



Title of Proposal - Gloucester Park Precinct - expansion of ovals and community facilities.

Section 1 - Summary of your proposed action

Provide a summary of your proposed action, including any consultations undertaken.

1.1 Project Industry Type

Tourism and Recreation

1.2 Provide a detailed description of the proposed action, including all proposed activities.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River, located in the SW of WA provides a range of recreation and community facilities at the Gloucester Park Precinct in the town of Margaret River. Existing facilities include community halls, sporting ovals (cricket, rugby, football and soccer), tennis, bowling, athletic gymnasium and swimming facilities along with club rooms. There is a need to provide two additional areas of oval space due to a growing population and the Shire has also committed to providing a space for the proposed Margaret River Mens Shed. The oval expansion projects and Mens Shed require the clearing of a total of approximately 0.56 ha of vegetation.

The Shire commissioned a flora and fauna assessment of the Gloucester Park Precinct (attached) to determine the potential impact of the proposed works. The study showed that a number of Western Ringtail Possums (WRP) utilise the precinct including vegetation within or adjacent to that proposed to be cleared.

The project comprises three key components which are described in detail below.

Lower Western Oval

There is a shortage of playing field capacity in the Augusta Margaret River Shire with a specific need to provide a full size senior soccer field and rugby field.

In July 2016 the Shire commissioned a feasibility report for the Lower Western Oval identifying the need for additional spaces and a preferred location. See attached Feasibility Study. This study identified a preference for a north-south alignment of a new oval, however due to the desire to minimize clearing requirements, it is now proposed redevelop an existing informal grass area that is currently used as a dog exercise area and overflow parking during events into an east west orientated grassed playing area measuring 130 x 81m plus associated parking and landscaping.

The proposal will result in the clearing of 0.2695 ha of completely degraded to degraded vegetation. A preliminary earthworks drawing is attached. This drawing does not include a 4m wide construction access track to be located on the northern boundary.

The project details are



- clearing the site, removing approximately 0.5m of the existing surface material and replacing it with a suitable porous fill and top soil
- development of a temporary construction and access track on the north side of the oval.
- Finishing the surface level with a crossfall of 2% and approximately 0.5% longitudinally to ensure surface drainage.
- Installing subsurface drainage with outlets in the northern batter piped to a collection point in the NW.
- Installing irrigation
- Laying village green kikuyu grass rolls.
- Lighting to 100lux for soccer competition with potential future upgrade to 250 lux for competition hockey.
- Car parking will be installed on the eastern edge in existing cleared areas.

Landscaping and rehabilitation

The Shire has commenced planting of WA Peppermint trees within the precinct including adjacent to the proposed oval. The temporary construction access track will be completely removed and rehabilitated except for a small section on the western side to allow for maintenance of the subsurface drainage network. This will result in approximately 500m² of rehabilitation using local native species.

Additional planting will predominantly comprise of WA Peppermint Trees to act as feature, street and shade trees whilst also providing habitat for WRP. The number of these trees proposed to be planted is unknown at this stage as detailed car parking and landscaping plans are yet to be prepared.

Margaret River Mens Shed

The Margaret River Mens Shed (Inc) have been granted a lease by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for a Mens Shed over parts of Lot 45 and Lot 15 in the precinct. The design requires the removal of 3 WA Peppermint Trees and 2 Marri trees with a canopy cover of approximately 765m². The vegetation was assessed to be completely degraded in the 2016 Flora and Fauna Assessment. Vegetation including approximately 12 WA Peppermint trees on the edge of the site shall be retained. A copy of the planning application for the Mens Shed is attached.

Nippers Oval expansion

This project is a concept only based on the LWO feasibility study with detailed design yet to be undertaken. The current oval is an irregular shape and the current size does not meet requirements for all sporting codes. The proposed clearing shown is the maximum extent potentially required and is shown to demonstrate potential impact on habitat across the entire precinct. It is not anticipated to undertake these works in the next five years. It is considered likely that if the LWO proceeds, then the demand for Nippers Oval will decrease and potentially negate the need for oval expansion and clearing. If the proposal proceeds, the maximum clearing extent is approximately 2,087 m² of vegetation in completely degraded to good condition.

