

REVEGETATION PLAN
AGGREGATE DUMP SITES
PANNAWONICA ROAD
30.5 & 39.18 SLK



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CONTENTS

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
1.1 PURPOSE	3
1.2 BACKGROUND.....	3
1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION	3
1.4 EXISTING VEGETATION.....	7
1.5 WEEDS.....	7
2. SITE PREPARATION	7
2.1 VEGETATION CLEARING, MULCHING AND RE-USE	7
2.2 TOPSOIL STRIPPING AND RE-USE.....	7
3. WEED CONTROL	8
4. REVEGETATION THROUGH REGENERATION	8
4.1 REVEGETATION OBJECTIVES	8
4.2 REQUIRED VEGETATION COVER.....	8
4.3 REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES.....	8
5. VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD	9
6. ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING	9
6.1 MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING	9

PROJECT TITLE

REVEGETATION PLAN

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Purpose

Main Roads Western Australia (MRWA) has a policy aim to “protect and enhance the environmental values of road reserves”. This document has been prepared to ensure compliance with Main Roads’ Environmental Policy and Main Roads’ Clearing Purpose Permit CPS 818/2.

In the process of establishing new roads and upgrading existing roads, there is often a need to undertake revegetation of the road reserve or other affected areas. Where clearing of native vegetation is to occur under Main Roads’ Clearing Purpose Permit CPS 818/2, a revegetation plan is required for temporary clearing (eg. borrow pits, access tracks, camps etc.). Where the temporary clearing exceeds 0.5ha, the revegetation plan needs to be forwarded to the Department of Environment and Conservation prior to clearing.

This revegetation plan sets out the revegetation requirements for the Aggregate Dumpsites at 30.5 & 39.18 SLK off Pannawonica Road.

The purpose of the revegetation plan is to identify effective revegetation practices that help accelerate the natural succession processes that occur following the clearing of native vegetation and soil disturbance.

1.2 Background

Main Roads Gascoyne Region plans to reseal parts of Pannawonica Road as part of their routine maintenance activities.

In order for maintenance to occur, strategic dump sites need to be in place. These sites will store aggregate stockpiles and used ad-hoc as the need arises.

This report details the proposed sites of 2 aggregate dump locations at:

- 30.5 SLK, RHS, Pannawonica Road
- 39.18 SLK, RHS, Pannawonica Road

30.5 SLK and 39.18 SLK dump sites occur within the Shire of Ashburton.

1.3 Project Description

Aggregate Dump 30.5 SLK is located approximately 50 meters off Pannawonica Road on the right hand side. The dimensions of the site are approximately 100m long by 100m wide.

Aggregate Dump 39.18 SLK is located approximately 50 meters off Pannawonica Road on the right hand side. The dimensions of the site are approximately 100m long by 100m wide.

