

# MRWA Vegetation Clearing Assessment Report

This guideline has been prepared to assist MRWA in addressing condition 7 "Assessment of Clearing Impacts" under Clearing Permit CPS 818/3.

For guidance on how to complete the form, refer to DEC completed reports (active permits) at [http://203.20.251.100/cps\\_reports/](http://203.20.251.100/cps_reports/).

## 1. AREA UNDER ASSESSMENT DETAILS

### Proponent details

Proponent's name:

Contacts:

MRWA South West Region

Name: Bahaa Kanbour

Phone: 9725 5677

Fax: 9725 5666

Email: bahaa.kanbour@mainroads.wa.gov.au

### Property details

Property:

Colloquial name:

Perth Bunbury Highway, Binningup Section 131.35 – 136.93 SLK

### Area under assessment

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:	Site Plan Attached
~ 0.2 ha	Approx. 200	mechanical	Upgrade of highway (sealing of the shoulder and widening/reconstruction)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### Avoidance/Minimise clearing

How have the clearing impacts been minimised?

Only those trees necessary to be cleared to achieve a 6 m and 9 m 'clear zone' between the east and west sides of the northbound carriageway respectively, will be removed to comply with road safety guidelines.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### Existing environment and information

Description of the native vegetation under application

Site Visit Undertaken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fauna / Flora Survey Undertaken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (fauna) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Site Report Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fauna / Flora Survey Report Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Site Photos Attached	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Other Relevant References Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Vegetation Complex**  
Jarrah-Banksia and  
Peppermint Woodland

**Clearing Description**  
Vegetation under application to be cleared is for the up-grading of the Perth Bunbury Highway. This will include the overlay and widening of the highway ie create sealed shoulders

**Vegetation Condition**  
Keighery (1994) vegetation condition rating: Binningup Rd to Springhill Rd: 5  
Taranto Rd to Binningup Rd: 3/4

**Comment**  
Vegetation exposed to edge effects due to hwy

### 3. ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATION AGAINST CLEARING PRINCIPLES

#### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation under application is rated as Keighery (1994) condition rating 3/4 (vegetation structure altered/significantly altered/obvious signs of disturbance) and rating 5 (basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance). The clearing of 0.2 ha of vegetation is therefore considered unlikely to have a significant impact to biological diversity on a regional or local scale.

**Methodology**      Site visit by Main Roads Environment Officer and Keighery rating system

#### (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.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**

Six fauna species were identified as potentially occurring in the project area. Due to the degraded nature of the site some of these species would not inhabit the site, eg Quokka and Chuditch need a dense understorey. The Western Ringtail Possum and the black cockatoos (Carnaby's and Baudin's) are the most likely significant species to occur in the area. A fauna survey was completed targeting these two species and there was no evidence of these species being present in the project area (eg nests/dreys/scats etc).

**Methodology**      Site inspection completed by zoologist 30/06/04.

#### (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

No rare flora was found to occur in the project area.

**Methodology**      Consultation with CALM (Bunbury).

#### (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.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**

No TECs were found to occur in the project area

**Methodology**      Consultation with CALM (Bunbury).

#### (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.

**Comments**      **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**

It was found that there is 75.7 % of low woodland vegetation association 23 (*jarrah-banksia*) remaining and 75.3% of low woodland vegetation association 22 (*Agonis flexuosa*) remaining compared with Pre-European extents. This is above the EPA's threshold of 30% therefore the clearing of the proposed vegetation is not at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** Reference was taken from the July 2005 vegetation database from DEC and DAF (found in Main Roads intranet database) – Native Vegetation in Western Australia – extent, type and status.

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**  
There are no water courses or wetlands within or immediately adjacent to the project area. However there are some wetlands about a kilometre from the project area, but these will not be impacted by the project.

**Methodology** Site inspection by Environmental Officer Main Roads Bunbury and checking of the Native Vegetation Map Viewer.

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**  
Given the size of the area under application 0.2 ha, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing is at variance to this principle.

**Methodology** Site visit undertaken by Environmental Officer Main Roads Bunbury.

**(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.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**  
The area under application is adjacent to cleared farmland. The project is located on the western side of the highway. On the eastern side of the highway there are vegetated freehold blocks of land, including a reserve vested under the Executive Director of CALM (freehold) to the south east of the project area.  
As the area proposed to be cleared amounts to <1ha it is unlikely that this will have a significant impact to environmental values of the adjacent conservation area.

**Methodology** Site visit undertaken by Environmental Officer Main Roads Bunbury and review of aerial photographs and cadastral information from Main Roads ArcGIS.

**(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.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**  
There are no defined surface water drainage patterns within the project area that have the potential to deteriorate in quality either through contaminants or turbidity. Due to the size and nature of the works, it is highly unlikely that the quality of surface or groundwater would be deteriorated.

**Methodology** Site visit by Main Roads Environmental Officer and check of ArcGIS wetlands, waterways and groundwater databases

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.**

**Comments** **Proposal is not variance to this Principle**  
Due to the small area to be cleared ie 0.2 ha, it is highly unlikely that the proposed project will be at variance with this principle. Also 4080 locally occurring trees and shrubs have been planted (winter 2004) to compensate for the loss of vegetation.

**Methodology** Site visit by Main Roads Environmental Officer.

**Planning instrument, Native Title, RIWI Act Licence, EP Act Licence, Works Approval, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

**Comments**

**Methodology**

#### **4. SUBMISSIONS**

No submissions have been required to be sought for this proposal.

<b>Submission Requested from</b>	<b>Request Sent (Date)</b>	<b>Submission Received (Date)</b>	<b>Issues Raised / Comments Made</b>
----------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------------------

#### **5. ASSESSOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

<b>List of Principles seriously at variance, at variance or maybe at variance</b>	<b>Recommendation : An Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan will be required for this project</b>
---	--

#### **6. REFERENCES**

- Main Roads ArcGIS environmental datasets May 2007
- July 2005 vegetation database from DEC and DAF (found in Main Roads intranet database) – Native Vegetation in Western Australia – extent, type and status.

##### **6.1 OFFICER PREPARING REPORT**

Jeanette Della-Bona  
Project Development Officer Environment – South West Region  
Phone (08) 9725 5661  
Date 9/05/07