

FACTSHEET:

A Guide to Completing the Environmental and Heritage Checklist in the Application Form to Undertake Works within the Road Reserve

Applicants are required to complete the Environmental and Heritage Checklist when completing their application to undertake works within the road reserve. This Factsheet assists applicants to complete the checklist, determine what approvals are required, and details the standard Main Roads management requirements that they must adhere by.

CHECKLIST

Items 1 and 2a, b, c: Clearing Vegetation

'Clearing' means any act that results in killing, destroying, removal or substantial damage to native vegetation. Clearing includes severing or ringbarking trunks or stems. 'Native vegetation' means indigenous aquatic or terrestrial vegetation, including dead vegetation. It does not include vegetation that was intentionally sown, planted or propagated (with some exceptions).

Clearing native vegetation is an offence, unless done under a clearing permit, or the clearing is for an exempt purpose. Clearing of native vegetation is regulated under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (clearing regulations) both of which are administered by the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER). However, non-native vegetation may be suitable feeding, nesting or roosting habitat for black cockatoo species. For example, revegetation or pine trees.

Refer to [DWER's website](#) for further information on clearing native vegetation and to DWER's factsheet on [Native vegetation clearing legislation in Western Australia](#). Further information on exemptions is available in DWER's [A Guide to the Exemptions and Regulations for Clearing Native Vegetation](#).

Item 2c: Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) are defined areas that have significant environmental value. ESAs are declared under the EP Act to prevent incremental degradation of important environmental values such as declared rare flora, threatened ecological communities or significant wetlands.

Item 2d: Black Cockatoos

Black cockatoos are listed as threatened under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and are matters of national environmental significance. Black cockatoos breed in large hollow-bearing trees, generally within woodlands or forests. The size of the tree (measured as the diameter at breast height (DBH)) can be a useful indication of the hollow-bearing potential of the tree.

Breeding habitat includes trees that contain suitable hollows, which are deep enough and with an opening large enough to be used by black cockatoos for nesting, or are of a suitable DBH to develop a nest hollow. For most tree species, suitable DBH is 500 mm. For salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 mm.

Item 2e: Threatened Flora

Under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, native plants (flora) can be specially protected

and listed as 'threatened' if they are under identifiable threat of extinction, rare, or otherwise in need of special protection. As such, it is an offence to 'take flora', which means gather, pluck, cut, pull up, destroy, dig up, remove or injure the flora, or to cause or allow this to happen. An Authorisation to Take or Disturb Threatened Flora Species is required to take any part of a threatened plant, including cuttings or seeds. Further information on Threatened Flora and Authorisations are available on [Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' \(DBCA\) website](#).

Item 3: Aboriginal Heritage

A search of Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage's (DPLH) heritage database known as the [Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System](#) (AHIS) can be used to determine whether the works area contains any registered sites of Aboriginal Heritage significance. These sites are legally protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (the AHA). The AHIS also identifies Other Heritage Places, which include places that have not yet been assessed to determine if it is an Aboriginal site under the AHA. For further assistance, contact [DPLH](#).

Item 4: Historic (State) Heritage

DPLH's [inHerit Database](#) contains comprehensive information about cultural heritage places listed in the State Register of Heritage Places, local government inventories and other lists, the Australian Government's heritage list, and other non-government lists and surveys. You can search by the name of the heritage site, street name, or suburb or town. Discuss the proposed works with the LGA and check the municipal inventory to confirm that vegetation clearing does not include any regionally significant trees. Consultation with DPLH, LGA or other relevant stakeholders may be required regarding potential impacts to a site.

Item 5: Landscaping

Landscaping refers to the hard and soft surface treatments applied along the back of kerb and road shoulder areas. It can include soft treatments (such as mulch, plantings and grass) and hard treatments (such as paving, concrete, irrigation/reticulation). If there is any damage to any landscaping, it is to be fully restored to its former condition or the same condition as the adjacent undisturbed area or as directed by Main Roads. In particular:

- The surface of *ungrassed/sparsely grassed surfaces* shall be reinstated using the stockpiled topsoil raked to a smooth level finish.
- The stockpiled topsoil of *grassed/lawn areas* (unable to be turfed) will be re-spread, raked smooth and watered.
- For *established lawns*, the underlying layers of topsoil previously stockpiled will be replaced and raked smooth. The previously stripped and stacked turf shall then be re-laid and lightly compacted.

Item 6: Dieback

Dieback is caused by the plant pathogen, *Phytophthora*, which kills susceptible plants, such as banksias, jarrah and grass trees, by attacking their root systems. The fungus is spread through the movement of soil and mud, especially by vehicles and footwear. It also moves in free water and via root-to-root contact between plants.

If works are located in areas that receives more than 400 mm of annual rainfall, the works should be undertaken in dry soil conditions to reduce the chance of vehicles and equipment transporting infected mud/soil. Works are also to be in accordance with Main Roads Standard Management Requirements (see Page 4). Annual rainfall statistics can be sourced from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#). Further information on Dieback Management is available on [DBCA's website](#).

Item 7: Contaminated Sites

Land within the road reserve or on land required to be used as a new road reserve may contain contaminants or potential contaminants. Common contaminants of concern include heavy metals, fuels (such as petrol and diesel), oils and greases; solvents, paints and glues, and asbestos. A search of DWER's [Contaminated Sites Database](#) can be undertaken to determine whether your works area contains or is adjacent to any contaminated sites.

