

Enquiries: Anna Sutherland on 99 56 1207
Our Ref: 06/2865-05
Your Ref: NA

2 November 2011

Mr M Warnock
A/Manager
Native Vegetation Conservation Branch
Locked Bag 104
Bentley Delivery Centre
BENTLEY WA 6983

Dear Mr Warnock

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF MATERIAL SOURCE AT SLK 153.40

The Geraldton Mt Magnet Road is an important heavy vehicle haulage route for triple road trains carrying payloads of 100 tonnes each servicing iron ore deposits in the Murchison area east of Cue and copper and zinc concentrates transported from mines south of Yalgoo.

This heavy road use and regular flooding is causing significant damage to the road structure and as such needs to be repaired in several locations

Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) is proposing to expand a current material source at SLK 153.40 on the Geraldton Mount Magnet Road.

The material source, approximately 153 kilometres east of Geraldton, has had a Biological, Targeted Fauna and Aboriginal Heritage Survey conducted within the area surrounding the current material source.

The biological report was sent to the local DEC office , who recommended that a targeted fauna survey be conducted for Mallee Fowl and the Spiny Tailed Skink (attached). The requested fauna survey located one disused mallee fowl nest.

A Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment has also been completed and identified that further liaison with the DEC was required with regards to possibly being at variance with Principle B 'it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.'

As per *Clearing Permit CPS 818/6*, given the above project may be at variance with the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* Clearing Principles, Main Roads invites submissions from your group on the environmental aspects of this proposal.

The total proposed pit expansion area, in a current pastoral lease, is approximately 10 hectares and contains the following vegetation associations:

- Vegetation Association 364:
 - Shrublands; bowgada scrub with scattered eucalypts & cypress pine;
 - Current extent remaining: 99.10 remaining (506 376ha);
 - IBRA Region Yalgoo: 99.10 current extent remaining;
 - Shire of Mullewa: 98.62% (19869.76 ha)
- Vegetation Association 419:
 - Shrublands; bowgada, jam and Melaleuca uncinata thicket;
 - Current extent remaining: 94.57 remaining (296 222 ha);
 - IBRA Region Yalgoo: 95.75 current extent remaining;
 - Shire of Mullewa: 96.02% (91 002.61 ha)

Main Roads values input from its stakeholders and we would appreciate comments on this proposal from your organisation. Please provide your submissions by the 18th of November 2011. For further details, please contact Anna Sutherland on 99 56 1207.

Yours sincerely

TR GLENISTER
REGIONAL MANAGER
MID WEST

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