Habitat Tree Assessment

Old Vasse Road

CPS 9742/1

Shire of Manjimup

October 2022

Version 1

On behalf of:
Shire of Manjimup
PO Box 1
MANJIMUP WA 6321

Prepared by:
Greg Harewood
Zoologist
PO Box 755
BUNBURY WA 6231
M: 0402 141 197
E: gharewood@iinet.net.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION 1
2. SCOPE OF WORKS 1
3. METHODS 1
4. SURVEY CONSTRAINTS 2
5. RESULTS 2
6. CONCLUSION 4

TABLES

TABLE 1: Summary of Tree Observations

FIGURES

FIGURE 1: CPS 9432/1 – Map (Old Vasse Road)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Details of Trees Inspected

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 a section of the road reserve that forms part of the existing Old Vasse Road (CPS 9742/1). 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 was required of trees likely to require removal. This report details the results of an assessment carried out to satisfy this request.

Primary Findings

None of the trees identified as likely to require clearing from within CPS 9742/1 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 along a section of the Old Vasse Road in the Shire of Manjimup (the Shire).

The Shire has applied for a permit to clear vegetation from within a section of the road reserve that forms part of the existing Old Vasse Road (CPS 9742/1). 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 was required of trees likely to require removal. This report details the results of an assessment carried out to satisfy this request.

Prior to the survey being undertaken the Shire identified the trees within the permit area that may require removal and therefore required 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 (CPS 9742/1) – 25 trees in total.
- 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.

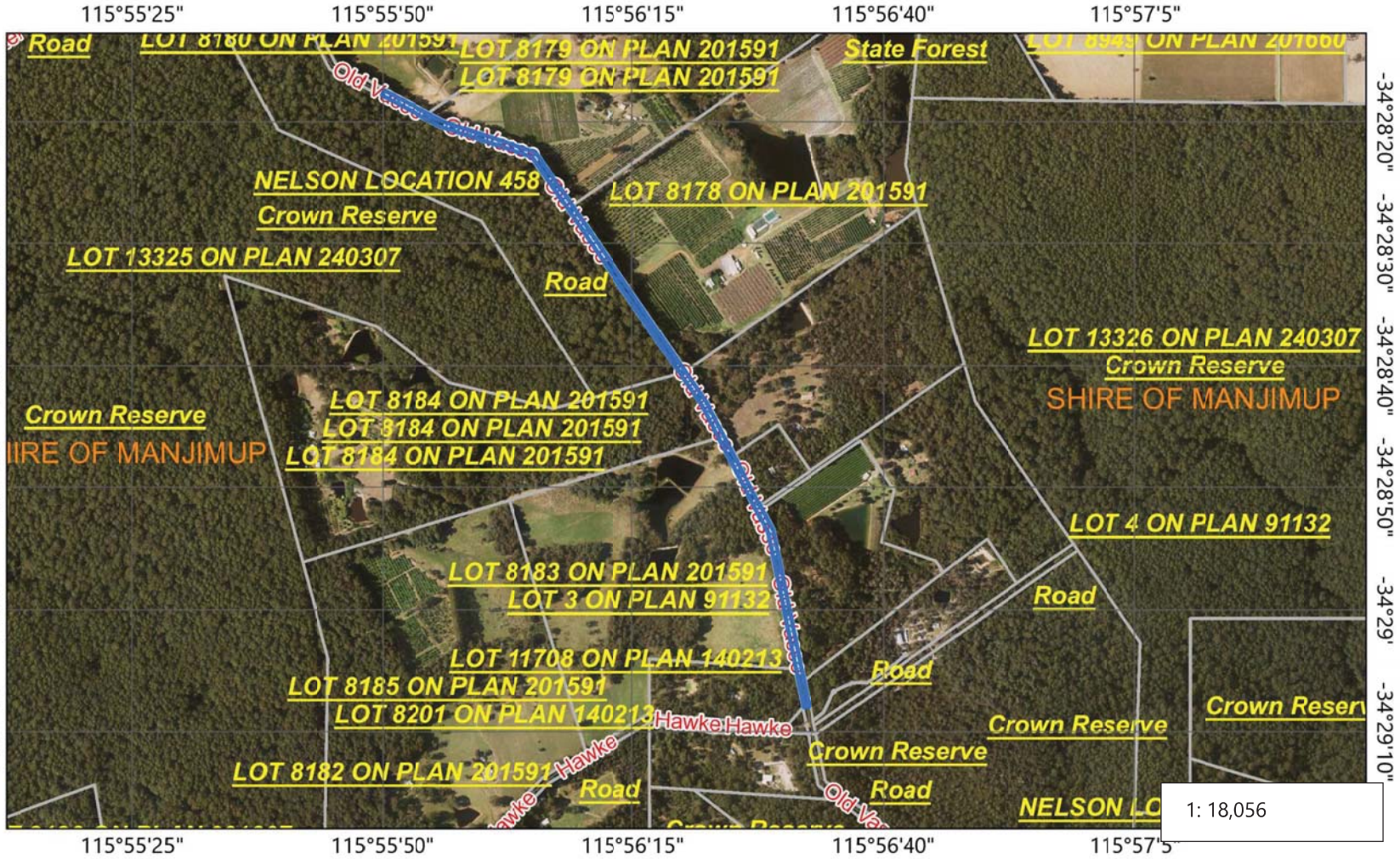
All surveys must be submitted in accordance with the EPA's Instructions for the preparation of data packages for the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA).

