



mainroads
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Albany Ring Road Stage 3a

WESTERN RINGTAIL POSSUM MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Amendments

Author / Reviewer	Name and Position	Revision Number	Revision Date
Author	J. Quartermaine Environmental Officer	Rev 1	3/12/2019
Review	P. West Senior Environmental Officer	Rev 1	4/12/2019

1 BACKGROUND

Main Roads is proposing to construct the Albany Ring Road (ARR) to provide for the long-term transport needs of Albany and is the culmination of decades of planning. The ARR is a dedicated freight route around the City of Albany, in the Great Southern Region of Western Australia (WA). The ARR is intended to be the priority route for freight movement to and from the Port of Albany. The ARR will cater for the travel demands associated with growth in grain, woodchip and other agricultural industries, increased mining production, continued population growth and urban expansion and an expected increase in the number of tourists visiting the region.

The Proposal being referred (Stage 3a) by Main Roads includes the construction of approximately 5km of new dual carriageway within a footprint area of approximately 96 ha. The Proposal Area has been significantly altered by human activities, with approximately 84.5 ha (or 88%) of the Proposal Area footprint being cleared of native vegetation. Exploiting the paddock cleared landscape has been a key consideration in selection of the alignment and has limited clearing impacts to 11.6 ha of native vegetation and 8.5 ha of non-native vegetation (plantation or revegetation).

The Proposal will require the clearing of 12.73 ha of native vegetation which provides habitat for the conservation significant (Threatened, Critically Endangered) Western Ringtail Possum (*Pseudocheirus occidentalis*). Evidence of the presence of Western Ringtail Possum (WRP) was recorded during surveys of the Proposal Area and density estimates for the area have identified that the Proposal may intrude on the home ranges of up to two individual WRPs.

2 OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

2.1 Objective

This WRP Management Plan (WRPMP) has been prepared to:

- Reduce potential impacts on individual WRPs
- Provide for the management of any WRPs encountered during road construction.

The management measures have been developed with the objective of minimising the risk of injury or mortality to any WRP encountered during the clearing operations.

2.2 Scope

The WRPMP highlights the key management actions to be undertaken during clearing operations. The scope of the WRPMP is to define actions to manage interactions with WRP during clearing operations and to allocate areas of responsibility for the implementation of those actions. Timeframes for the completion of actions and monitoring are also provided.

3 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Implementation Responsibility

Main Roads is responsible for the implementation of this WRPMP. Details of management measures, responsibilities, monitoring and reporting requirements are detailed in Appendix A.

Appendix A will be incorporated into the project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be prepared for the clearing operations, and included in contract documents and specifications used by Main Roads in engaging contractors and sub-contractors to work on the Project.

3.2 Monitoring

The Contractor shall monitor compliance with the WRP during the construction period. Monitoring of work activities (including subcontractors) must be conducted as an on-going activity during the normal supervision of works. Records of such surveillance should be kept if any significant issues are observed and should be documented as an INFO sheet or a diary note as appropriate.

3.3 Project Delivery and Accountability

Main Roads will manage the Project which will be implemented by appropriately experienced construction Contractors through a formal contractual arrangement.

For the purposes of this WRPMP the following definitions of roles and responsibilities have been used:

Role Defined in HMP	Potential Roles
Project Manager	Main Roads Delivery Manager Roads, Main Roads Contract Manager and/or Main Roads Superintendent's Representative
Contractor	Private Construction Contractor engaged by Main Roads
Construction Engineer	Main Roads Site Manager, Main Roads Contract Manager and/or Construction Contractor Site Manager
Environmental Officer	Main Roads Project Environmental Manager / Environmental Officer and/or Contractor's Site Environmental Representative

