

Enquiries: Peter Swanson on 9724 5692
Our Ref: 10/6614
Your Ref:

27 April 2012

Manager
Native Vegetation Conservation Branch (NVCB)
Department Of Environment and Conservation
Locked Bag 104
BENTLEY DELIVERY CENTRE WA 6983

Dear Sir/Madam

OFFSET PROPOSAL FOR BUSSELL HIGHWAY, CARBUNUP RESERVE TO CHAMBERS RD

Main Roads South West Region is in the advanced stages of planning for improvements to Bussell Highway, Carburnup Reserve to Chambers Rd Section (67.50 to 70.76 SLK) in the City of Busselton. This project is part of the ongoing programme to improve safety on Bussell Highway between Vasse and Margaret River.

The Carburnup to Island Brook section of Bussell Highway consists of a two lane sealed road with narrow gravel shoulders and steep batters. In order to improve safety for road users the formation in this section is to be widened to accommodate a 10.0 metre wide seal with 1.0 metre wide unsealed shoulders on both sides. Batter slopes will be flattened to conform to current design standards where practical and clearing will be undertaken to improve clear zones.

The clearing for the project has been assessed against the *Environmental Protection Act's* Clearing Principles and it was considered that the clearing may be at variance with one or more of the clearing principles. Therefore in accordance with Condition 8(a) of Main Roads' Clearing Permit CPS 818/6 submissions were invited from relevant stakeholders.

After consultation with local DEC staff and in accordance with Condition 9(c) of Main Roads' Clearing Permit CPS 818/6 the attached offset proposal has been developed for the approval of the CEO as required by Condition 5(a) (ii). The offset proposed for this project offers revegetation of 1 ha of redundant road reserve and cleared paddock land, plus the retention of 1.44 ha of road verge vegetation in good to very good condition for conservation purposes as a direct offset. Included is monitoring and infill planting as necessary of the revegetation works over a three year period.

Contributing offsets include:

- the retention, buffering and long term management of two identified TEC patches (totalling 1.44 ha) of good to very good condition and containing Priority and DRF species;
- the installation and maintenance of fencing around the offset site at Remnant 4 and ongoing weed management as part of the MRWA maintenance program and
- the transplanting and ongoing maintenance of approximately 0.005ha of the Priority 3 species *Loxocarya magna*.

Please find enclosed Main Roads Offset Proposal in accordance with Condition 16 and Offset Revegetation Implementation Plan for your review. As this project is reliant upon the use of a large quantity of soil from an adjacent project that is currently being delivered (Bussell Highway

SLK 70.76 – 72.5) and is programmed for commencement in June 2012; it would be appreciated to receive your response at your earliest convenience.

If you require any further information please contact Peter Swanson on 97245692.

Yours faithfully

Brett Belstead
DIRECTOR OF SOUTH WEST OPERATIONS