Ref : GSBL306-SBF sig tree assessment-V1

24 July 2017

Matthew Stadler
Department of Agriculture and Food
444 Albany Highway
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Dear Matt

RE: Assessment of significant trees along identified sections of the SBF near Salmon Gums

Between 18 and 20 July 2017, Great Southern Bio Logic assessed the presence of significant trees situated within the proposed 20m clearing corridor for the Esperance extension of the State Barrier Fence (EESBF). The assessment involved traversing identified sections of the proposed alignment, using surveyed marker pegs as a guide to the proposed corridor centre line, and recording the presence of all trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) greater than 500mm and occurring within the 20m corridor.

The assessment was targeted at vegetation types determined during previous flora and vegetation surveys which were considered likely to contain large trees. A total of 103 trees with a DBH greater than 500mm were recorded however 100 of these were located to the east of the Coolgardie Esperance Highway. The three trees recorded to the west of the highway were all *E. dundasii* and were not associated with any of the identified assessment sections. These three trees were all, located on the western private property boundary to the south of Fuller Road and approximately 1.5km north of Section 4.

Large trees were typically found to occur in clusters which often extended beyond the 20m alignment corridor. Vegetation adjacent to the corridor was consistent with that within the corridor and much of the corridor incorporated boundary tracks and fire breaks which will reduce the requirement for additional clearing. Details of trees recorded within each of the eight sections assessed, including representative photographs of vegetation and large trees, are presented below.

Also provided with this letter report is a GPX file of all recorded tree locations and a CSV file providing locational, species and DBH data for each recorded tree.

Section 1 Veg type: EmMpCC – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), Black Morrel (*E melanoxylon*) and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*). Along Beete Road: 2.2km Coolgardie Esperance Hwy to a small lake west of Burnside Road (between 261- 262.5 Ecoscape km markers).

Vegetation within Section 1 was dominated by *E. dundasii* of which 14 individual trees with a DBH of greater than 500mm were recorded. The surveyed alignment markers are located to

the southern side of Beete Road which is included within the 20m proposed clearing corridor. Representative photographs of the vegetation within Section 1 are provided below.

Section 1: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor

Section 1: *E. Dundasii* 627mmDBH

Section 1: *E. Dundasii* 503mmDBH

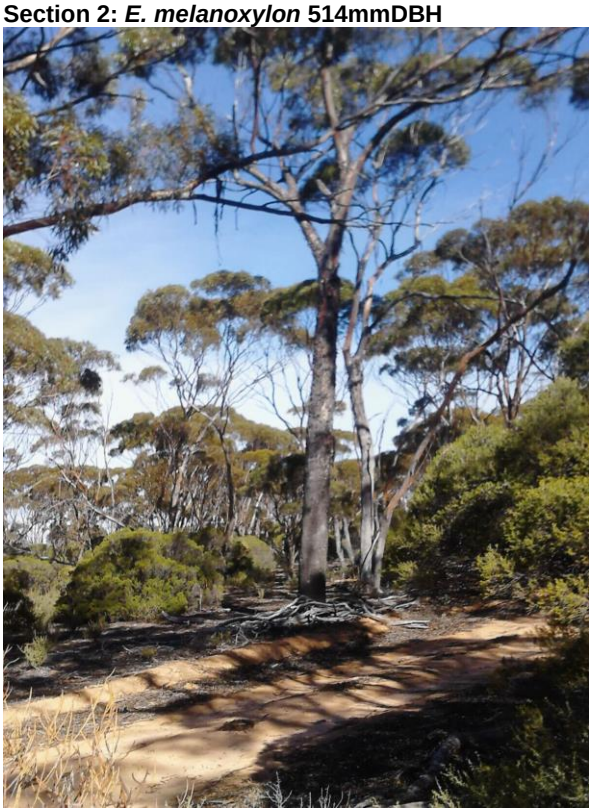
Section 2 Veg type: EmMpCC – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), Black Morrel (*E melanoxylon*) and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*).) Along Beete Road: 10.4 km from between Burnside and Hobby roads to north of Cooksey Road (between. 268-278.5 Ecoscape km markers).

