

PROTECTED

**Horizon Power Electric Vehicle Charging
Stations and Stand-alone Power Systems
Infrastructure Project -
Native Vegetation Clearing Referral
Supporting Document**

Contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Project Context	3
1.2 Scope and Purpose.....	3
2. Description of the Activity	4
3. Description of Proposed Clearing	4
3.1 Extent of Proposed Clearing	4
3.2 Proposed Clearing Locations	4
3.4 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures	7
4. Suitability for the Clearing Referral Process	8
5. Assessment Against DWER Criterion	9
5.1 Criterion 1: The area proposed to be cleared is small relative to the total remaining vegetation	9
5.2 Criterion 2: There are no known or likely significant environmental values within the area	10
5.3 Criterion 3: The state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the region is adequate	11
5.4 Criterion 4: Conditions will not be required to manage environmental impacts	11
6. References	12
Appendix A: Main Roads access and landowner agreement	13
Appendix B: Site photographs	14
Appendix C: Species that may or are likely to occur	16
Appendix D: Construction Environmental Management Plan	17

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Context

Horizon Power is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy utility. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon Power is an experienced asset manager undertaking active management of vast electricity networks across WA, utilising mature and robust operational, health and safety, and environmental systems.

Horizon Power is intending to install a minimum of 54 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout regional Western Australia, to facilitate the decarbonisation of the transport network, in accordance with the Western Australian Climate Policy and Electric Vehicle Strategy. To facilitate a well-planned and distributed charging network, Horizon will need to install charging stations and associated infrastructure including Stand-alone Power Systems (SPS) in a number of Road Reserves. This referral application is for 3 locations within the Pilbara, Gascoyne and Kimberley regions that will require minor clearing of native vegetation to install the EV charging stations.

The work will involve clearing of vegetation, civil works, installation of cables, EV hardware, SPS and associated infrastructure, bollards, security, lighting and shade (if required), signage and branding. Areas may also need to be cleared to allow for the parking of vehicles. The total clearing footprint for the three sites will not exceed 0.2055 ha with the clearing of Bidyadanga Turnoff, Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area and Minilya being 0.07 ha, 0.05 ha and 0.0855 ha respectively.

1.2 Scope and Purpose

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate that the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the EV charging stations satisfies the four Criterion outlined in 'Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals' (DWER, 2021) and, as such, should be considered a 'very low environmental impact activity' that does not require a clearing permit.

To demonstrate this, Horizon Power has provided:

- An overview of the activity and a description of the proposed clearing.
- Avoidance, mitigation and management measures applied to minimise the clearing of native vegetation and reduce the likelihood of environmental impacts associated with the activity.
- An assessment of the clearing against the four Criterion specified in DWER (2021).

A Construction Environmental Management Plan is also provided, as this is a standard requirement of the Horizon Power Environmental Management System for projects clearing native vegetation where an exemption does not apply.

2. Description of the Activity

As discussed in Section 1, the work will involve the mechanical clearing of vegetation, civil works, installation of cables, EV hardware, SPS and associated infrastructure, bollards, security, lighting and shade (if required), signage and branding. Areas may also need to be cleared to allow for the parking of vehicles. The total clearing footprint for the three EV charging station sites will not exceed 0.2055 ha with clearing of Bidyadanga Turnoff, Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area and Minilya being 0.07 ha, 0.05 ha and 0.0855 ha respectively.

Horizon Power has obtained permission from Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) as the landowner for the clearing activities at the three locations, as well as access to the sites for installation (Appendix A). It is understood following discussions with DWER that the EV charging station is exempt from a clearing permit as a structure (Clearing Regulation 5 Item 1), however clearing for any associated infrastructure and parking is not exempt.

3. Description of Proposed Clearing

3.1 Extent of Proposed Clearing

The proposed clearing will occur within the Project Area (Figures 1, 2 and 3) which are 0.07 ha, 0.05 ha and 0.0855 ha in size. A total cleared area of 0.2055 ha is required for the activity within the Project Area, detailed in Table 1 and show on Figure 1.

3.2 Proposed Clearing Locations

Bidyadanga Turnoff occurs over two parcels, as detailed below. Note, one of the Bidyadanga parcels, the Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area and Minilya parcel do not have certificates of title.

Table 1 EV charging station land parcels

Name	Lot on Plan	Tenure	Volume	Folio
Bidyadanga Turnoff	Lot 433 on Plan 217190	Road MRWA	LR3127	536
	PIN 11731227	Road MRWA		
Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area	PIN 1200629	Road MRWA		
Minilya	PIN 11728365	Road MRWA		

Figure 1 Bidyadanga Site Location



Figure 2 Minglya Site Location



Figure 3 Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area Site Location



3.3 Proposed Clearing Method

Clearing will be undertaken by backhoe / bulldozer (i.e. mechanical clearing).