**1.3 What is the extent and location of your proposed action? Use the polygon tool on the map below to mark the location of your proposed action.**

Area	Point	Latitude	Longitude
Mens Shed	1	-33.956978747836	115.06870120726
Mens Shed	2	-33.957009894717	115.06890237294
Mens Shed	3	-33.957305789518	115.06879508458
Mens Shed	4	-33.956974298281	115.06870120726
Mens Shed	5	-33.956978747836	115.06870120726
Nippers Oval	1	-33.956951294228	115.06622552834
Nippers Oval	2	-33.957574229883	115.06592512093
Nippers Oval	3	-33.957903494029	115.06610214673
Nippers Oval	4	-33.95801918113	115.06627917252
Nippers Oval	5	-33.958072575123	115.06642401181
Nippers Oval	6	-33.957988034618	115.06699800454
Nippers Oval	7	-33.958348443554	115.06655275784
Nippers Oval	8	-33.95761427559	115.06569445096
Nippers Oval	9	-33.956964642897	115.06621479951
Nippers Oval	10	-33.956951294228	115.06622552834
Lower Western	1	-33.954753184836	115.0662416216
Lower Western	2	-33.954735386148	115.06469666921
Lower Western	3	-33.954584097146	115.06480395757
Lower Western	4	-33.954575197784	115.0661236044
Lower Western	5	-33.954748735164	115.06623089276
Lower Western	6	-33.954748735164	115.06623089276
Lower Western	7	-33.954744285492	115.06621479951
Lower Western	8	-33.954753184836	115.0662416216

1.5 Provide a brief physical description of the property on which the proposed action will take place and the location of the proposed action (e.g. proximity to major towns, or for off-shore actions, shortest distance to mainland).

The project site is located within the Margaret River townsite. Gloucester Park is a predominantly cleared 25 ha precinct that contains the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Administration building, the Recreation Centre, three sporting ovals, and other sporting facilities including BMX, skate park, tennis courts and a bowling club. Remnant vegetation remains in parts of the precinct. Vegetation condition ranges from completely degraded to very good. See attached documentation.



1.6 What is the size of the development footprint or work area?

4.5

1.7 Is the proposed action a street address or lot?

Street Address

61 Wallcliffe Road
Margaret River WA 6285
Australia

1.8 Primary Jurisdiction.

Western Australia

1.9 Has the person proposing to take the action received any Australian Government grant funding to undertake this project?

No

1.10 Is the proposed action subject to local government planning approval?

No

1.11 Provide an estimated start and estimated end date for the proposed action.

Start date 08/2017

End date 12/2023

1.12 Provide details of the context, planning framework and State and/or Local government requirements.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret is the proponent for the oval expansion and supports the Mens Shed development.

Oval Expansion

Gloucester Park is the principal district level recreation facility in the Shire and accommodates local demand for playing fields in the Margaret River township. With a view to maximising the ability of Gloucester Park to accommodate increasing demand as population grows, the Gloucester Park Masterplan allocates space and identifies the requirement to construct a new playing field.



The progressive redevelopment of Gloucester Park is identified in the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan, the Shire's Corporate Plan and the Community Infrastructure Plan. The project is also identified in the Shire's Developer Contributions scheme.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The WA Tomorrow strategy prepared by the Department of Planning predicts the Shire's population to grow to 16,500 by 2026 and the Shire's internal forecast anticipates growth to 18,800 by 2031 with 10,200 living in the Margaret River townsite. Of significance is the considerable growth in the 15-24 age group, which represents the key cohorts involved in the traditional active grassed field sports

The oval expansion works are Public Works and therefore exempt from the requirement to have formal planning approval. However, the projects are consistent with the planning framework and the site is zoned for Parks and Recreation.

Mens Shed

The Shire has provided a formal lease over a portion of the site (Lot 45 and 14) to the Mens Shed Association for a nominal fee and supports the concept of a Mens Shed. The Mens Shed development does not meet the definition of public works and therefore is subject to relevant planning and building approval processes. A planning application has been submitted and is currently under consideration.

1.13 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken, including with Indigenous stakeholders.

Mens Shed

The Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee (SRAC) consists of approximately 25 representatives of sporting and community groups in the Shire and is a formal committee of Council. The SRAC considered the proposed Mens Shed at their meeting of 05 August 2015 and endorsed the concept and proposed location. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Council subsequently endorsed the minutes of that SRAC meeting including the location of the Mens Shed at the Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) of 09 September 2015. Minutes of the SRAC and OCM can be provided.



Lower Western and Nippers Oval expansion

The Shire's 2012 *Community Infrastructure Report, Creating Communities* was developed in response to Margaret River being announced as a SuperTown, a state government initiative to enhance regional centres. Set in the context of an ageing population, an exodus of young adults and the emergence of the area as an internationally significant wine and tourism region, the study addresses community infrastructure needs for the region. Within the report is a case study on Gloucester Park including review of the previous Master Plan. Key factors identified for Gloucester Park include provision for additional sporting ovals including the development of the lower western oval. Broadly the study found that facilities on Gloucester Park are at capacity and additional playing fields are needed. High participation rates in soccer and football were acknowledged with a specific requirement for hockey facilities to be established. This report was prepared with significant community input and was adopted by Council in 2012.

