

**Attachment 5: 10 Clearing Principles Assessment – Urban Quarter Access Track**

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
<p>(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.</p>	<p>A total of 104 flora species (taxa) from 40 families, including 43 (41%) introduced (weeds) and 61 (59%) native species were recorded during the 2021 survey.</p> <p>Vegetation condition ranged from Very good to Completely Degraded with the majority of the site in Completely Degraded condition (50.8%).</p> <p>No conservation significant flora was identified within the proposed clearing area.</p> <p>Three vegetation types were recorded within the survey area, <i>Acacia saligna</i> Open Shrubland, Open <i>Banksia spp.</i> Woodland and <i>Banksia sessilis</i> Shrubland.</p>	<p>Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle</p>
<p>(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.</p>	<p>According to NationalMap the survey area occurs within the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carnaby's Cockatoo Confirmed Breeding Areas within the Swan Coastal Plan and Jarrah Forest IBRA Regions.</li> <li>• Carnaby's Cockatoo Unconfirmed Breeding Areas within the Swan Coastal Plan and Jarrah Forest IBRA Regions.</li> <li>• Immediately adjacent to vegetation which is classified as Carnaby's Cockatoo Areas requiring investigation as feeding habitat in the Swan Coastal Plain (SCP) IBRA Region.</li> <li>• Carnaby's Cockatoo Confirmed Roost Sites Buffered 6 km Carnaby's Cockatoo Unconfirmed Roost Sites Buffered 6 km.</li> </ul> <p>No Black Cockatoo individuals were observed during survey activities.</p> <p>Evidence of feeding by Black Cockatoos was observed on <i>Banksia attenuata</i> cones within the southern portion of the site at eight locations. However, this area was small, situated between previously cleared tracks and an old farm fence line and had limited foraging potential.</p>	<p>Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle</p>

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	<p>No habitat trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of &gt;500 mm were present within the survey boundary and no trees with hollows were present.</p> <p>Vegetation adjacent to the proposed clearing area is to remain and is comprised of foraging species by threatened Black Cockatoos in better quality than what is present within the survey site.</p>	
(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	<p>During the October 2021 survey no significant flora was observed within the survey site.</p> <p>Due to the mostly degraded nature of the site and the majority of the area comprising of vehicle tracks it is not expected to contain significant flora within the site boundary.</p>	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(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.	No threatened or priority ecological communities were identified during the 2021 survey due to the survey area occurring along an old farm fence line which would have been previously clear and between two existing vehicle tracks.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(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.	The proposed clearing area occurs along an existing and maintained vehicle track. Native vegetation adjacent to the proposed clearing area is to be maintained and in a better condition (Excellent) than that present within the clearing area.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	<p>The survey site does not occur within a watercourse of wetland.</p> <p>Two geomorphic wetlands are located within close proximity of the site, 365 m to the east and 540m to the north. Clearing activities will not directly impact these wetlands as the survey site is mostly comprised of an existing vehicle track.</p>	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely	The proposed area to be cleared is not likely to be at variance with this principle as it is not expected to cause further land degradation as the majority of the proposed clearing occurs on an existing vehicle track.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
to cause appreciable land degradation.		
(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.	<p>The proposed area for clearing occurs along and existing vehicle access track which is mostly in Completely Degraded condition which is to enable vehicle access to the rail development construction site.</p> <p>The proposed clearing area is located within an area zoned as Primary Regional Roads although it is located near the Yanchep National Park. Clearing will not impact the National Park given the significant distance between the two areas.</p>	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(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.	The area to be cleared is not likely to be at variance with this principle as no surface water courses were identified during the 2021 survey.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle
(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	The area proposed to be cleared is located along an existing vehicle track and adjacent to ongoing rail construction works and is not expected to change or exacerbate the incidence of flooding.	Unlikely to be at variance of this Principle