3.4 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures

Sites have been selected to locate them in areas of degraded vegetation and adjacent to existing disturbance. Ngumpan Cliff rest area has been extensively impacted by adjacent land use and edge effects. Bidyadanga Turnoff has been located adjacent to the existing truck rest stop area. Minilya has been located adjacent to the road reserve, within an area of minimal vegetation.

Horizon Power is a mature and competent asset manager with an established Environmental Management System and extensive assets across Western Australia under active management. Clearing activities are undertaken following standard construction management measures and will be implemented via our standard Construction Environmental Management Plan.

The following standard construction management measures will be implemented via a Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix D, to minimise potential impacts to native vegetation within the impact area.

- No more than 700 m², 500 m² and 855 m² of clearing is permitted at the locations detailed in Figures 1, 2 and 3.
- Clearing will be minimised where possible through placement of assets in existing cleared or Degraded areas.
- The clearing locations are to be demarcated prior to clearing activities.
- A pre-clearing toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities and the limits of clearing.
- Standard weed and hygiene management practices which will be applied to these works.
- Mechanical clearing will be undertaken slowly and in a one-way direction to allow fauna to move offsite if present.

4. Suitability for the Clearing Referral Process

The 'Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals' (DWER, 2021) Section 5.3 outlines those clearing activities not considered to be suitable for the Clearing Referral process. Table 2 demonstrates that the proposed clearing activity is suitable for assessment under the Clearing Referral process.

Table 2 Assessment of Suitability for the Clearing Referral Process

Aspect	Assessment	Suitable? (Yes/No)
The referral process cannot be used for proposed clearing on land subject to an agreement to reserve or a conservation covenant under the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 (SLC Act)	Land is not subject to a conservation covenant	Yes
The referral process cannot be used for proposed clearing on land subject to an environmental protection covenant under Part VB of the EP Act	Land is not subject to an environmental protection covenant	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that is not likely to be completed within two years.	The works are set to commence 2023/2024.	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will contravene the requirements of a soil conservation notice issued under Part V of the SLC Act	The proposed clearing activity will not contravene the requirements of a soil conservation notice issued under Part V of the SLC Act.	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will or is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance (MNES)	The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on MNES. No EPBC Act listed flora, fauna or ecological communities are likely to be impacted.	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that includes marine native vegetation clearing activities	No clearing of marine native vegetation is proposed.	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that may impact on protected or otherwise significant flora or fauna	The proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on protected or otherwise conservation significant flora or fauna (as detailed in Section 5).	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that will be within a highly cleared landscape or an area containing limited or restricted native vegetation types.	The proposed clearing is not within an extensively cleared landscape or an area containing limited or restricted native vegetation types, as detailed in Section 5. More than 99% of Pre-European Vegetation Association extents remain.	Yes
The referral process is not suitable for proposed clearing that is on land previously reserved as an environmental offset under the conditions of another approval under the EP Act.	A review of the DWER Offsets Register (via spatial dataset DWER-078; GoWA, 2022) indicates that the land is not reserved as an environmental offset under the conditions of an approval under the EP Act.	Yes

5. Assessment Against DWER Criterion

5.1 Criterion 1: The area proposed to be cleared is small relative to the total remaining vegetation

The proposed clearing activity satisfies Criterion 1, as detailed in the following tables.

Table 3 Assessment of the Proposed Clearing Activity Against Criterion 1

Aspect	Assessment
Extent of proposed clearing	The total proposed clearing is 0.2055 ha This is less than the 10 ha threshold for clearing activities located north of the 26° latitude line.
Threshold for remaining extent of native vegetation association or complex in the relevant IBRA bioregion	More than 30% of the relevant vegetation associations remain within the relevant IBRA bioregion, therefore; a permit is not required on this basis.
Threshold for remaining native vegetation surrounding the boundary of the proposed clearing	Within a 10 km buffer of the proposed clearing more than 30% native vegetation is remaining. Therefore, a permit is not required on this basis.

Table 4 Pre-European Vegetation Association Extents

Site	Vegetation association	Scale	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	% Remaining	% of current extent in all Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) managed land (proportion of current extent)
Bidyadanga Turnoff	699 Shrublands, pindan; Acacia eripoda shrubland with scattered low bloodwood (<i>Eucalyptus dicromophloia</i>) & <i>E. setosa</i> over soft & curly spinifex on sandplain		1,985,739.01	1,984,378.18	99.93	0.47
		IBRA Bioregion: Dampierland	1,976,313.50	1,974,958.06	99.93	0.48
		IBRA Subregion: Pindanland	1,795,821.81	1,794,645.46	99.93	0.52
		LGA: Shire of Broome	1,628,642.72	1,626,791.54	99.89	0.58
Minilya	95 Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee <i>Triodia</i> spp. <i>Acacia</i> spp., <i>Grevillea</i> spp. <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp.	State: WA	1,986,450.05	1,984,438.78	99.90	0.47
		IBRA Bioregion: Dampierland	1,976,313.50	1,974,958.06	99.93	0.47
		IBRA Subregion: Pindanland	1,796,194.92	1,794,994.17	99.93	0.52
		LGA: Shire of Coolgardie	166,572.37	163,720.39	98.29	9.81
Ngumpan Cliff Rest stop	876 Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe;	State: WA	51,243.49	51,170.77	99.86	n/a
		IBRA Bioregion:	51,243.49	51,170.77	99.86	n/a

