



Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Environment; Climate Action

Our Reference: 79-03706
Your Reference: A942796

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Foster


Thank you for your correspondence of 18 February 2022.

The City of Canning referred the Southern Link Road Stage 3 proposal (the proposal) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) in August 2020. After undertaking preliminary investigations and inquiries, the EPA determined that the proposal did not require formal environmental impact assessment under Part IV of the EP Act, and that impacts could be dealt with through a clearing permit application under Part V of the EP Act.

In making this determination, the EPA considered that the likely environmental effects of the proposal are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment due to the minimal clearing, the Threatened Ecological Community and wetland area being impacted, and the management and mitigation of potential impacts through a clearing permit assessment. The EPA determination is not subject to appeal under the EP Act.

A clearing permit granted under Part V of the EP Act is required for the construction of the proposal, which would link Grey Street to Gerard Street in the Canning City Centre. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) has not received a clearing permit application for the proposed works. In March 2022, the City of Canning advised DWER that a clearing permit application will be submitted shortly.

In assessing an application for a clearing permit, DWER has regard to the ten clearing principles set out in the EP Act. These clearing principles take into consideration the environmental values of native vegetation, including biodiversity and conservation values, watercourses and wetlands, and potential for land degradation caused by the clearing. The assessment also takes into consideration the applicant's avoidance, minimisation and mitigation strategies, and proposed offsets to counterbalance clearing environmental impacts.

Should a clearing permit application be made by the City of Canning, these matters will be considered at that time. All applications for clearing permits are advertised for public comment on DWER's website at www.dwer.wa.gov.au.

Decisions on clearing permit applications are subject to appeal provisions and all decisions, including DWER's reports outlining its decisions, are also published. Third parties can subscribe at DWER's website to receive notification of applications and decisions.

Yours sincerely



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17 MAR 2022