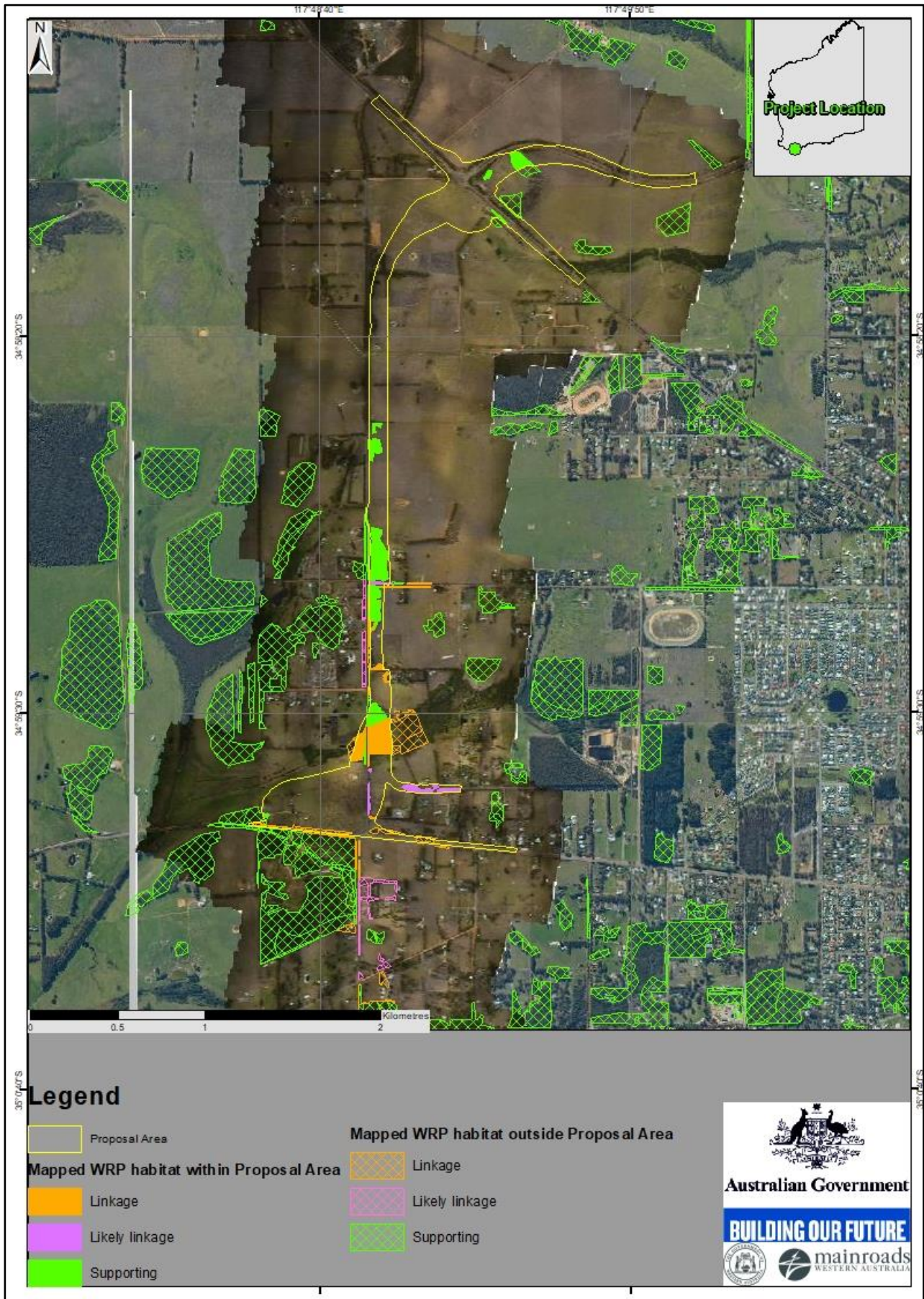
3.4 Communication

WRP management will be communicated at induction, toolbox and/or contract meetings. Relevant management measures detailed in the WRPMP will be communicated to project and construction personnel, (including sub-contractors) prior to the commencement of project activities and during project implementation.

