

16 November 2021

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Prime House
8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup WA 6027

Re: CPS 9475/1 Main Roads Western Australia

The Wildflower Society of WA (WSWA) recommends to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) that Clearing Permit application (CPS 9475/1), submitted by Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) with regards to the Marble Bar Road upgrade, not be considered further until MRWA includes rehabilitation works in its environmental management plan (EMR).

We note that while the upgrade works largely follow the existing road alignment, in several areas the design deviates (Main Roads Western Australia 2021). This would result in areas that are unlikely to regenerate vegetation unassisted due to the compacted nature of the old road surface. We suggest at the very least ripping of the old road surface to alleviate compaction and allow for better water and root penetration, and then spreading of topsoil removed for clearing of the adjacent realignment. Culverts associated with these areas as well as borrow-pits excavated for construction should also be rehabilitated using topsoil from clearing activities associated with the realigned areas. Such rehabilitation would go some way towards offsetting the clearing required by the project.

Conclusions

While not opposed to the project in principle, the WSWA recommends that the clearing permit application by MRWA not be considered further by DWER until rehabilitation works are included in MRWA's EMR.



<http://www.wildflowersocietywa.org.au/>

References

Main Roads Western Australia (2021) Clearing Assessment Report: Marble Bar Road Upgrades.