A special workshop of the Shire's Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee was convened on Tuesday 17 May 2016 to discuss the Lower Western Feasibility Study and all parties present were asked to advise their requirements and expectations regarding the redevelopment of the Lower Western Oval. A formal meeting of the Sport and Recreation Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday 1 June 2016 where a series of draft concept plans and explanatory commentary were presented for consideration and endorsement. Explorations into the redevelopment of a field in an east west configuration were pursued to provide a comparison between the north / South alignment including environmental and social outcomes.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Council subsequently endorsed the minutes of that SRAC meeting including details of the oval upgrade projects at the OCM 13 July 2016. Minutes of the SRAC and OCM can be provided.

1.14 Describe any environmental impact assessments that have been or will be carried out under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation including relevant impacts of the project.

The Shire has not completed an environmental impact assessment due to the small scale of the project and the significant retention of vegetation and WRP habitat within the precinct.

Following the outcome of this assessment under the EPBC Act, the Shire intends to submit a clearing permit to the WA Department of Environmental Regulation for determination under the bilateral agreement.



1.15 Is this action part of a staged development (or a component of a larger project)?

No

1.16 Is the proposed action related to other actions or proposals in the region?

No



Section 2 - Matters of National Environmental Significance

Describe the affected area and the likely impacts of the proposal, emphasising the relevant matters protected by the EPBC Act. Refer to relevant maps as appropriate. The [interactive map tool](#) can help determine whether matters of national environmental significance or other matters protected by the EPBC Act are likely to occur in your area of interest. Consideration of likely impacts should include both direct and indirect impacts.

Your assessment of likely impacts should consider whether a bioregional plan is relevant to your proposal. The following resources can assist you in your assessment of likely impacts:

- [Profiles of relevant species/communities](#) (where available), that will assist in the identification of whether there is likely to be a significant impact on them if the proposal proceeds;
- [Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 – Matters of National Environmental Significance](#);
- [Significant Impact Guideline 1.2 – Actions on, or impacting upon, Commonwealth land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies](#).

2.1 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any World Heritage properties?

No

2.2 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the values of any National Heritage places?

No

2.3 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the ecological character of a Ramsar wetland?

No

2.4 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed threatened species (except a conservation dependent species) or any threatened ecological community, or their habitat?

Yes

2.4.1 Impact table

Species	Impact
Western Ringtail Possums	Negligible



Species	Impact
Black Cockatoos (3 species)	None.

2.4.2 Do you consider this impact to be significant?

No

2.5 Is the proposed action likely to impact on the members of any listed migratory species, or their habitat?

No

2.6 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a marine environment (outside Commonwealth marine areas)?

No

2.7 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the Commonwealth land?

No

2.8 Is the proposed action taking place in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park?

No

2.9 Will there be any impact on a water resource related to coal / gas / mining?

No

2.10 Is the proposed action a nuclear action?

No

2.11 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth agency?

No

2.12 Is the proposed action to be undertaken in a Commonwealth Heritage Place Overseas?

No

2.13 Is the proposed action likely to impact on any part of the environment in the



Commonwealth marine area?

No



Section 3 - Description of the project area

Provide a description of the project area and the affected area, including information about the following features (where relevant to the project area and/or affected area, and to the extent not otherwise addressed in Section 2).

3.1 Describe the flora and fauna relevant to the project area.

In 2016, the Shire commissioned a flora and fauna survey of the area (attached). The survey covered a broader area than that proposed to be cleared to gain a better understanding of the values of the precinct and potential impact of the proposed works.

The information below is extracted from that report.

Flora Surveys

The reconnaissance survey was conducted over three days in late October and November 2016. This involved walking transects approximately 10m apart across the portions of the site containing stands of native vegetation. The aim of this was to map vegetation condition and units across these areas, search for rare, threatened or priority species and to generate a preliminary species list for the site.

Appendix 1 shows all flora species, native and introduced, that were identified during the course of the reconnaissance survey.

A total of 85 species were observed during the reconnaissance survey. Of these, 41 native species were recorded. All species observed are listed in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 of the report shows all flora species, native and introduced, that were identified during the course of the reconnaissance survey.

Rare and Priority Flora

No Declared Rare Flora or Priority species were recorded during the course of the survey.

Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities

No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded on site.



Introduced Flora

A total of 44 introduced species were recorded during the course of the survey within the remnant vegetation. These species are denoted by an asterisk in Appendix 1.

