

### CPS 9133/1



## Shire of Manjimup

March 2022

*Version 1*

***On behalf of:***

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## **SUMMARY**

This report details the results of a habitat tree assessment carried out over sections of the Old Coast Road in the Shire of Manjimup (the Shire).

The Shire has applied for a permit to clear vegetation from within various road reserves (CPS 9333/1). Upon review the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have advised the Shire that in order to determine the impacts to conservation significant fauna, a habitat tree assessment is required of trees likely to require removal in each area. This report details the results of an assessment carried out to satisfy this request.

The assessment was carried out at the following location:

- Old Vase Road/Hawk Road Intersection – eight trees.

### **Primary Findings**

None of the trees identified as likely to require clearing appear to contain hollows of any size.

Because of this and other factors the trees in question have been assessed as unlikely to represent suitable refuge/breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species likely to frequent the general area (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales and western ringtail possums).

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of a habitat tree assessment carried out at the intersection of Old Vasse Road and Hawke Road in the Shire of Manjimup (the Shire).

The Shire has applied for a permit to clear vegetation from within various road reserves (CPS 9333/1). Upon review the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have advised the Shire that in order to determine the impacts to conservation significant fauna, a habitat tree assessment is required of trees likely to require removal. This report details the results of an assessment carried out to satisfy this request.

The Shire have identified the trees at the site subject within the permit area that may require removal and therefore requiring assessment. It should be noted that not all the trees assessed may necessarily require removal.

## 2. SCOPE OF WORKS

The Shire have defined the scope of works as:

- An assessment of the previously identified trees which are located at:
  - Old Vase Road/Hawk Road Intersection – eight trees.
- GPS Locations and the species name of trees proposed to be cleared.
- Photographs and an assessment of the potential for the trees within the area to provide hollows for fauna species of conservation significance.
- If hollows potentially suitable for threatened fauna species are identified, quantify impacts to the threatened fauna species.

All surveys must be submitted in accordance with the EPA's Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA).

## 3. METHODS

The previously identified trees (marked by the Shire with paint and flagging tape) were located in the field and examined from ground level using binoculars for hollows. Where considered necessary and feasible any observed hollow (or possible hollow) were also examined and photographed using a drone (DJI Mavic Mini). Details on location, tree species and other relevant details were recorded in each instance.

An assessment of each hollow's suitability for use by fauna species of conservation significance (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales) was determined where possible and noted. This included a review of photos taken at a later date.

Other evidence of use or suitability as habitat for other fauna species of conservation significance was also noted if observed (e.g. possum dreys, dense canopy)

## **4. SURVEY CONSTRAINTS**

No seasonal sampling has been carried out as part of this fauna assessment. The conclusions presented are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period of time and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of the field assessments. It should also be recognised that site conditions can change with time.

During the survey trees with hollows were searched for. It should be noted that identifying hollows suitable for fauna species from ground level has limitations. Generally, the full characteristics of any hollow seen are not fully evident (e.g. internal dimensions). It is also difficult to locate all hollows within all trees as some are not observable from ground level, though to a certain extent some of these limitations can be overcome by using a drone or pole camera to examine possible hollows in more detail (where considered warranted and feasible).

## **5. RESULTS**

None of the trees identified as likely to require clearing appear to contain hollows of any size.

Because of this and other factors the trees in question have been assessed as unlikely to represent suitable refuge/breeding habitat for any conservation significant fauna species likely to frequent the general area (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales and western ringtail possums).

A summary of observations made are provided in Table 1 below.

Additional details of each tree can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 1: Summary of Tree Observations**

Wpt	Side of Road	Number of Possible Hollows	Status	Comments
1	Centre	0	No hollows observed	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed.
2	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.
3	East	0	No hollows observed	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.
4	East	0	No hollows observed	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.
5	East	0	No hollows observed	Very small sized (DBH <50cm) dead marri tree, no hollows observed.
6	East	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed.
7	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.
8	West	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The assessment reported on here was undertaken to identify any trees with hollows or possible hollows likely to be suitable for use by conservation significant species such as black cockatoos and phascogales.

None of the trees identified as likely to require clearing appear to contain hollows of any size. The trees in question have based the observations made have been assessed as not having any characteristics that would make them suitable refuge or breeding habitat for any fauna species of conservation significance known to frequent the general area.

