

EIANZ 2018 National Conference

Moving beyond the rationality of
project EIA – landscape scale and
holistic EIA

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Australian IA and planning

- Planning – roots in UK industrial revolution



Australian IA and planning

- EIA has its roots in 1960s/70s environmentalism and social change

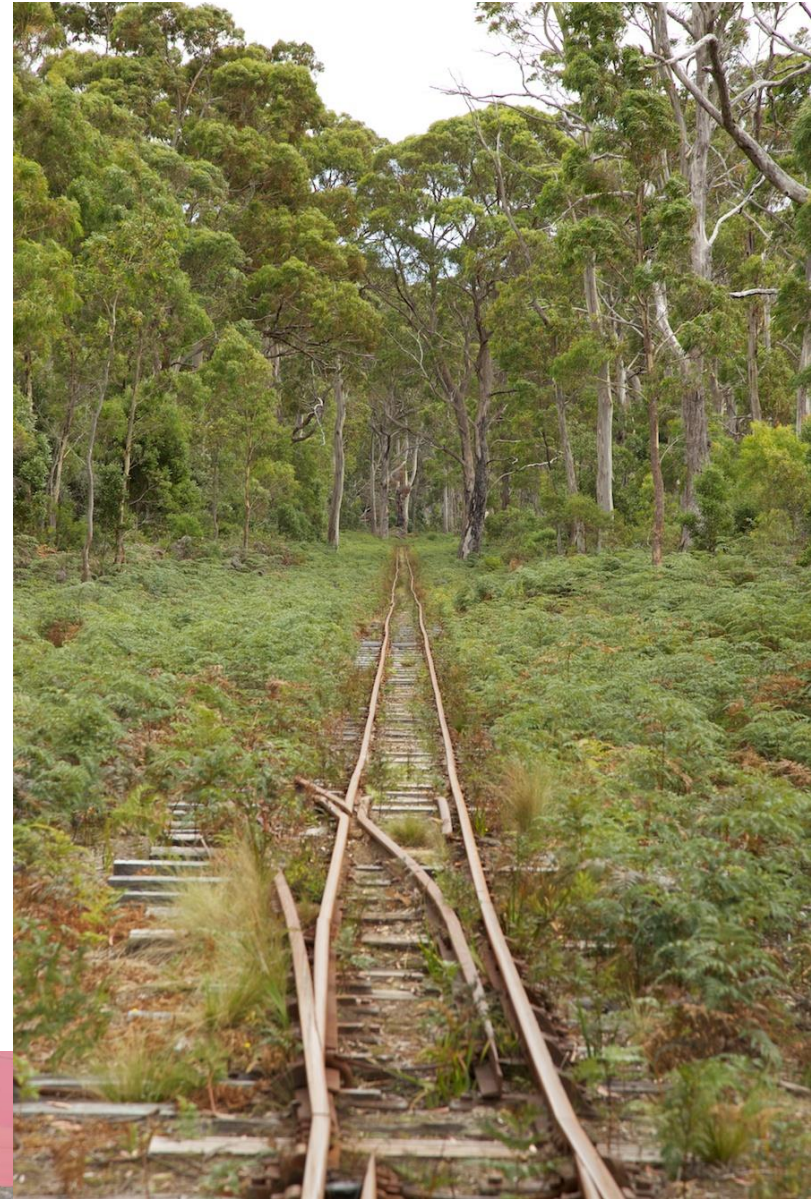


SIDEWALK
者拖吊
OW-AWAY ZONE



Our unique context never embraced

- 1967 Constitution—
- *127. In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth, or of a State or other part of the Commonwealth, aboriginal natives should not be counted.*



What is 'landscape'