One species (Cape Tulip (*Moraea flaccida*)) is declared under Section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* were identified on site. Within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River this species are categorised as C3 (Management) declared pest. Under the Act C3 organisms should have some form of management applied that will alleviate the harmful impact of the organism, reduce the numbers or distribution of the organism or prevent or contain the spread of the organism.

A number of other environmental weed species considered as high priorities for control were identified and mapped as part of the assessment. these are considered a priority either due to the level of invasiveness and impact of the species under local conditions or due to relatively restricted nature of the current infestation. Two of these are recognised as Weeds of National Significance (WONS). These include:

Victorian tea tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*);? Watsonia (*Watsonia meriana* var. *bulbillifera*);?
Butterfly bush (*Polygala myrtifolia*);? Flaxleaf Broom (*Genista linifolia*) (WONS species);?
Montpellier Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)(WONS species);? Tambookie (*Hyparrhenia hirta*);?
Flinders range wattle (*Acacia iteaphylla*);? Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*);?
Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*);? Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and? Wavy Gladioli (*Gladiolus undulatus*).

2.2.5 Vegetation Condition

The vegetation of the site has been assessed using a condition assessment based on the Vegetation Condition Scale of Keighery (1994), which is attached as Appendix 2.

Based on this system, condition ratings for the remnant native vegetation found on site is shown on Figure 3 and summarised as follows:

? The Lot 45 area was described as *Completely Degraded*; ? The Eastern portion of the Nippers Oval remnant ranges from *Completely Degraded* to *Degraded*; ? The central and western portions of the Nippers Oval remnant is considered largely *Good Condition* to *Very Good Condition* with a small strip of *Completely Degraded*; and? The Lower Western Oval vegetation is considered *Completely Degraded*



2.2.6 Vegetation Units

Vegetation units were identified for the focus areas of the site. In total, eight units were identified across the site as shown in Figure 3.

The vegetation units are described as follows:

Lot 45:

AfCcCD - Completely Degraded Parkland cleared area of *Agonis flexuosa* and *Corymbia calophylla* over an occasional shrublayer of *Genista monspessulana*, *Bossiaea linophylla* and *Pittosporum undulatum* over an occasional herb/grass layer of *Solanum nigrum*, *Avena* spp., *Plantago lanceolata*, *Briza maxima*, *Hypochaeris* spp.

Nippers Oval Remnant:

CcEmVG - Very Good Condition Forest of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* over open shrubland of *Banksia grandis*, *Bossiaea linophylla*, *Hovea elliptica*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, with a low shrub/herb layer of *Tremandra stelligera*, *Scaevola calliptera*, *Pattersonia umbrosa*, *Hibbertia hypericoides*, *Dampiera linearis*

CcEmG – Good condition Forest of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* over open shrubland of *Agonis flexuosa*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Persoonia longifolia*, *Bossiaea linophylla*, *Acacia myrtifolia*, with a low herb and ground cover layer of *Tremandra stelligera*, *Pattersonia umbrosa*, *Watsonia meriana* and *Pteridium esculentum*

CcEmD – Degraded forest of *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus marginata* over a shrubland of *Logania vaginalis*, *Jacksonia horridus*, *Agonis flexuosa*, *Acacia myrtifolia* over a herb/ grass layer of *Watsonia meriana* and *Pteridium esculentum*.

AfCcAICD – Completely Degraded Parkland cleared area of *Agonis flexuosa* and *Corymbia calophylla* over an occasional shrublayer of *Acacia longifolia*, *Bossiaea linophylla* and *Chaemaecytisus palmensis* over an occasional herb/grass layer of *Watsonia meriana*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Oxalis glabra* and *Pteridium esculentum*

Lower Western Oval:

AfD – Degraded Low Forest of *Agonis flexuosa* with occasional *Corymbia calophylla* over a cleared shrub and ground layer

WmHhCD – Completely Degraded dense ground layer of *Watsonia meriana*, *Hyparrhenia hirta* without a shrub or overstorey layer.



AfCcD –Degraded Low forest of *Agonis flexuosa* with occasional *Corymbia calophylla* over dense shrub layer of *Leptospermum laevigatum*, *Acacia longifolia*, *Genista linifolia*, *Bossia linophylla*, over a ground layer dominated by *Watsonia meriana*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*.

FAUNA ASSESSMENT

A total of 24 vertebrate fauna were recorded during the reconnaissance survey. This included three amphibian, seventeen bird species and four mammal species.

