



Environmental Protection Authority	24 APR 2017											
File:	A:	FA:	General Manager	Dir. AC	Dir. SPPD	Dir. Bus Ops	Exec Assist	For Information	For Discussion	For Consideration/Advice	Draft Response	No Further Action
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dr Tom Hatton
 Chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority
 Environmental Protection Authority
 Level 8, The Atrium
 168 St Georges Terrace
 PERTH WA 6008

Your reference: CMS15049: AC01-2016-0064
 Our reference: DAF16515.03

Attention: Peta Hayward

Dear Dr Hatton

STATE BARRIER FENCE EXTENSION- ASSESSMENT NO: 2088

The Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) proposes to construct and maintain a 660 km long and 1.35 m high barrier fence that extends the existing State Barrier Fence (the Proposal) into the Shires of Ravensthorpe and Esperance.

The Proposal is currently being assessed under the Western Australian *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Proposal was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under s 38 of the EP Act on 10 June 2016. The EPA determined a Public Environmental Review (PER) level of assessment (Assessment No. 2088) on 1 September 2016 with a 4 week public review period. The draft PER document for the Proposal was submitted to the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority (OEPA) on 18 January 2017.

In the period between the referral of the Proposal in June 2016 and the submission of the draft PER in January 2017 the Proposal Development Envelope has increased by 2826 ha from 5313 ha to 8139 ha, and the maximum clearing footprint has decreased by 27 ha, from 843 ha to 816 ha.

In a letter dated 28 February 2017 responding to the draft PER, the OEPA recommended DAFWA submit a request to seek EPA consent to the proposed changes without a revised proposal being referred under Part IV of the EPA Act pursuant to s 43A of the EP Act.

Table 1 provides a summary of the changes to the Proposal since referral.

Table 1: Proposed changes to the Proposal

Proposal component	Referral	Proposed change	Rationale for proposed change
Proposal alignment	660 km	No change	N/A.
Maximum clearing footprint	843 ha	816 ha	<p>Following recent requests from the relevant adjacent landholder, a total of 19 km of the Proposal alignment previously located on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) has been adjusted to replace existing farm boundary fences on private property (Figure 1). This means a 15 m wide clearing area required for this 19 km length of the Proposal alignment, totalling approximately 28 ha, is no longer required.</p> <p>Another four locations along the Proposal alignment require additional clearing of a total of up to approximately 1 ha that had not been previously identified in the referral, all associated with minor and narrow sections of roadside vegetation. Figure 2 depicts the locations of this additional proposed clearing.</p> <p>Given the reduced overall clearing footprint and negligible extent of 'new' clearing, no significant adverse changes to the currently predicted outcomes for environmental factors (flora and vegetation, heritage and terrestrial fauna) are expected.</p>
Development Envelope	5313 ha	8139 ha.	<p>An increase of 2826 ha is requested to allow improved flexibility in the final position of the alignment. The scale of the proposed additional area is due to the Development Envelope corridor being widened more than 100 m in some areas along the alignment's 660 km length. The widening is intended to provide flexibility by encompassing existing tracks and other previously cleared areas. Only existing disturbed areas are proposed to be utilised in the event any unexpected on-ground constraints (e.g. geotechnical, environmental or heritage) are identified during pre-construction which render construction of any sections of the fence unviable at the currently mapped location. The change in width does not introduce any significant new risks or environmental factors not already addressed under the referral and scoping stages, as assessed in the PER.</p> <p>Figure 3 depicts typical examples of where the Development Envelope has been widened along the Proposal alignment to accommodate adjacent existing tracks. For brevity, the entire alignment has not been provided with this letter; however, this will be provided if required.</p>

As summarised in Table 1 the revised changes to the Development Envelope and the maximum clearing footprint are not expected to significantly increase any predicted impacts that the Proposal may have on the environment. Accordingly, Strategen, on behalf of DAFWA, seeks EPA agreement:

- that the proposed overall decrease in the clearing footprint represents a better outcome for the identified key environmental factors (flora and vegetation, heritage and terrestrial fauna) relative to referral
- that the proposed adjustment of the Development Envelope width is reasonable and does not affect the Proposal as referred or the impact assessment as it:
 - * will not result in an increase in the proposed maximum clearing footprint
 - * provides flexibility in final location to avoid any unexpected environmental, heritage or geotechnical constraints
 - * does not introduce any new environmental risks or factors.

If the EPA accepts the rationale as outlined above we look forward to confirmation the proposed changes will not require a revised proposal being referred under Part IV of the EP Act. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 9380 3100 or j.mitchell@strategen.com.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a wavy line.

