

Public record pursuant to s39(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Proposal Title: Albany Ring Road Stage 2 and 3b

Proposal Location: City of Albany

Case Number: CMS 17829

Date referral received: 20 May 2020 **Date more information received:** 10 July 2020

Referrer: Main Roads Western Australia **Proponent:** Main Roads Western Australia

Potential significant effects:

There are potential impacts on Flora and Vegetation and Terrestrial Fauna from the clearing of up to 29.4 hectares (ha) of native vegetation and 50 ha of plantation or revegetated areas within the 137.7 ha Development Envelope. Inland Waters are potentially impacted by wetland development and changes to hydrological regimes adjacent to the road. Social Surroundings are potentially impacted by construction and operation noise, dust and vibration.

Public comment on referral information:

Do not assess:	0
Assess: a) Referral information	3
b) Environmental review - no public review	1
c) Public environmental review	11
<i>Total submissions:</i>	15

Decision: s. 39A – Not Assess

Referral Examined, preliminary investigations and inquiries conducted. Proposal not to be assessed under Part IV of the EP Act.

Explanation of decision:

The EPA considers that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment. The proposal largely includes the upgrading of existing roads in a highly modified and fragmented environment. The route has been selected to maximise use of existing disturbed areas. The loss of 29.4 ha (over a length of 7 kilometres) of native vegetation is considered a small impact given the existing fragmentation and the small extent of areas impacted.

The potential impacts on fauna habitats, including for the Black Cockatoo Species and Western Ringtail possums, occur in areas already subject to fragmentation by the road network. The area and scale of impacts are small and would not impact the local and regional populations of the species.

Any changes to hydrological regimes are likely to be minor and localised to areas adjacent to the upgraded road.

Noting the existing roads which are a source of traffic noise, the redevelopment would increase potential noise impacts on some residences along the alignment and noise treatments will be implemented at these residences to meet the appropriate standard.

The EPA is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposal can be adequately managed through the implementation of the proposal in accordance with the referral documentation and the proponent's management and mitigation measures. These include the proponent's protocols to limit the extent of clearing, procedures to manage fauna impacts during clearing

and construction, infrastructure to facilitate fauna movement and revegetation of 20 ha of fauna habitat.

The EPA notes there are other statutory processes relevant to this proposal including the clearing of native vegetation in accordance with a permit under Part V Division 2 (Clearing) of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, and a licence to 'take or disturb' threatened fauna under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Appeals: This decision is appealable. Appeals close 10 August 2020. Appeals are administered by the Office of the Appeals Convenor.



Dr Tom Hatton

CHAIRMAN

Delegate of the Environmental Protection Authority

Date: 22 July 2020