The spotlighting undertaken over three nights (4/11/16, 6/11/16 and 9/11/16) provided the following observations or confirmations of value:

? Three amphibian species calling damp areas within the Lower Western Oval vegetation;? Western Ringtail Possums observed on each night within or immediately adjacent to each of the three target areas and the surrounding broader Gloucester park vegetation;? Brushtail possums confirmed to be utilising the broader vegetation in and around Gloucester Park; and? Confirmed Western Grey Kangaroo presence adjacent to the Nippers Oval remnant.

The locations of relevant sightings are detailed in Figure 3.

Camera trapping provided the following results:

? Recorded Red-winged Fairy-wren not observed during the site visits; and? Confirmed records of Western Grey Kangaroo within the Nippers Oval Remnant;

Western Ringtail Possum

The assessment highlighted the presence of Western Ringtail Possums(WRP) throughout the vegetation within the western portions of Gloucester Park. This was evidenced by the presence of dreys, scat and spotlighting records. WRP were recorded within or immediately adjacent to each of the target areas on all of the three spotlighting surveys.

The assessment recorded an average 4.3 WRP per night within or immediately adjacent to the Lower Western Oval vegetation. The assessment recorded an average 1.67 WRP per night within or immediately adjacent to both the Nippers Oval remnant vegetation and the Lot 45 area. Whilst the assessment was not intended to provide a quantitative analysis of the population it does indicate that the three areas are consistently utilised by the species. Further more detailed assessment may show these areas and particularly the Lower Western Oval has having relatively high densities for Margaret River. The presence of at least two juvenile individuals within the Lower Western Oval vegetation confirms this as breeding habitat.



Black Cockatoos

Flocks of Baudins Black Cockatoos were heard and observed passing through the site. Feeding signs of Baudins black cockatoo were observed within the Lot 45 and Nippers Oval Remnant areas. Feeding signs of Carnabys black cockatoo. The site is also very likely to be utilised from time to time by Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo. No nesting sites were observed during the course of the site work. No roosting sites were observed during the course of the field work. However, the limited duration and seasonality of assessment cannot confirm the utilisation of the site during other parts of the year. Under the EPBC Act referral guidelines the site contains potential breeding habitat as defined as it contains Marri greater than 500mm dbh. The site also represents foraging habitat under the guidelines.

Given that no nesting sites or large hollow bearing trees were identified on site and there are minimal number of Marris greater than 500mm dbh within the target area, any action within the target areas are not likely to be considered to be significant under the guidelines. A significant tree assessment of all trees greater than 500mm was not part of the scope of this assessment

3.2 Describe the hydrology relevant to the project area (including water flows).

The site lies within the Margaret River Catchment. No natural water features occur on the site. Surface drainage is largely to the north via overland flow or stormwater pipes, discharging to a culvert under Wallcliffe Road. There is a groundwater soak to the NE of the Lower Western Oval.

3.3 Describe the soil and vegetation characteristics relevant to the project area.

The property is characterised by relatively flat topography, however, the site has had significant earthworks and site disturbance throughout its land use history creating highly variable topography at a fine scale.

3.4 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values relevant to the project area.

The site is largely cleared with only small parcels of remnant vegetation remaining. No outstanding natural features exist on site.

3.5 Describe the status of native vegetation relevant to the project area.

The information below is extracted from the *Flora and Fauna Assessment*.



Augusta Margaret River Shire is situated within the South West Botanical Province of WA which is internationally recognised as a biodiversity hotspot. Within this, the site lies in the Boranup System of the Western Botanical subdistrict within the Darling Botanical District. The Western Botanical subdistrict spans from Cape Naturaliste to Albany with Witchcliffe falling within the Boranup System. This system is described as Tall Forest of Karri (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*) on red earths and Forest of Jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) and Marri (*Corymbia calophylla*) on the red and yellow podzolic soils. Extensive paperbark (*Melaleuca* spp.) and sedge swamps occur in the valleys and flood plains. (Beard 1990)

Gloucester Park is dominated by cleared playing ovals, open space and parkland cleared areas. It also contains small areas of remnant trees and vegetation primarily located around the south western corner, western corner and north western corner.

The three areas that are the focus of this assessment are described as follows:

Lot 45 (Mens Shed): A parkland cleared area with remnant and regrowth Marri and WA Peppermint with very minimal understorey or groundcover

Nippers Oval Remnant: A remnant area of Jarrah/ Marri Open Forest with a mix of a diverse, healthy understorey/ midstorey and degraded weedy understorey

Lower Western Oval vegetation: A highly variable degraded area dominated by a range of weedy shrubs and groundcover species.

The vegetation complex present on site as per the mapping of Mattiske and Havel (1998) were compared to the extent remaining using the data available from the Department of Agriculture and Food (2014).