Jeremy Mitchell

Partner and Principal

12 April 2017

CC: Matt Stadler, Department of Agriculture and Food

Enclosures:

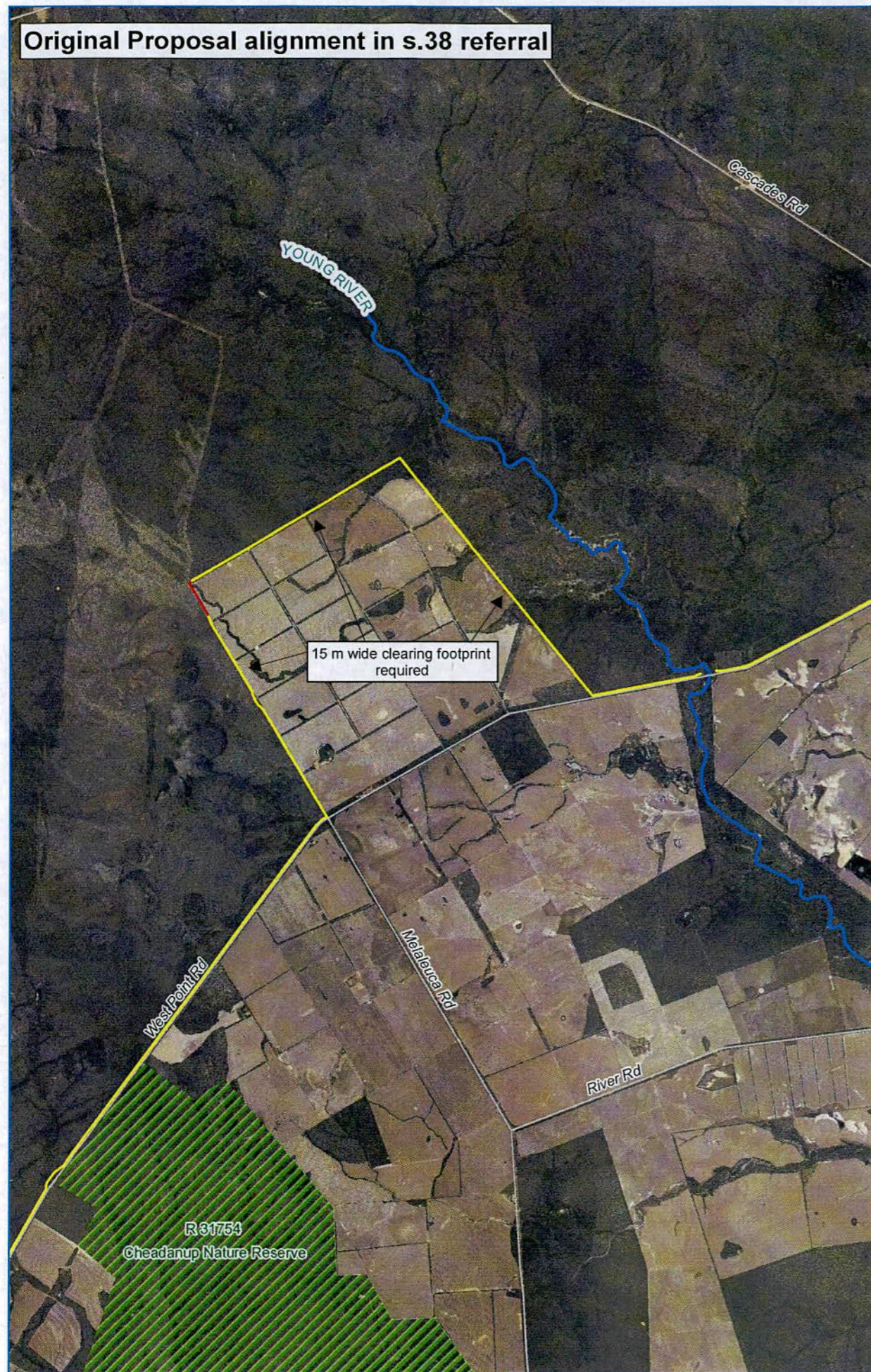
Figure 1: Change to Proposal alignment

Figure 2: Additional clearing areas

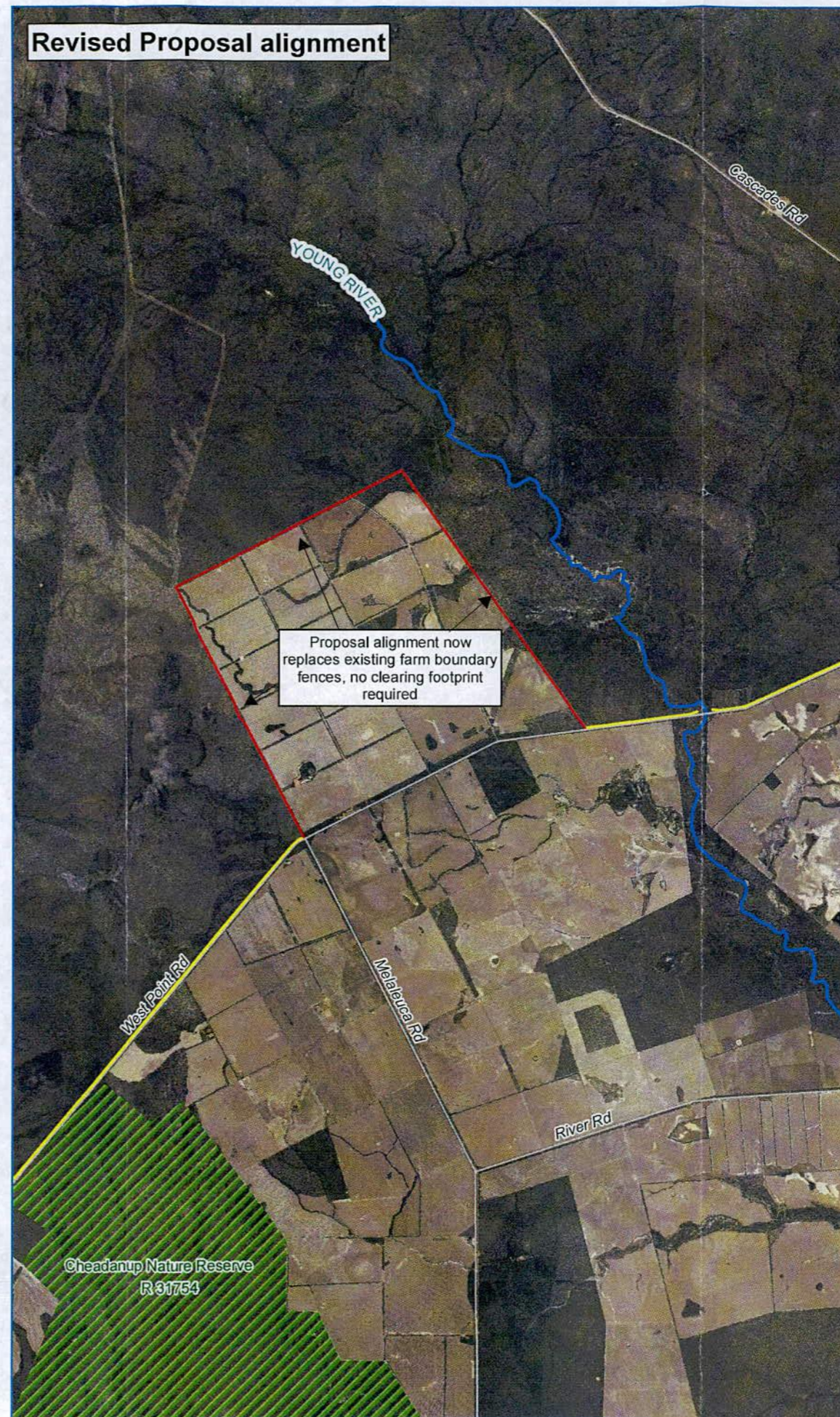
Figure 3: Example locations of extensions to the Development Envelope

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Original Proposal alignment in s.38 referral



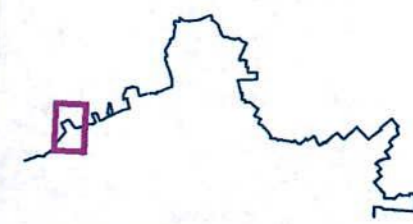
Revised Proposal alignment



**Figure 1:
Change to Proposal alignment**

Legend

- Roads
- Proposal alignment**
- Previously chained firebreak
- Previously cleared freehold farmland
- Major watercourses
- ▨ Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands and Waters



Scale 1:120,535 at A3



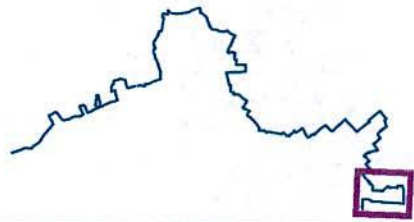
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 50
 Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
 Date: 12/04/2017
 Author: DWhite
 Source: Aerial: ESRI approx. 2010; Inland waters: SLIP database, Landgate 2017





**Figure 2:
Additional clearing areas**

- Legend**
- Roads
 - ▨ Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands and Waters
 - Proposal alignment existing environmental condition**
 - ▨ Previously chained firebreak
 - ▨ Previously cleared freehold farmland
 - ▨ Uncleared vegetation



Scale 1:110,000 at A3

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 51
 Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
 Date: 12/04/2017
 Author: DWhite
 Source: Aerial: ESRI approx. 2010; Inland waters: SLIP database, Landgate 2017





Figure 3
Example locations of extensions to the Development Envelope

1








2

3

4

5

Legend

-  Revised Development Envelope
-  Original Development Envelope
- Proposal alignment existing environmental condition**
-  Previously chained firebreak
-  Existing track or graded firebreak
-  Previously cleared freehold farmland
-  Uncleared vegetation
-  Parks and Wildlife Managed Lands and Waters

Proposal alignment extent



Coordinate System: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 51
 Note that positional errors may occur in some areas
 Date: 12/04/2017
 Author: DWhite
 Source: Data: Client 2016