<i>Acacia pachycarpa</i> & <i>A. tumida</i> over <i>Triodia pulchella</i> & <i>T. intermedia</i> sandplain	Ord Victoria Plain				
	IBRA Subregion: South Kimberley Interzone	51,243.49	51,170.77	99.86	n/a
	LGA: Shire of Halls Creek	51,243.49	51,170.77	99.86	n/a

5.2 Criterion 2: There are no known or likely significant environmental values within the area

The proposed clearing activity satisfies Criterion 2, as detailed in the following tables.

Table 5 Assessment of the Proposed Clearing Activity Against Criterion 2

Environmental value	Assessment
Vegetation type and condition	<p>Based on photographs of the proposed impact locations, Bidyadanga Turnoff is comprised of <i>Acacia eripoda</i> shrubland, commensurate with the mapped vegetation known to occur in Vegetation Association 699. Vegetation is Degraded closer to the road and showing evidence of edge effects including weeds (Appendix B).</p> <p>The Minilya site is located adjacent to an existing rest area. Minilya site is comprised of Hummock Grassland with scattered shrubs of Mallee <i>Triodia</i> consistent with Vegetation Association 95. Vegetation is Degraded closer to the road edge and rest stop area (Appendix B).</p> <p>The Ngumpan Cliff rest area site is extensively disturbed with little native vegetation remaining (Appendix B).</p> <p>The proposed clearing of 0.2055 ha required for this scope of works is not considered likely to impact significant environmental values.</p>
Significant fauna and habitat	<p>Twenty-two conservation significant fauna species were considered likely or possibly occurring within the vicinity of the three sites (Appendix C).</p> <p>Significant impacts are not expected given the widespread availability of habitat in the region and small scale of proposed clearing. In addition, Ngumpan Cliff rest area site is extensively impacted by surrounding land use and unlikely to provide significant habitat for fauna.</p>
Significant ecological linkage	The proposed area is not part of a significant ecological linkage.
Mapped ecological community	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were identified based on desktop searches.
Significant flora	<p>Priority 1 flora species <i>Triumfetta hapala</i> has been identified in DBCA records approximately 500m west of Ngumpan Cliff rest area. This species prefers shallow sandy soils, granite outcrops and low hills. Given the existing degradation at Ngumpan cliff rest area (Appendix B), this species is unlikely to occur. No other Threatened or Priority species were identified as likely to occur.</p> <p>The proposed clearing of 0.2055 ha of native vegetation is not anticipated to significantly impact significant flora or their habitat.</p>
Water resources	<p>No Public Drinking Water Source areas, wetlands or rivers were identified.</p> <p>Ngumpan Cliff rest area occurs within Proclaimed surface water areas under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i>. No surface water extraction is proposed.</p> <p>Bidyadanga Turnoff and Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area sites are within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater area and Minilya site is within the Gascoyne Groundwater area; however, no groundwater impacts are expected and no groundwater extraction is proposed.</p> <p>No Internationally (Ramsar) or nationally important wetlands are located within 20 km of the project area.</p>

Environmental value	Assessment
Conservation Reserve	No conservation areas are present. No impacts to conservation areas are anticipated in association with this scope of works. Bidyadanga is located within the Karajarri Indigenous Protected area. The appropriate heritage engagement will be undertaken prior to commencement of works.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas	The proposed works are not in an Environmentally Sensitive area.
Land and soil quality	A review of the Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) indicates the soil under the EV sites are low risk of Acid Sulphate Soils (ASS). The project will require minimal digging and unlikely to disturb ASS. The sites do not intersect any known contamination. No off-site impacts are anticipated in association with the activity. Land and soil quality is not likely to be impacted by the activity.
Heritage-related values and native title matters	No Aboriginal heritage sites are within the proposed clearing areas. None of the three sites are within a World Heritage Area or National Heritage Area. Ngumpan cliff rest area is within 20 km of the West Kimberley National heritage area, no impacts are expected to this heritage area.