The C1 vegetation complex does not trigger the criteria of less than 30% remaining however it is noted that it is closely approaching the 30% trigger (34.5%) and given errors within some of this broad scale mapping it could be under the 30% threshold if more detailed, more broadly ground truthed mapping was undertaken

The C1 vegetation complex would benefit from additional protection and reservation.

3.6 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

Not applicable



3.7 Describe the current condition of the environment relevant to the project area.

Gloucester Park is dominated by cleared playing ovals, open space and parkland cleared areas. It also contains small areas of remnant trees and vegetation primarily located around the south western corner, western corner and north western corner. Approximately 29 ha are cleared and 8.7 ha of remnant vegetation remains in varying condition.

The three areas that were the focus of the flora and fauna assessment are described as follows:

Lot 45: A parkland cleared area with remnant and regrowth Marri and WA Peppermint with very minimal understorey or groundcover.

Nippers Oval Remnant: A remnant area of Jarrah/ Marri Open Forest with a mix of a diverse, healthy understorey/ midstorey and degraded weedy understorey.

Lower Western Oval vegetation: A highly variable degraded area dominated by a range of weedy shrubs and groundcover species.

3.8 Describe any Commonwealth Heritage Places or other places recognised as having heritage values relevant to the project area.

Not applicable

3.9 Describe any Indigenous heritage values relevant to the project area.

The Shire undertook a search on the State Aboriginal Heritage Identification Service administered by the WA Department of Aboriginal Affairs. No known Indigenous heritage values have been identified within a 1 kilometre radius of the project site.

3.10 Describe the tenure of the action area (e.g. freehold, leasehold) relevant to the project area.

The subject site comprises multiple parcels of freehold land owned by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River and used for civic and community purposes and recreation.

3.11 Describe any existing or any proposed uses relevant to the project area.

The Gloucester Park precinct is a 29 ha predominantly cleared area used for active recreation and civic purposes including sporting facilities, Shire offices, a cultural centre, and community facilities such as halls. Approximately 8.7 ha of remnant vegetation remains in the precinct.



Existing facilities including sporting ovals (catering cricket, rugby, football and soccer), tennis, bowling, athletic gymnasium and swimming facilities along with club rooms and community halls. There is a need to provide two additional areas of oval space due to a growing population. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has also committed to providing a space for the proposed Margaret River Mens Shed. The oval expansion projects and Mens Shed require the clearing of approximately 0.56 ha of vegetation.



Section 4 - Measures to avoid or reduce impacts

Provide a description of measures that will be implemented to avoid, reduce, manage or offset any relevant impacts of the action. Include, if appropriate, any relevant reports or technical advice relating to the feasibility and effectiveness of the proposed measures.

Examples of relevant measures to avoid or reduce impacts may include the timing of works, avoidance of important habitat, specific design measures, or adoption of specific work practices.

4.1 Describe the measures you will undertake to avoid or reduce impact from your proposed action.

The initial proposal for the Lower Western Oval was designed to run north-south which while improving the quality and size of playing surface would have resulted in a significantly greater loss of native vegetation and WRP habitat. The design has subsequently been changed to an east-west orientation to improve environmental outcomes.

The vast majority of vegetation across the precinct is to be retained. Only 0.56ha is proposed to be cleared, with a further 8.2 ha retained. Of the vegetation proposed to be cleared 0.44ha is completely degraded or degraded with only 0.12 ha in good or better condition. Vegetation around the perimeter of Mens Shed will be retained including all trees containing WRP dreys.

All vegetation proposed to be removed in all three project areas will be inspected by a qualified zoologist experienced in managing threatened fauna including Western Ringtail Possums and Quendas. The WA Department of Environment and Conservation (now Department of Parks and Wildlife) Busselton Region clearing protocols (attached) will be implemented to minimize impacts to WRP. Any possums that are present will be encouraged to relocate to adjacent areas of vegetation that are not to be cleared.

High visibility bunting or tape will be used to demarcate the clearing extents to ensure there is no damage to vegetation beyond the approved area.

Vegetation will be cleared from the existing cleared edge working towards the vegetation to be retained to ensure any animals are able to travel safely to vegetation to be retained.

Native vegetation to be cleared will be mulched immediately for re-use on the site with weed species to be immediately carted off site to ensure that WRP do not take refuge in the stockpiles.

Peppermint trees and other vegetation that provides habitat or food sources for WRP and Black Cockatoos will be replanted in areas within the Gloucester Park precinct, including in landscaping and rehabilitation adjacent to the proposed Lower Western Oval. The Shire has commenced planting of WA Peppermints in the precinct with approximately 45 large trees



planted in the area over the last 18 months. These trees have largely been planted in clumps of three to improve habitat values.