4 APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Project Locality Plan and Identified WRP Habitat
Appendix B	Western Ringtail Possum Management Plan

Appendix A: Project Locality Plan and Identified WRP Habitat



Appendix B: Western Ringtail Possum Management Plan

Albany Ring Road Stage 3a – WRPMP				
Project Component	Management Action	Monitoring Program	Responsible Person	Timeframe
<i>Pre-construction (Pre-clearing)</i>				
Approval of WRPMP	This WRPMP shall be approved by the CEO of the Department of Environment Regulation prior to the commencement of clearing.	A copy of the approval will be recorded in TRIM.	Project Manager	Pre-construction period
Fauna Licence	Main Roads shall obtain the necessary license under Regulation 16 of the <i>Wildlife Conservation Act, 1950</i> to handle any fauna, including WRP on-site.	A copy of the approval will be recorded in TRIM.	Environmental Officer	Pre-construction period
Contract documents / Specifications	WRPMP requirements will be included in contract documents and specifications used by Main Roads in engaging contractors and sub-contractors working on the Project.	Pre-construction documentation	Project Manager	Pre-construction period
<i>Construction (Clearing)</i>				
Communications	Site inductions and pre-start toolbox meetings shall include education regarding Western Ringtail Possum management to avoid impacts as far as possible through awareness and behaviour change.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Western Ringtail Possum management will be communicated (as appropriate) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inductions, • toolbox meetings, and • contract meetings. 	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Relevant management measures detailed in the WRPMP will be communicated to project and construction personnel, (including sub-contractors) prior to the commencement of project activities and during project implementation.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
Environmental incidents	Environmental incidents shall be reported through the Case Accident Management Systems (CAMS) or Main Roads Incident Reporting Process.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
Clearing	Clearing of vegetation shall be limited to the area defined as the “approved clearing disturbance envelope”.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Identify and mark on the ground the extent of clearing prior to the commencement of clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Significant trees on the edge of the clearing line shall be assessed and where possible shall be retained.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Environmental Officer	Construction period
Zoologist	A suitably qualified zoologist / environmental scientist shall be on-site during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period
Traffic Management	Traffic management will be put in place to reduce speed limits during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period

Albany Ring Road Stage 3a – WRPMP				
Project Component	Management Action	Monitoring Program	Responsible Person	Timeframe
	Visual message boards will be used to warn drivers of the potential for WRP to cross the road during clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Construction Engineer	Construction period
WRP Management	A pre-clearing WRP spotlight search shall be conducted prior to clearing operations commencing. NOTE: The spotlight search will identify the trees / locations where WRP are likely to be encountered during the clearing operations.	Construction surveillance	Project Manager / Environmental Officer	Construction period
	Trees that are identified as containing possums may need to be left for a subsequent day when the tree may be vacant.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Trees that have been identified as supporting WRP or possum dreys will be ‘bumped gently’ with a machine prior to felling. The operator and zoologist will wait and observe the tree for a short time. If no possum appears to be present then the tree shall be pushed over slowly to minimise risk of injury to the animal.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	WRP encountered during the clearing operation shall be trapped / collected by the fauna spotter and relocated into nearby vegetation outside of the clearing area or encouraged to move into vegetation away from the highway.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Possums collected by the zoologist shall be immediately re-located into adjacent vegetation.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Fallen trees that contained possum dreys shall be mulched the day they are fallen, or moved at least 50m from where they were fallen to prevent animals re-entering.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Clearing shall be undertaken in stages and along one front to allow fauna to move from the clearing area into adjacent habitats.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Fauna shall not to be fed or intentionally harmed.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Apart from the zoologist / environmental scientist no site personnel shall handle any fauna present on-site.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	No pets or firearms shall be permitted on site.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period
	Any reported injured fauna shall be taken to an approved wildlife carer identified through the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055.	Construction surveillance	Construction Engineer	Construction period