3. METHODS

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

If and when located, an assessment of each hollow's suitability for use by fauna species of conservation significance (e.g. black cockatoos, phascogales and western ringtail possums) was to be determined where possible and noted.

9742/1 - Map



Legend

- CPS areas applied to clear
- Roads - Minor Roads
- Land Tenure
- Local Government Authorities

0.9 0 0.46 0.9

Kilometers

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

© Government of Western Australia, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Copyright Department of Water and Environmental Regulation 2019. All Rights Reserved. All works and information displayed are subject to Copyright. For the reproduction or publication beyond that permitted by the Commonwealth Copyright Act 1968 written permission must be sought from the Agency.

Disclaimer: This map is used as a generic static output for reference purposes. Information on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. While the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, has made all reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy of this data, the department accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies and persons relying on this data do so at their own risk.

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

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	East	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
2	East	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, with snapped off/rotten trunk. Chimney type hollow collapsed/too shallow.
3	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH<50cm) marri tree.
4	West	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
5	East	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
6	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
7	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
8	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
9	East	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
10	West	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree.
11	East	0	No hollows observed	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
12	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
13	East	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree.
14	West	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) dead tree.
15	West	0	No hollows observed	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
16	West	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree.
17	West	0	No hollows observed	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree.
18	East	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
19	West	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
20	East	0	No hollows observed	Two Trees – one large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree and one small (DBH <50cm) karri tree close by.
21	East	0	No hollows observed	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
22	West	0	No hollows observed	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
23	West	0	No hollows observed	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.
24	East	0	No hollows observed	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree.

6. CONCLUSION

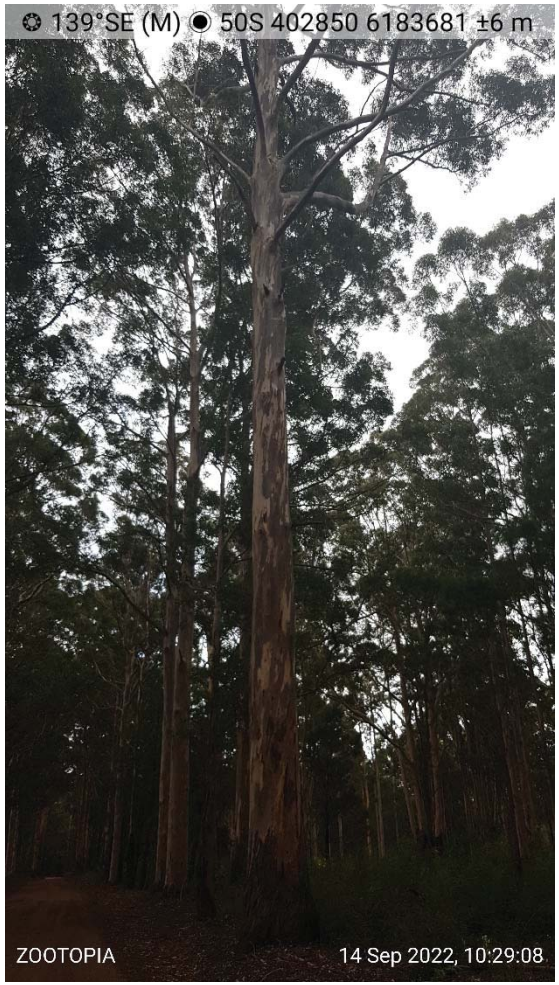
The assessment reported on here was undertaken to identify any trees with hollows or possible hollows likely to be suitable for use by conservation significant species such as black cockatoos and phascogales.