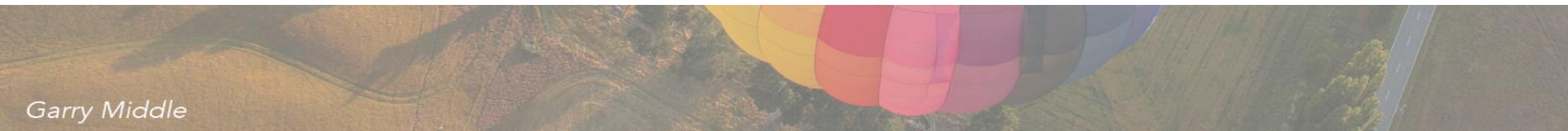


Its meaning

- “...an understanding of landscape moves from being a more or less visible and tangible entity to being inclusive of the subjective matter of the mind. In such light the importance of the perceptions of those who experience the landscape is drawn into focus. Comprehending the perceptions, meanings and values of a landscape is based on the knowledge and its articulations by those who encounter the landscape.”
 - Butler and Åkerskog 2014, Awareness-raising of landscape in practice. An analysis of Landscape Character Assessments in England

Landscape meaning

- Inevitably about values
 - what it 'is'
 - What we perceive, assign or hold
- It is
 - Biophysical
 - Built
- Perceived
 - Recreational
 - Aesthetic
 - Economic etc



In an Australian context?

- What about 'Country'
- I acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of the Australian continent, islands and adjacent seas, who remain the spiritual and cultural custodians of their lands and waters and who continue to practice their values, languages, beliefs and customs.

Traditional knowledge

- Writing on First Nation knowledge in Canada, José Mailhot (1994: 11) :
 - ...the sum of the data and ideas acquired by a human group on its environment as a result of the group's use and occupation of a region over very many generations.

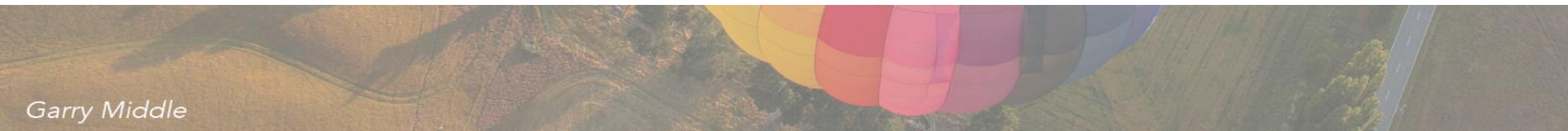


'Country'

- People talk about Country in the same way that they would talk about a person: they speak to Country, sing to Country, visit Country, worry about Country, grieve for Country and long for Country. People say that Country knows, hears, smells, takes notice, takes care, and feels sorry or happy. Country is a living entity with a yesterday, a today and tomorrow, with consciousness, action, and a will toward life. Because of this richness of meaning, Country is home and peace: nourishment for body, mind and spirit; and heart's ease.
 - Rose (1986: 7)

Landscape and IA

- Recognizes connection between nature and people
- Looks to build those connections
- Looks for both environmental and social benefits