5.3 Criterion 3: The state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the region is adequate

The Project area is located within the Pindanland and Ord Victoria Plain sub-regions; both have over 99% of Pre-European vegetation remaining. The Kimberley region has been surveyed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and others for the purposes of land classification, mapping and resource evaluation. One hundred and eleven land systems have been described for the Kimberley region, which are distinguished on the basis of topography, geology, soils and vegetation (Payne and Schoknecht 2011). An inventory of the Pilbara region was undertaken between 1995 to 1999 by the Department of Agriculture to describe and map the natural resources of the region (van Vreeswyk et al 2004). The report identified and described the condition of soils, landforms, vegetation, habitat, ecosystems, and declared plants and animals. In addition, 305 surveys of the Pilbara region and 25 surveys of the Kimberley region are detailed on the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA) database (DWER 2022). It is, therefore, considered that the state of scientific knowledge of native vegetation within the regions is adequate.

5.4 Criterion 4: Conditions will not be required to manage environmental impacts

Due to the small scale of clearing and low environmental impact of the clearing activity, non-standard controls are not considered to be required to manage environmental impacts for this work. Avoidance, mitigation and management measures have been applied to the scope of works, as detailed in Section 3.4. A standard CEMP will be applied during construction (Appendix D). Given the application of these measures, as well as the abundance of native vegetation within and surrounding the impact area and the limited clearing proposed, it is considered that clearing can be undertaken without conditions being applied to further manage environmental impacts.

6. References

Beard, J.S 1977, Vegetation Survey of Western Australia: Kimberley, map and explanatory memoir, 1:1,000,000 series, Nedlands, University of Western Australia Press.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) 2021, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Protected Matters Search Tool Results, retrieved February 2022 from <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html>

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), 2021. *Guideline: Native Vegetation Clearing Referrals*, Available at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/guideline-native-vegetation-clearing-referrals>, Accessed October 2022

DWER, 2022. Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments (IBSA), https://biocollect.ala.org.au/ibsa#projectId%3D9fd85782-ef71-4dfb-87f6-a028e15c2521%26q%3D*dampier*%26queryText%3D*dampier*%26max%3D30%26sort%3DdateCreatedSort, accessed February 2023

GoWA (2022). *Data WA*. Available at: <https://data.wa.gov.au/>, accessed February 2022.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)

Pre-European vegetation (DPIRD-006)

Aboriginal heritage sites (DPLH-001)

Heritage Council WA – State Register (DPLH-006)

Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)

RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)

Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)

RIWI Act, Surface Water and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)

RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)

Payne, A and Schoknecht, N 2011, Land Systems of the Kimberley Region, Western Australia, Technical Bulletin No. 98, Perth, DAFWA.

van Vreeswyk, A M, Leighton, K A, Payne, A L, and Hennig, P. (2004), *An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara region, Western Australia*. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 92.

Appendix A: Main Roads access and landowner agreement



Appendix B: Site photographs

Bidyadanga Turnoff Site Location



Minylya Site Location



Ngumpan Cliff Rest Area Site Location



Appendix C: Species that may or are likely to occur

Scientific Name	Common Name	Presence	Commonwealth Threatened Category	State listing category	Migratory Status
<i>Limosa lapponica menzbieri</i>	Northern Siberian Bar-tailed Godwit, Russkoye Bar-tailed Godwit	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	
<i>Calidris tenuirostris</i>	Great Knot	Roosting known to occur within area	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Migratory
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Migratory
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew Sandpiper	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Critically Endangered	Critically Endangered	Migratory
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	Northern Quoll, Digul [Gogo-Yimidir], Wijingadda [Dambimangari], Wiminji [Martu]	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Endangered	Endangered	
<i>Macronectes giganteus</i>	Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered	Endangered	Migratory
<i>Erythrura gouldiae</i>	Gouldian Finch	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Endangered	Priority 4	
<i>Papasula abbotti</i>	Abbott's Booby	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered		
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Night Parrot	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Endangered	Critically Endangered	
<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Lesser Sand Plover, Mongolian Plover	Roosting known to occur within area	Endangered	Endangered	Migratory
<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Red Knot, Knot	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Endangered	Endangered	Migratory
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian Painted Snipe	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Endangered	Endangered	
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Grey Falcon	Species or species habitat likely to occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	Greater Bilby	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i>	Olive Python (Pilbara subspecies)	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i>	Princess Parrot, Alexandra's Parrot	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Priority 4	
<i>Macroderma gigas</i>	Ghost Bat	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover	Species or species habitat known to occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Migratory
<i>Liopholis kintorei</i>	Great Desert Skink, Tjakura, Warrarna, Mulyamiji	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i>	Red Goshawk	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis</i>	Northern Brushtail Possum	Species or species habitat may occur within area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Southern Whiteface	Species or species habitat may occur within the area	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	

Appendix D: Construction Environmental Management Plan