None of the trees identified as likely to require clearing appear to contain hollows of any size. Based on the observations made, all the trees in question 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.

APPENDIX A

Details of Trees Inspected

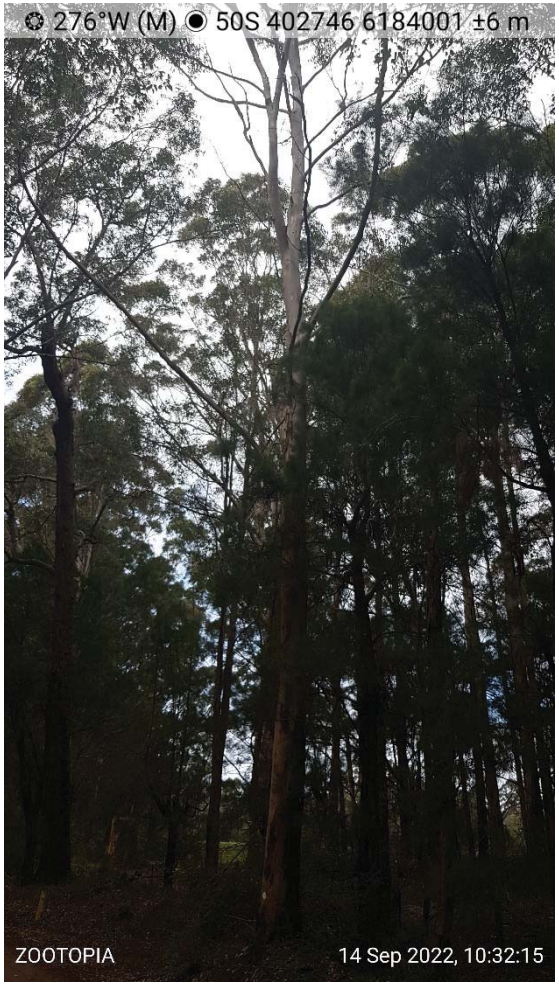
ID	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402844 mE	6183696 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
1	Comments	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				Classification	No Hollows.



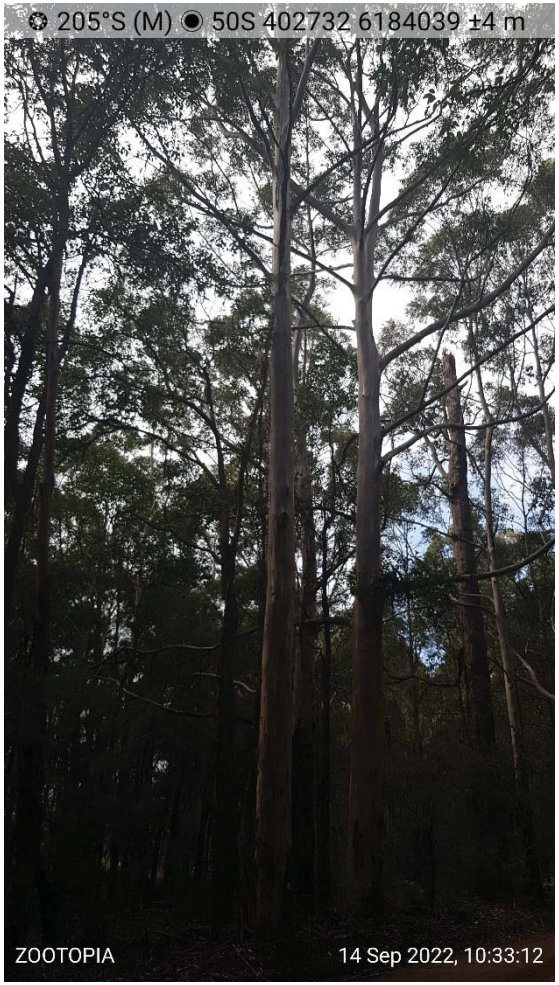
WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402829 mE	6183732 mN	Tree Species	Karri (Dead)	Survey Date	14/09/2022
2	**Comments**	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, with snapped off/rotten trunk. Chimney type hollow collapsed/too shallow. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402794 mE	6183902 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
3	Comments	Small sized (DBH<50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				Classification	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402761 mE	6183987mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
4	**Comments**	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.