Case study 1

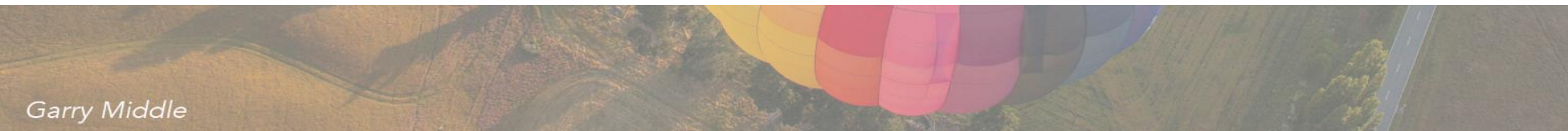
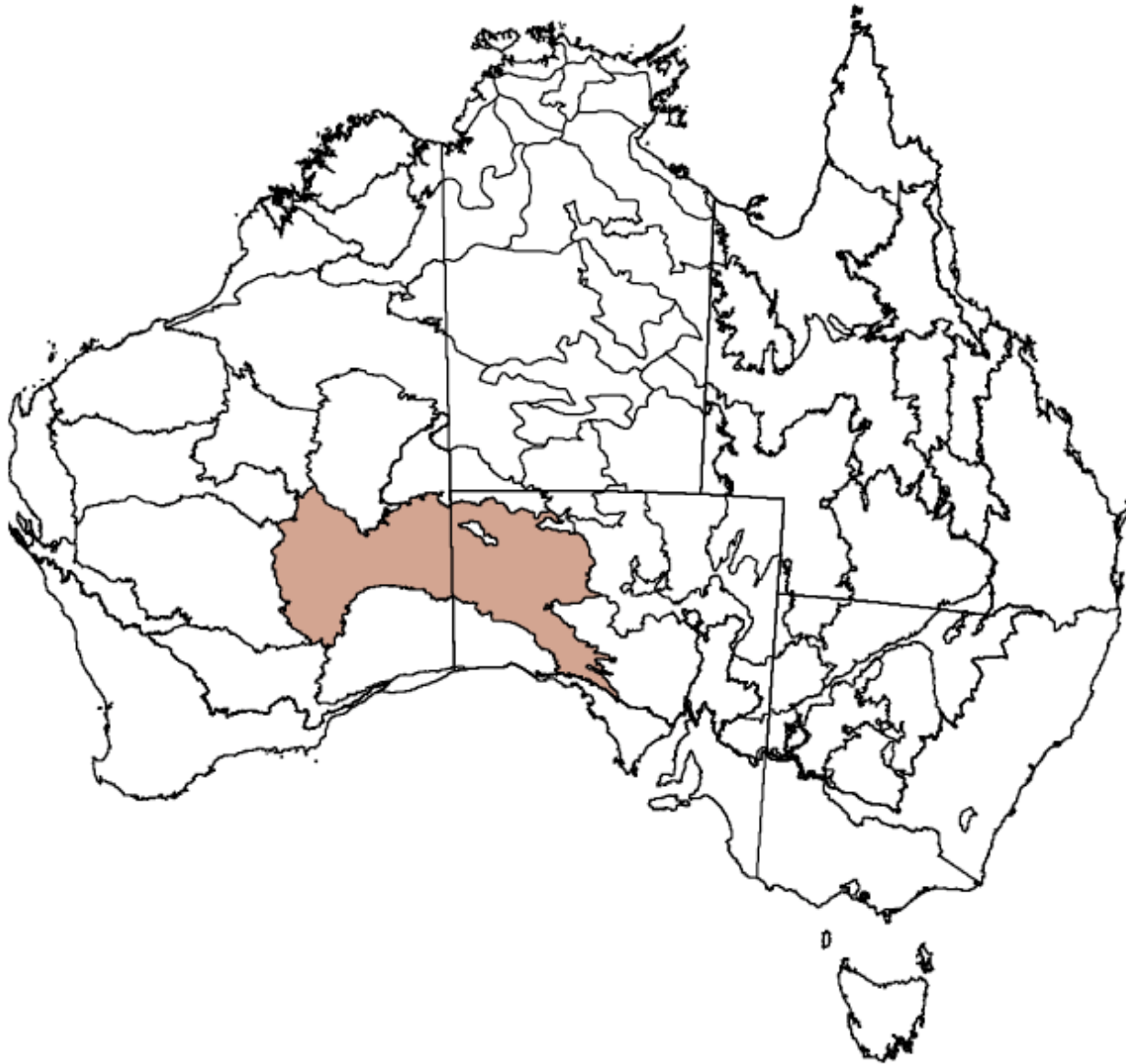