# CPS 9333/1 - Map (a)

115°56.550'E

34°29.100'S

34°29.100'S






34°29.250'S

34°29.250'S

115°56.550'E

## Legend

-  CPS areas applied to clear
-  Land TenureLGATE - 226
-  Local Government Authorities

Road Centrelines  
— Local Rd - Other

Image



1:996

0 25 50 m



MGA 94  
Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994



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# **APPENDIX A**

## **Details of Trees Inspected**



**Trees Inspected**

Datum - GDA94

Entrance Size Ranges - Small = &gt;5cm, Medium = 5 to 10cm, Large = &gt;10cm

Waypoint Number	Zone	mE	mN	Side of Road	Tree Species	Tree Height	DBH (cm)	Number of Hollows
wpt001	50H	402867	6183468	W	Karri	15-20	>50	0
wpt002	50H	402883	6183497	E	Marri	10-15	<50	0
wpt003	50H	402883	6183484	E	Marri	15-20	>50	0
wpt004	50H	402885	6183477	E	Marri	15-20	>50	0
wpt005	50H	402887	6183473	E	Marri	10-15	<50	0
wpt006	50H	402887	6183465	E	Karri	20+	>50	0
wpt007	50H	402892	6183455	E	Marri	15-20	>50	0
wpt008	50H	402883	6183438	W	Marri	15-20	<50	0

<b>ID</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402867 mE	6183468 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Karri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>1</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402883 mE	6183497 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Marri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>2</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



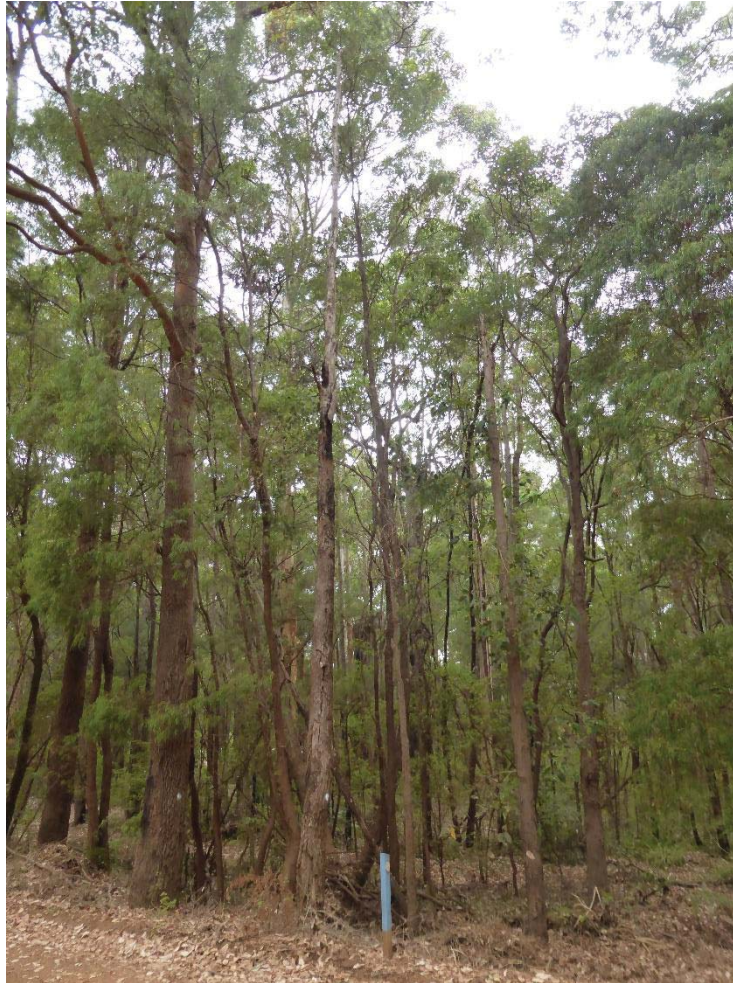
<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402883 mE	6183484 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Marri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>3</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402885 mE	6183477 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Marri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>4</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small/Medium sized (DBH >50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402887 mE	6183473 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Karri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Very small sized (DBH <50cm) dead karri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402887 mE	6183465 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Marri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>6</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Medium sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402892 mE	6183455 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	25/02/2022
<b>7</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.
<p>No Image</p>							





<b>WPT</b>	<b>Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)</b>	402883 mE	6183439 mN	<b>Tree Species</b>	Marri	<b>Survey Date</b>	25/02/2022
<b>8</b>	<b>Comments</b>	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed.				<b>Classification</b>	No Hollows.



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The conclusions are based upon field data and the environmental monitoring and/or testing carried out over a limited period and are therefore merely indicative of the environmental condition of the site at the time of preparing the report. Also, it should be recognised that site conditions, can change with time.

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