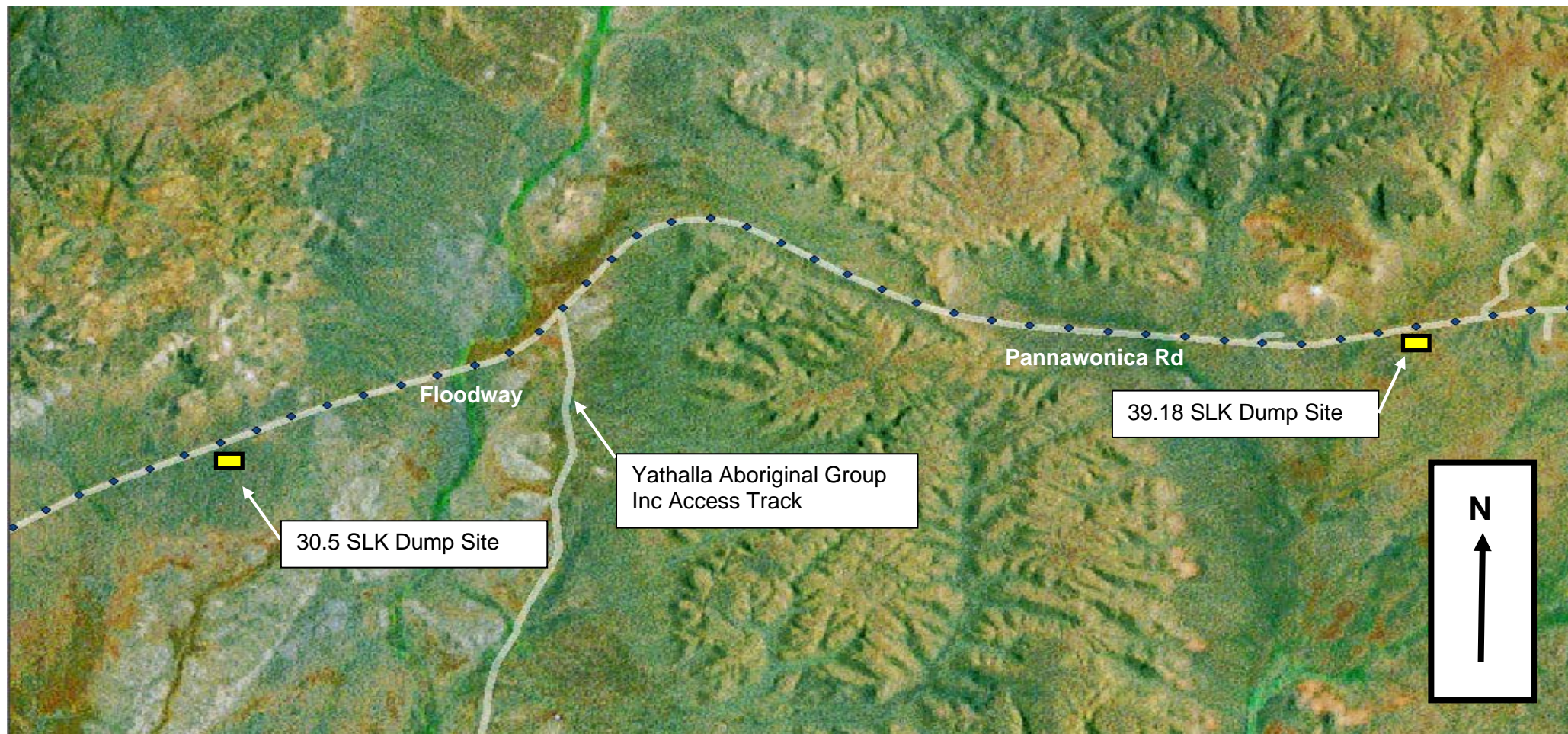
The areas to be rehabilitated are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Revegetation Area Details

Type	Area
Temporary clearing revegetation	30.5 SLK = 1 (ha) 39.18 SLK = 1 (ha)
Other revegetation	0 hectares

The location and boundaries of the revegetation area(s) are shown in Figures 1-2 below.

Figure 2 – Location of Aggregate Dump Sites



1.4 Existing vegetation

Pit 30.5 SLK

This Aggregate dumpsite occurs within vegetation association 605 which is described as "*Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; Acacia victoriae & snakewood over soft spinifex*". According to the Native Vegetation Association Data (DEC & DAF) this vegetation association is well represented in the region with 100% remaining. The condition of the vegetation is best described as good.

Pit 39.18 SLK

This Aggregate dumpsite occurs within vegetation association 609 which is described as "Mosaic: Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; bloodwood with sparse kanji shrubs over soft spinifex / Hummock grasslands, open low tree steppe; snappy gum over *Triodia wiseana* on a lateritic crust". According to the Native Vegetation Association Data (DEC & DAF) this vegetation association is well represented in the region with 100% remaining. The condition of the vegetation is best described as good.

The following lists of species are known to occur within the project areas:

Acacia pachycarpa
Acacia coriacea
Acacia pyrifolia
Triodia pungens

No mature trees will be cleared for the works.

There are no declared rare or priority flora within the dumpsites

1.5 Weeds

No weed species were observed within the project areas.