Figure 1 Location of the Great Victoria Desert bioregion









Tropicana gold mine



Figure 2: Project footprint and layout of key components

Assessed Impacts

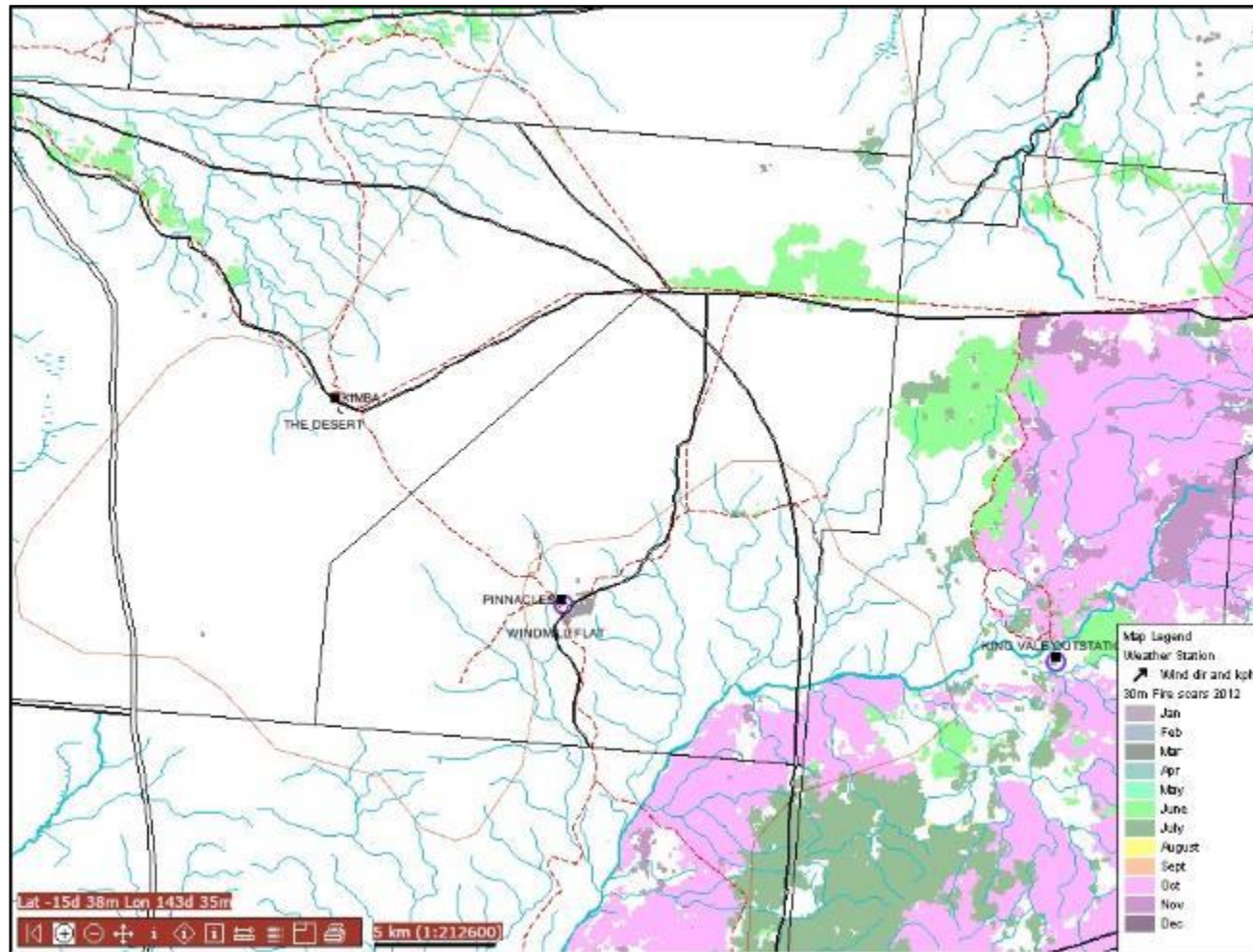
- EPBC Act issues –
 - One Priority Ecological Community (PEC) could be within the proposed infrastructure corridor (Yellow Sandplains Community).
 - Endangered Sandhill Dunnart known in GVD
 - Threatened Malleefowl known in GVD
- ASSUME for case study, habitats lost
- Normally direct offset



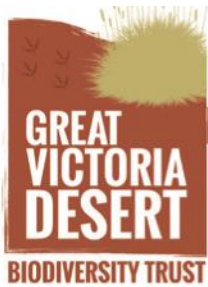
Instead – fund landscape scale fire management



Fire Mapping



Partnership with on-country TOs



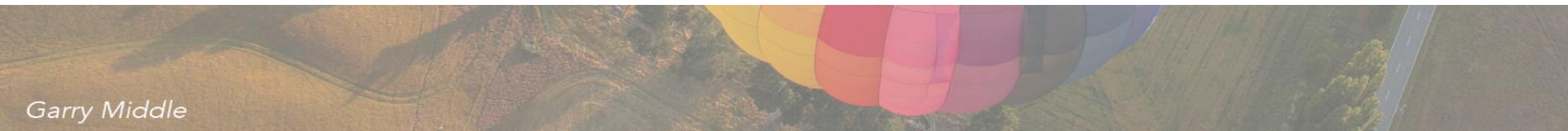
Fire management

In August 2016 I was lucky enough to participate in a fire management activity in the Great Victoria Desert with the Spinifex Rangers and the Department of Parks and Wildlife.