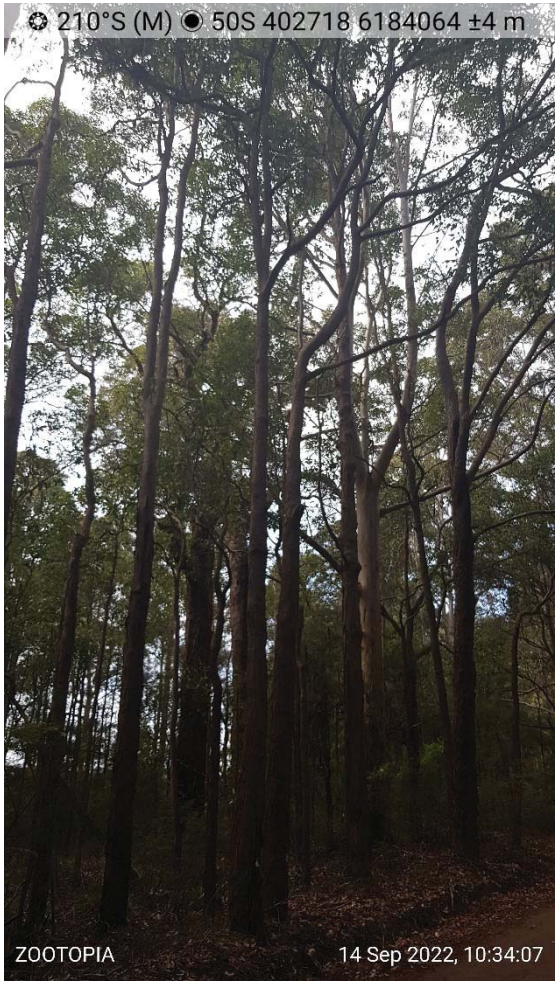
WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402741 mE	6184033 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
5	**Comments**	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402730 mE	6184053 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
6	Comments	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				Classification	No Hollows.

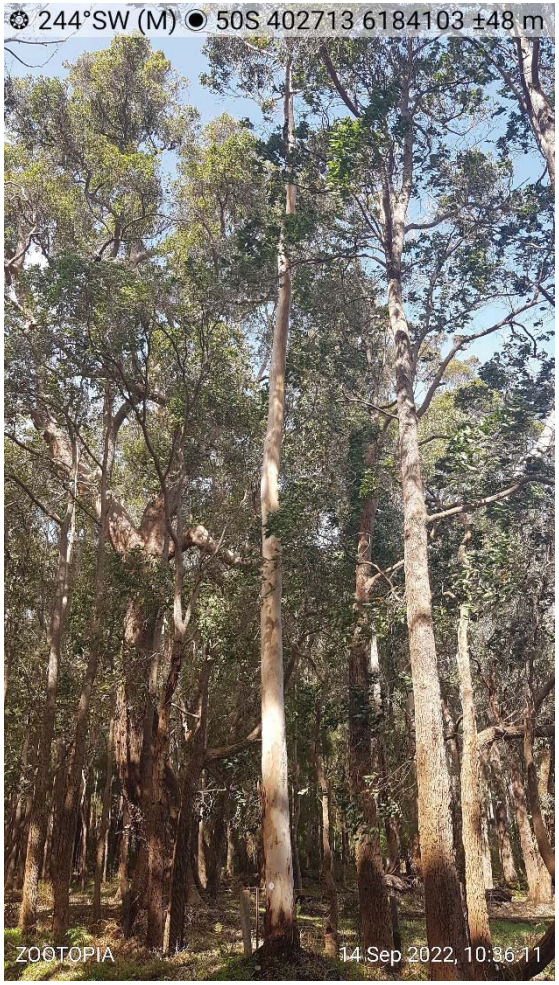
WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402725 mE	6184057 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
7	Comments	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road (close to Tree 8)				Classification	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402724 mE	6184059 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
8	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road (close to Tree 7).				**Classification**	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402720 mE	6184065 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
9	Comments	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				Classification	No Hollows.