2. SITE PREPARATION

2.1 Vegetation clearing, mulching and re-use

All vegetation will be cleared from the works area and non-weed infested vegetation will be stockpiled. Stockpiled vegetation will not be placed on the very edge of the approved cleared area in order to prevent machinery going outside the cleared area to push the stockpile forward again. Weed infested vegetation will be disposed of at an appropriate site. Burning of the cleared vegetation will not be permitted.

2.2 Topsoil stripping and re-use

Topsoil will be stripped to a maximum depth of 100 mm. Topsoil will be stored in a weed free (as far as possible) area, as close as possible to the area to be rehabilitated. The topsoil will be placed in windrows of less than 1m in height and reinstated as soon as possible, to prevent deterioration to the in-situ seeds and maintain seed viability.

3. WEED CONTROL

Adequate control measures will be incorporated to ensure weeds are killed or not transported to other areas. Control measures include removal of weeds to an approved dump site or treatment of weeds such as using herbicide spraying.

Herbicide spraying shall only be carried out by licensed operators and herbicide shall be mixed and applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

Where practicable, weeds should not be removed when they are in flower or seeding.

All machinery shall be free of built up soil and vegetative material before entering and leaving the site to help minimise the transportation of weeds and their seeds.

Exposed areas such as bare batters and borrow pits shall be promptly rehabilitated to reduce the ingress of weeds.

4. REVEGETATION THROUGH REGENERATION

4.1 Revegetation objectives

The revegetation objectives are to:

- Ensure roadside stability and minimise ongoing maintenance;
- Ensure that conservation values and biodiversity are protected; and
- Ensure local amenity and aesthetics are enhanced.

4.2 Required vegetation cover

The roadside vegetation should be similar in structure and content to comparable naturally occurring vegetation in the local area and will reflect the vegetation communities present in the road reserve and adjacent bushland. The width of the vegetation setbacks and clearances will be appropriate for the specific location and will be dependent on an assessment of the road design speed, road alignment and the roadside batter slopes.

4.3 Revegetation Techniques

The following rehabilitation works shall be undertaken on areas of disturbed earth requiring rehabilitation:

- Topsoil will be uniformly respread to a minimum depth of 100 mm over the area and;
- Area to be ripped to a minimum depth of 200mm deep with rip lines approximately 300mm apart. Where slopes are present, rip lines shall be along contours.

The following rehabilitation work shall be undertaken at borrow/gravel pits:

- Overburden and then topsoil shall be uniformly and evenly spread over the disturbed areas of the pit. Depending on the slope of drainage lines within the pit, it may be necessary to form small swales from the topsoil to reduce erosion velocities and encourage the deposition of seeds.

- The existing pit floor shall be ripped to a depth of 300 – 500mm deep with rip lines between 500 - 800mm apart, if the material in the floor of the pit is able to be ripped. The whole area of the pit, including drainage lines, shall be ripped.
- All stockpiled vegetation shall be spread along the contour and pit floor to help promote seed deposition and further reduce erosion velocities.

5. VEGETATION ESTABLISHMENT PERIOD

The vegetation establishment period will be for at least twelve months following the completion of the works. During this period, the maintenance and monitoring will be undertaken, see Section 6.

6. ONGOING MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

Maintenance and monitoring of the project shall be ongoing to measure regeneration effectiveness and to control weeds.

6.1 Maintenance and Monitoring

After revegetation works, revegetated areas will be inspected every six months for a total of 12 months to monitor and control weeds and to measure the effectiveness of revegetation works.

Monitoring will comprise the use of criteria. Essentially, this involves visual assessment to ensure the revegetation works have been implemented as planned. Table 2 shall be used as the monitoring guide to assess the success or otherwise of the revegetation plan.

Due to the variable rainfall patterns in pastoral areas, revegetation works may not be successful, despite the use of best management practices.

Table 2: Revegetation Monitoring Guide

Criterion	Target	After three months	After one year	After three years
Mean vegetation foliage cover (%) excluding weeds.	>50	0	20	40
Mean weed foliage cover (%).	<20	<20	<20	<20
Amount of bare soil areas >4m ² (%).	<30	<100	<80	<50