Vegetation within Section 2 was consistent with Section 1, dominated by *E. dundasii* however towards the eastern end *E. melanoxylon* became the dominant tree species. Within Section 2 there were 35 individual trees with a DBH of greater than 500mm. The surveyed alignment markers are located to the southern side of Beete Road which is included within the 20m proposed clearing corridor. Representative photographs of the vegetation within Section 2 are provided below are provided below.

Section 2: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor

Section 2: *E. Dundasii* 565mmDBH

Section 2: *E. melanoxylon* 514mmDBH

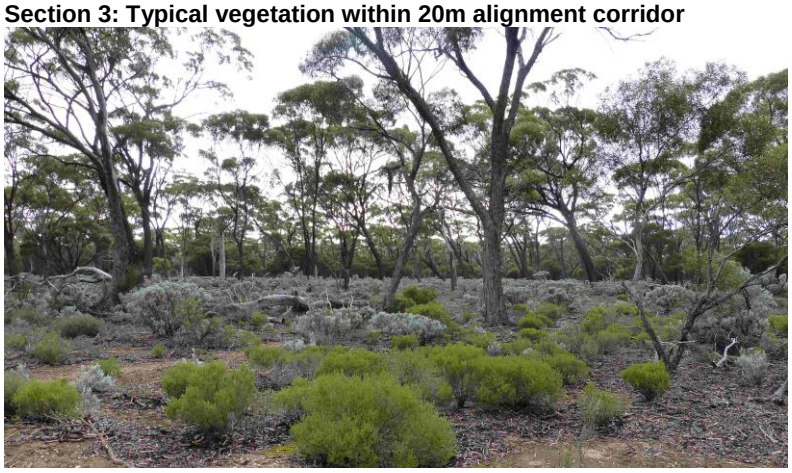


Section 3 Veg type: EmMpCC – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), Black Morrel (*E melanoxylon*) and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*). 1.5 km length at the eastern end of Quast Road (between 289-290.5 Ecoscape km markers).

E. dundasii and *E. melanoxylon* can be described as being co-dominant over storey species in Section 3. There were 31 individual trees with a DBH of greater than 500mm.

The survey markers along section 3 run close to the private property boundary and there is a minor forest track/fire break that also runs just outside the property boundary. This track is largely within the 20m alignment corridor however in some short sections it deviates outside as it deviates around fallen trees and other obstacles.

Section 3: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor



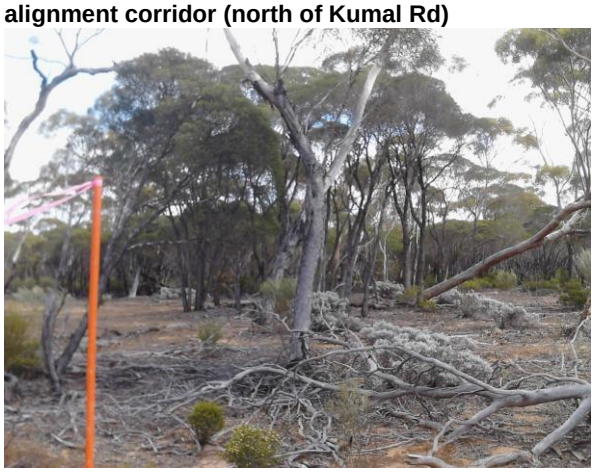
Section 3: *E. Dundasii* 573mmDBH

Section 3: *E. melanoxylon* 799mmDBH

Section 4 Veg type: EdMqMm – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*). Approximately 800m south and 4.5km north of Kumarl Lake King Road (includes significant gaps for other veg types) (between 241-246.5 Ecoscape km markers).

No trees with a DBH greater than 500mm occurred within Section 4. Representative photographs of vegetation within Section 4 are provided below.