ID	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402702 mE	6184085 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
10	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

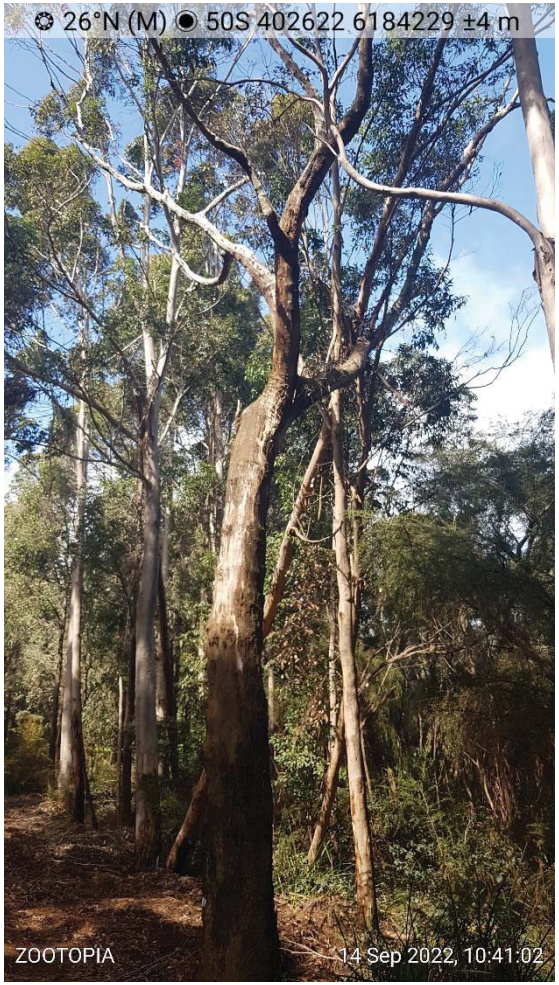


WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402692 mE	6184117 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
11	**Comments**	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402676 mE	6184152 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
12	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

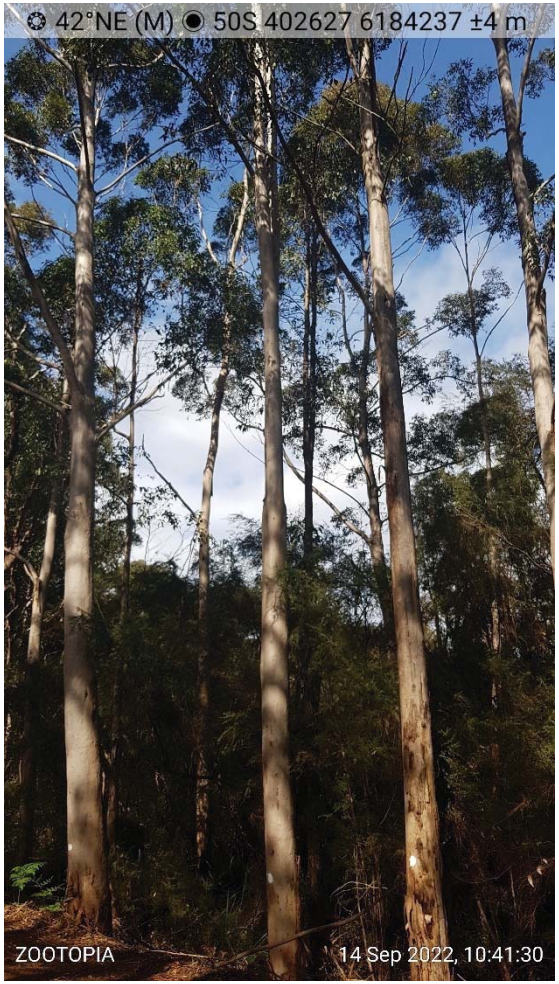
WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402671 mE	6184155 mN	Tree Species	Marri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
13	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) marri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402631 mE	6184215 mN	Tree Species	Dead Unknown	Survey Date	14/09/2022
14	**Comments**	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) dead tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