The Shire has commenced implementation of weed control and bush regeneration activities in the precinct to improve the condition of vegetation and habitat values.

4.2 For matters protected by the EPBC Act that may be affected by the proposed action, describe the proposed environmental outcomes to be achieved.

It is proposed to ensure that no Western Ringtail Possums are directly affected by the clearing and can be retained within the Gloucester Park precinct. The Shire will continue to enhance existing vegetation and habitat in the precinct and undertake additional habitat creation to ensure the long term viability of the population.



Section 5 – Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

A checkbox tick identifies each of the matters of National Environmental Significance you identified in section 2 of this application as likely to be a significant impact.

Review the matters you have identified below. If a matter ticked below has been incorrectly identified you will need to return to Section 2 to edit.

5.1.1 World Heritage Properties

No

5.1.2 National Heritage Places

No

5.1.3 Wetlands of International Importance (declared Ramsar Wetlands)

No

5.1.4 Listed threatened species or any threatened ecological community

No

5.1.5 Listed migratory species

No

5.1.6 Commonwealth marine environment

No

5.1.7 Protection of the environment from actions involving Commonwealth land

No

5.1.8 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

No

5.1.9 A water resource, in relation to coal/gas/mining

No



5.1.10 Protection of the environment from nuclear actions

No

5.1.11 Protection of the environment from Commonwealth actions

No

5.1.12 Commonwealth Heritage places overseas

No

5.2 If no significant matters are identified, provide the key reasons why you think the proposed action is not likely to have a significant impact on a matter protected under the EPBC Act and therefore not a controlled action.

The Shire does not consider the impact to be significant due to the very small area of clearing required for the project, the significant retention of vegetation elsewhere, the use of the DEC WRP clearing protocols and the current and future improvements to habitat and revegetation elsewhere within the precinct.

In relation to WRP, night surveys were undertaken on three non-consecutive nights (see attached *Flora and Fauna Assessment*). This showed on average 6.33 WRP within or adjacent to vegetation proposed to be removed and 4.67 WRP outside, however the assessment identified that 6 dreys are proposed to be retained, 1 will be removed and 1 may be impacted in the next 5-10 years if the Nippers Oval expansion is progressed.

The assessment shows that approximately 0.56 ha of vegetation that was occupied by WRP will be removed, while approximately 8.2 ha of vegetation that is occupied by, or partly occupied by WRP will be retained. This will provide sufficient habitat for any displaced animals to be retained onsite.

In relation to Black Cockatoos, the flora and fauna assessments states: *given that no nesting sites or large hollow bearing trees were identified on site and there are minimal number of Marris greater than 500mm dbh within the target area, any action within the target areas are not likely to be considered to be significant under the guidelines.*



Section 6 – Environmental record of the person proposing to take the action

Provide details of any proceedings under Commonwealth, State or Territory law against the person proposing to take the action that pertain to the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

6.1 Does the person taking the action have a satisfactory record of responsible environmental management? Please explain in further detail.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret has a sound record of appropriate environmental management. The Shire understands and acknowledges that protection and enhancement of the environment is a key plank of our operations.

We implement best management practices in its operations and assists the community through financial assistance and technical advice to protect and enhance the environment.

6.2 Provide details of any past or present proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against either (a) the person proposing to take the action or, (b) if a permit has been applied for in relation to the action – the person making the application.

N/A.

6.3 Will the action be taken in accordance with the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework?

Yes

6.3.1 If the person taking the action is a corporation, please provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has an overarching Sustainability Policy and the action is consistent with this Policy.

The Shire also has a 20 year Community Strategic Plan. The Shire's Mission is *A prosperous and connected community that values its natural environment and character as it grows sustainably into the future.*

6.4 Has the person taking the action previously referred an action under the EPBC Act, or



been responsible for undertaking an action referred under the EPBC Act?

Yes

6.4.1 EPBC Act No and/or Name of Proposal.

Yes, the Shire received approval to implement fire management plan recommendations for Reserve 27633 (EPBC ref 2010/5788.).



Section 7 – Information sources

You are required to provide the references used in preparing the referral including the reliability of the source.

7.1 List references used in preparing the referral (please provide the reference source reliability and any uncertainties of source).

Reference Source	Reliability	Uncertainties
Flora and fauna assessment , Litoria Ecoservices, 2016	High. Prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced consultant.	Minor constraints identified with the timing of the flora survey, however no constraints related to Matters of National Environmental Significance.
DEC Clearing protocols	High	None. Prepared by the relevant WA state Government agency for use in areas where WRP are generally higher.