Item 8: Wetlands, Watercourses, and Groundwater

Runoff from road construction and maintenance sites can contain pollutants (e.g. hydrocarbons, metals and sediment) and affect the quality of receiving waters such as wetlands, watercourses and drinking water supply. A search of the [DWER's Online Maps](#) can be undertaken to determine whether the works area contains any sensitive water resources, is adjacent to any significant lakes and rivers, or within a groundwater area.

Dewatering is the removal or draining groundwater or surface water from a riverbed or construction site by pumping or evaporation. A 5C licence from DWER is required to take groundwater from an existing bore or to install a bore within proclaimed or prescribed groundwater areas. A 5C licence is also required for undertaking dewatering. Licences are required to use water from or discharge water in or to any land or waters within a Public Drinking Water Source Area. If your proposed works requires water to be drawn from a surface body (e.g. lake or river) in a proclaimed area, a 5C licence will need to be submitted and approved by DWER. Guidance on DWER's permits and licences is available [here](#).

Item 9: Acid Sulphate Soils

CSIRO's [Australian Soil Resource Information System \(ASRIS\)](#) database may be used to query the 'ASS' layer of the database to determine if your works are located within Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS). DWER's ['Identification and Investigation of Acid Sulfate Soils and Acidic Landscapes'](#) outlines what is required for the identification, assessment and management of ASS.

Item 10: Noise and Vibration

If the proposed works are to occur outside normal work hours (7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, excluding public holidays), a Noise Management Plan will need to be approved by the LGA under delegated authority from DWER in accordance with the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* and LGA regulations. Refer to DWER's [Noise Regulation Fact Sheet – Overview of the Noise Regulations](#) for further guidance.

MAIN ROADS STANDARD MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKING IN OUR ROAD RESERVE

All third parties must adhere to the following standard management requirements when conducting works in our road reserve.

Prior to the Commencement of Works:

- Where requested by Main Roads, aerial imagery (e.g. Google Map, Google Earth) is required to clearly show the full extent of works proposed, including any required access and laydown areas.
- Where requested by Main Roads, date-stamped photographs must be taken of the overall work site and submitted to Main Roads both in the week prior to works/mobilisation and within two days of completing the proposed works. These photographs must be taken from the same orientation and height.



Vegetation Management

- No impacts to vegetation are permitted, unless explicitly included in the scope of works and work area detailed in the Application. This includes no clearing, no pruning, no collisions, no scraping, no tearing, no trampling, no burying, no dumping of any material, no root disturbance, no root-zone compaction, no erosion and no spills.

Hygiene Management:

- All vehicles, machinery and equipment must be clean upon entry, free of mud, vegetation and soil to reduce the risk of weed and dieback spread.
- If vehicle and equipment wash down areas are required, they are to be located away from environmentally sensitive areas.
- All fill brought onto the site is to be clean, uncontaminated and free from rubble, weeds and disease.
- Unused imported materials and spoil must be removed from the site and not respread unless otherwise agreed in writing with Main Roads.

Land Management:

- Ensure that soil erosion does not cause appreciable land degradation.
- Ensure works do not generate excessive dust and become a potential hazard to workers, road users or nearby residents or businesses consultation.
- Any areas prone to erosion, cleared or disturbed by the works, will be stabilised and revegetated/rehabilitated with locally native species.
- At the completion of works, all disturbed areas are to be rehabilitated and stabilised.

Storage of Chemicals:

- Chemicals and hazardous material storage areas are to be bunded and managed in compliance with applicable Australian Standards.

Fire Management:

- Burning of cleared vegetative materials or burning within the road reserve will not be permitted under any circumstances.

Waste Management:

- Waste and other rubbish is to be covered or contained in bins with lids and removed regularly.
- At the completion of works, all waste materials (including waste water, excess soil, cement, rubbish and any other deleterious matter) are to be removed and disposed of at a suitable waste-disposal facility.
- Contaminated material is to be disposed of at an approved waste material facility.
- Asbestos material must be wrapped in heavy-duty plastic and removed by a licenced operator.

Site Rehabilitation:

- If undertaking any temporary clearing, non-weed infested cleared vegetative material will be mulched (where possible) and re-spread over cleared and/or disturbed areas to encourage revegetation, and prevent erosion.
- All damages to any landscaping (soft and hard) attributed to the works must be reinstated to the satisfaction of Main Roads (acting reasonably) to its former condition. This includes, but is not limited to, the replacement of plantings, soil condition, gravels, mulch and irrigation. Where requested by Main Roads, a Reinstatement Proposal must be submitted as soon as practicable by the Applicant to Main Roads for review and approval, detailing the proposed methodology and timeframes.



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- If an Inspection and Test Plan has been developed by the Contractor for the works, the Applicant shall include Main Roads' reinstatement requirements for Main Roads' verification and sign off.

Incident Reporting:

- Any environmental incidents must be reported using the Main Roads [Environment Incident Reporting Form](#) available on the Main Roads website: <https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au> and under Technical & Commercial > Contracting to Main Roads > Environmental & Heritage Management.