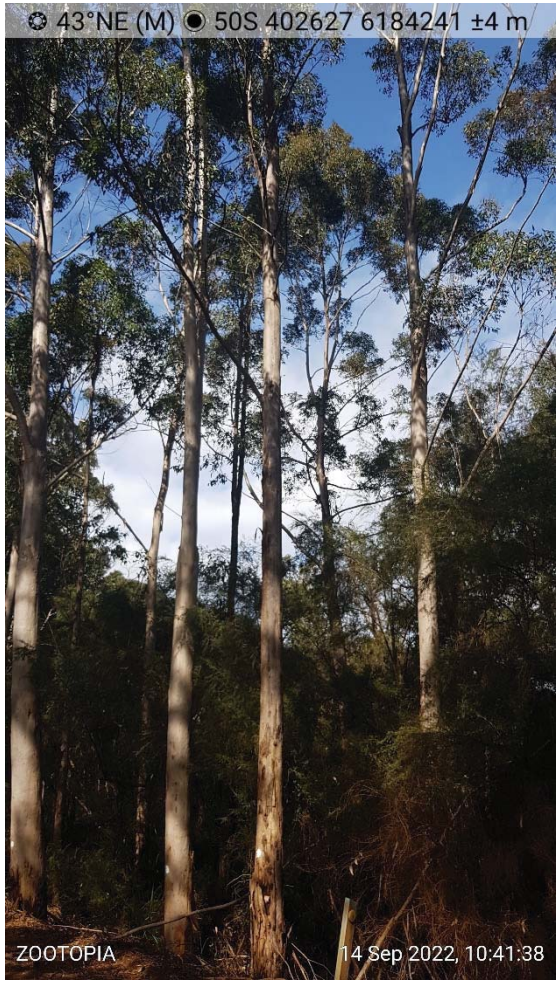


WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402627 mE	6184222 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
15	**Comments**	Medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402626 mE	6184225 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
16	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

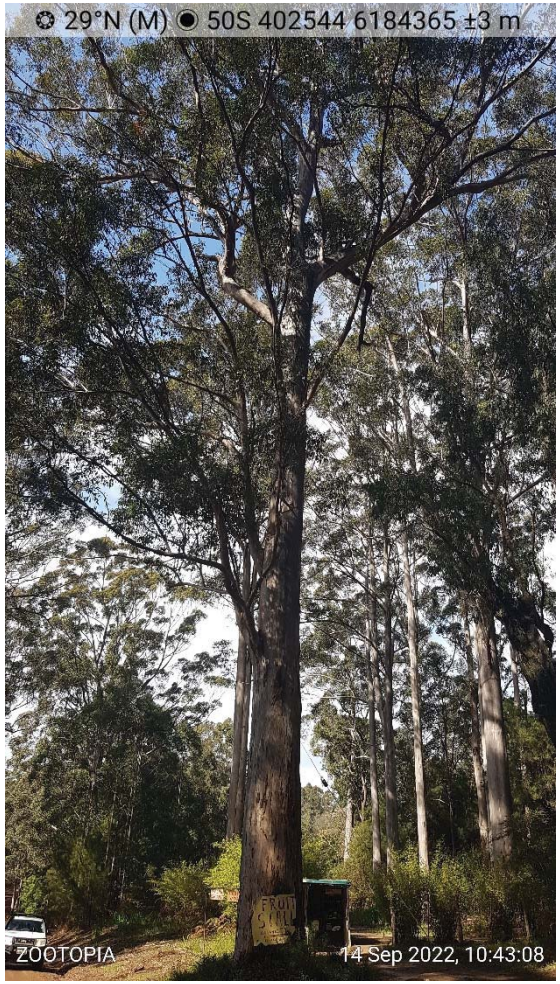


WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402625 mE	6184229 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
17	**Comments**	Small sized (DBH <50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402575 mE	6184317 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
18	**Comments**	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