Section 8 – Proposed alternatives

You are required to complete this section if you have any feasible alternatives to taking the proposed action (including not taking the action) that were considered but not proposed.

8.0 Provide a description of the feasible alternative?

No other options are available apart from returning to a north south alignment of the oval, resulting in additional clearing and impact to WRP habitat. This is not considered feasible due to environmental impacts.

8.1 Select the relevant alternatives related to your proposed action.

8.27 Do you have another alternative?

No



Section 9 – Contacts, signatures and declarations

Where applicable, you must provide the contact details of each of the following entities: Person Proposing the Action; Proposed Designated Proponent and; Person Preparing the Referral. You will also be required to provide signed declarations from each of the identified entities.

9.0 Is the person proposing to take the action an Organisation or an Individual?

Organisation

9.2 Organisation

9.2.1 Job Title

CEO

9.2.2 First Name

Gary

9.2.3 Last Name

Evershed

9.2.4 E-mail

gevershed@amrshire.wa.gov.au

9.2.5 Postal Address

PO Box 61
Margaret River WA 6285
Australia

9.2.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

13643296019 - SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

9.2.7 Organisation Telephone

9780 5255



9.2.8 Organisation E-mail

amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au

9.2.9 I qualify for exemption from fees under section 520(4C)(e)(v) of the EPBC Act because I am:

Not applicable

Small Business Declaration

I have read the Department of the Environment and Energy's guidance in the online form concerning the definition of a small a business entity and confirm that I qualify for a small business exemption.

Signature:..... Date:

9.2.9.2 I would like to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under Schedule 1, 5.21A of the EPBC Regulations

No

9.2.9.3 Under sub regulation 5.21A(5), you must include information about the applicant (if not you) the grounds on which the waiver is sought and the reasons why it should be made

Person proposing the action - Declaration

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

GARY EVERSLED

Chief Executive Officer

I, GARY EVERSLED, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf of or for the benefit of any other person or entity.

Signature:.....Gary Eversled..... Date: 10/7/2017.....

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

GARY EVERSLED

I, GARY EVERSLED, the person proposing the action, consent to the designation of SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER as the proponent of the purposes of the action describe in this EPBC Act Referral.

Signature:.....Gary Eversled..... Date: 10/7/2017.....

9.3 Is the Proposed Designated Proponent an Organisation or Individual?



Organisation

9.5 Organisation

9.5.1 Job Title

CEO

9.5.2 First Name

Gary

9.5.3 Last Name

Evershed

9.5.4 E-mail

gevershed@amrshire.wa.gov.au

9.5.5 Postal Address

Po Box 61
Margaret River WA 6285
Australia

9.5.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

13643296019 - SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

9.5.7 Organisation Telephone

97805255

9.5.8 Organisation E-mail

amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Proposed designated proponent - Declaration

I, GARY EVERSIED, the proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral.



Signature: *Gary Evershed* Date: 10/7/2017

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

GARY EVERSHED

9.6 Is the Referring Party an Organisation or Individual?

Chief Executive Officer

Organisation

9.8 Organisation

9.8.1 Job Title

Coordinator Environment

9.8.2 First Name

John

9.8.3 Last Name

McKinney

9.8.4 E-mail

jmckinney@amrshire.wa.gov.au

9.8.5 Postal Address

Po Box 61
Margaret River WA 6285
Australia

9.8.6 ABN/ACN

ABN

13643296019 - SHIRE OF AUGUSTA MARGARET RIVER

9.8.7 Organisation Telephone

(08) 9780 5252

9.8.8 Organisation E-mail

jmckinney@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Referring Party - Declaration



Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

Submission #2473 - Gloucester Park Precinct - expansion
of ovals and community facilities.

I, JOHN MCKINNEY, I declare that to the best of my knowledge the
information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and
correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Signature: *John McKinney* Date: 03/7/17



Appendix A - Attachments

The following attachments have been supplied with this EPBC Act Referral:

1. flora_and_fauna_assessment_gloucester_park_margaret_river.pdf
2. flora_fauna_assessment_gis_files.zip
3. lower_western_oval_feasibility_study_draft_report_29.07.16.pdf
4. lower_western_preliminary_earthworks_plan.pdf
5. lwo_photos_compressed.zip
6. mens_shed_photos_compressed.zip
7. mens_shed_planning_application_p217268_compressed.pdf
8. nippers_photos_compressed.zip
9. proposed_clearing_area_shapefiles.zip
10. sustainability_policy.pdf
11. wrp_clearing_protocols.pdf