Section 4: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor (north of Kumal Rd)



Section 4: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor (South of Kumal Rd

Section 5 Veg type: EdMqMm – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*). Approximately **1 km west** of Coolgardie Esperance Hwy (between 256-257 Ecoscape km markers).

No trees with a DBH greater than 500mm occurred within Section 5. Representative photographs of vegetation within Section 5 are provided below.

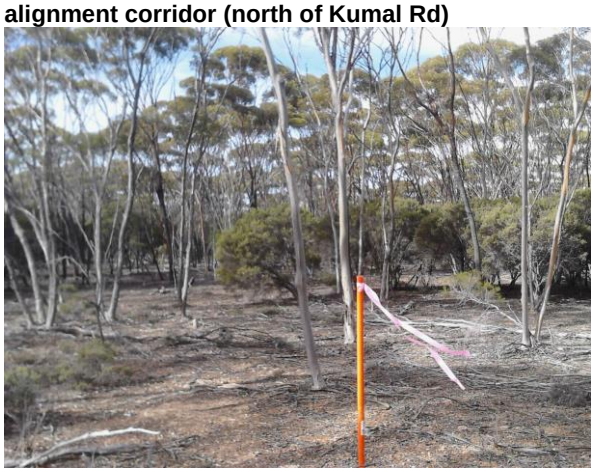
Section 5: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor

Section 5: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor

Section 6 Veg type: EdMqMm – includes Salmon Gum (*E. salmonophloia*), and Dundas Blackbutt (*E dundasii*). Area traversing virgin woodlands north of Kumal road before extending south along eastern private property boundary (between 282-289 Ecoscape km markers).

Vegetation within Section 6 can be divided into two main types with a very dense, highly stocked mallee type vegetation through the majority of the alignment that traverses virgin vegetation north of Kumal Rd. Approximately 500m north of Kumal Rd the vegetation transitions into an open woodland dominated by *E. melanoxylon* and *E. dundasii,* which extends to the south as the alignment follows the private property boundary. A total of 11 trees with a DBH greater than 500mm were recorded within Section 6 however they were all identified in the open woodland vegetation type, largely south of Kumal Rd.

Section 6: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor (north of Kumal Rd)



Section 6: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor South of Kumal Rd

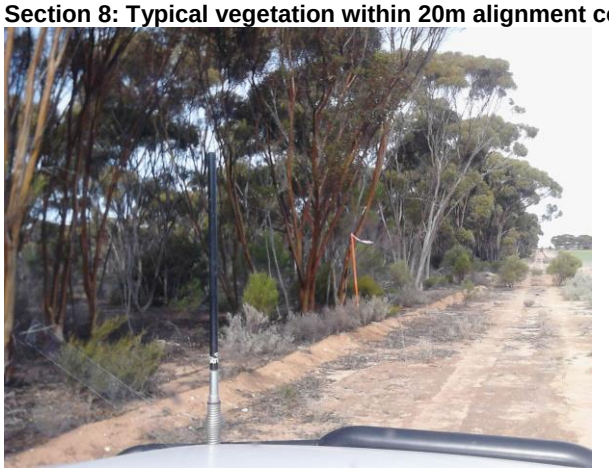
Section 6: *E. melanoxylon* 549mmDBH

Section 6: *E. Dundasii* 679mmDBH

Sections 7&8 Veg type: EoMpSf – includes Flat Topped Yate (*E. occidentalis*), two small sections located adjoining either end of Section 2 along Beete Road and just south of Beete rd on the eastern boundary of private property. These sections were noted as having a lower potential for containing significant trees based on the vegetation composition and structure.

Vegetation within Sections 7 and 8 was consistent with vegetation in Section 2 however Section 8 largely consisted of natural regeneration following previous clearing. A total of 3 trees with DBH greater than 500mm were recorded in Section 7 and four within Section 8, including trees located to the south of the recorded extent of the vegetation unit.

Section 8: Typical vegetation within 20m alignment corridor



Section 7: *E. Dundasii* 505mmDBH

Section 8: *E. melanoxylon* 607mmDBH