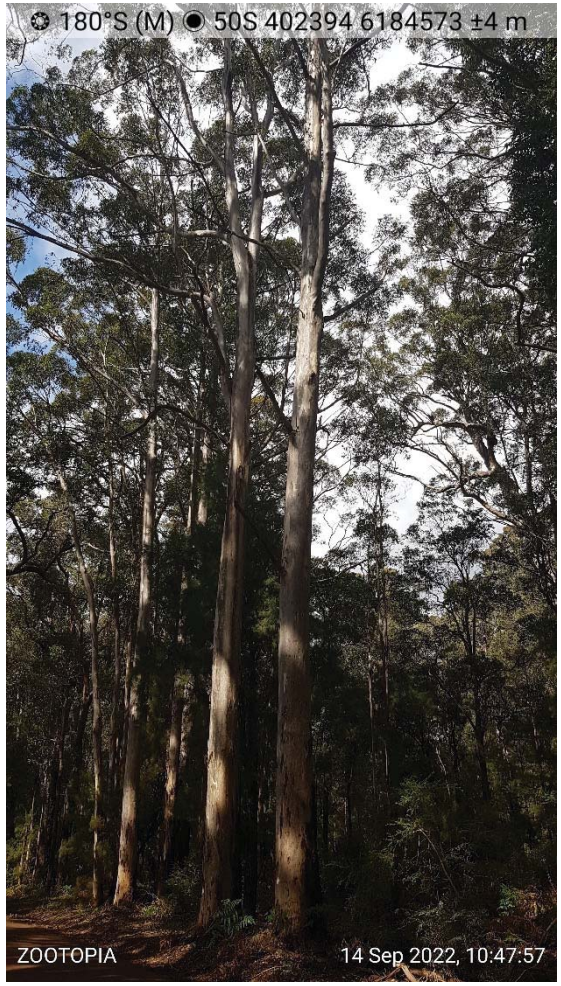
ID	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402547 mE	6184350 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
19	**Comments**	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402493 mE	6184427 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
20	**Comments**	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree (and small DBH <50cm tree close by), no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402406 mE	6184562 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
21	**Comments**	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402400 mE	6184554 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
22	**Comments**	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.



WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402398 mE	6184556 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
23	**Comments**	Large/medium sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. West side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

WPT	Coordinates (MGA 94/Z50)	402393 mE	6184577 mN	Tree Species	Karri	Survey Date	14/09/2022
24	**Comments**	Large sized (DBH >50cm) karri tree, no hollows observed. East side of road.				**Classification**	No Hollows.

DISCLAIMER

This fauna assessment report ("the report") has been prepared in accordance with the scope of services set out in the contract, or as otherwise agreed, between the Client and Ecoedge ("the Author"). In some circumstances the scope of services may have been limited by a range of factors such as time, budget, access and/or site disturbance constraints. In accordance with the scope of services, the Author has relied upon the data and has conducted environmental field monitoring and/or testing in the preparation of the report. The nature and extent of monitoring and/or testing conducted is described in the report.

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.

Within the limitations imposed by the scope of services, the field assessment and preparation of this report have been undertaken and performed in a professional manner, in accordance with generally accepted practices and using a degree of skill and care ordinarily exercised by reputable environmental consultants under similar circumstances. No other warranty, expressed or implied, is made.

In preparing the report, the Author has relied upon data, surveys, analyses, designs, plans and other information provided by the Client and other individuals and organisations, most of which are referred to in the report ("the data"). Except as otherwise stated in the report, the Author has not verified the accuracy of completeness of the data. To the extent that the statements, opinions, facts, information, conclusions and/or recommendations in the report ("conclusions") are based in whole or part on the data, those conclusions are contingent upon the accuracy and completeness of the data. The Author will not be liable in relation to incorrect conclusions should any data, information or condition be incorrect or have been concealed, withheld, misrepresented, or otherwise not fully disclosed to the Author.

The report has been prepared for the benefit of the Client and no other party. The Author assumes no responsibility and will not be liable to any other person or organisation for or in relation to any matter dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report, or for any loss or damage suffered by any other person or organisation arising from matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report (including without limitation matters arising from any negligent act or omission of the Author or for any loss or damage suffered by any other party relying upon the matters dealt with or conclusions expressed in the report). Other parties should not rely upon the report or the accuracy or completeness of any conclusions and should make their own enquiries and obtain independent advice in relation to such matters.

The Author will not be liable to update or revise the report to consider any events or emergent circumstances or facts occurring or becoming apparent after the date of the report.