Benefits

- Better fire management – better protection of existing habitats of 2 species
- Most native species also benefits
- TOs stay on country

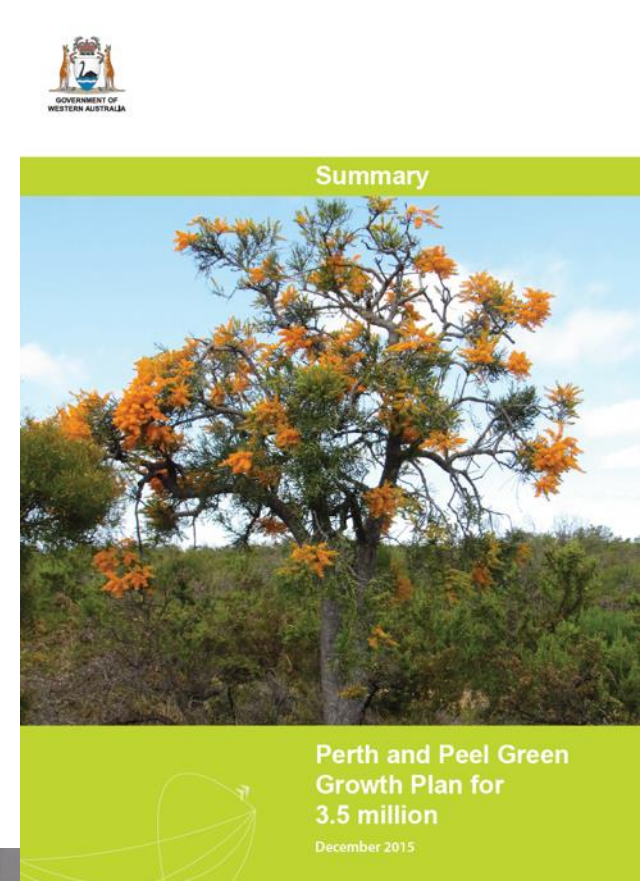
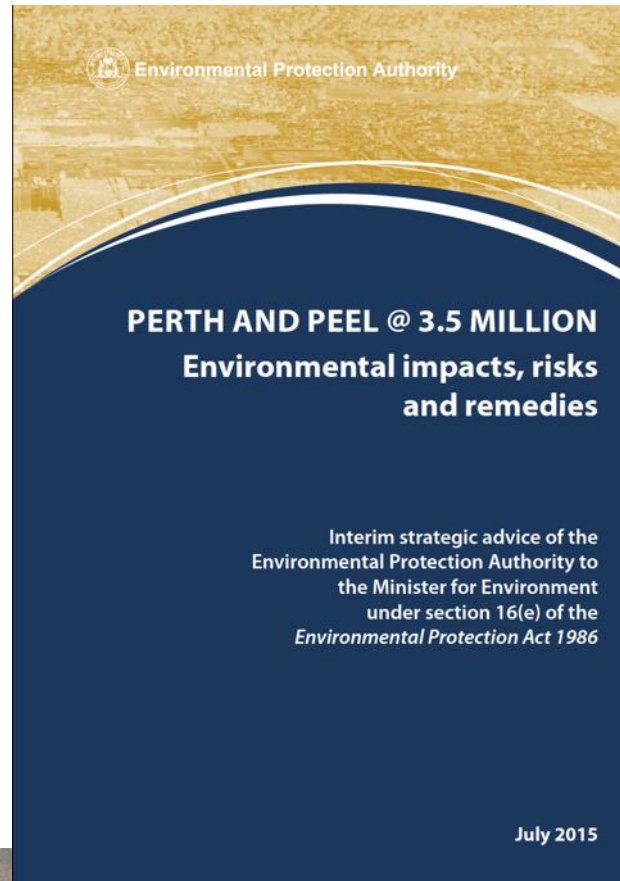


Case study 2 – Perth region and Carnaby's cockatoo



http://www.blackwoodbasingroup.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Resized_cockatoo.jpg

Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million



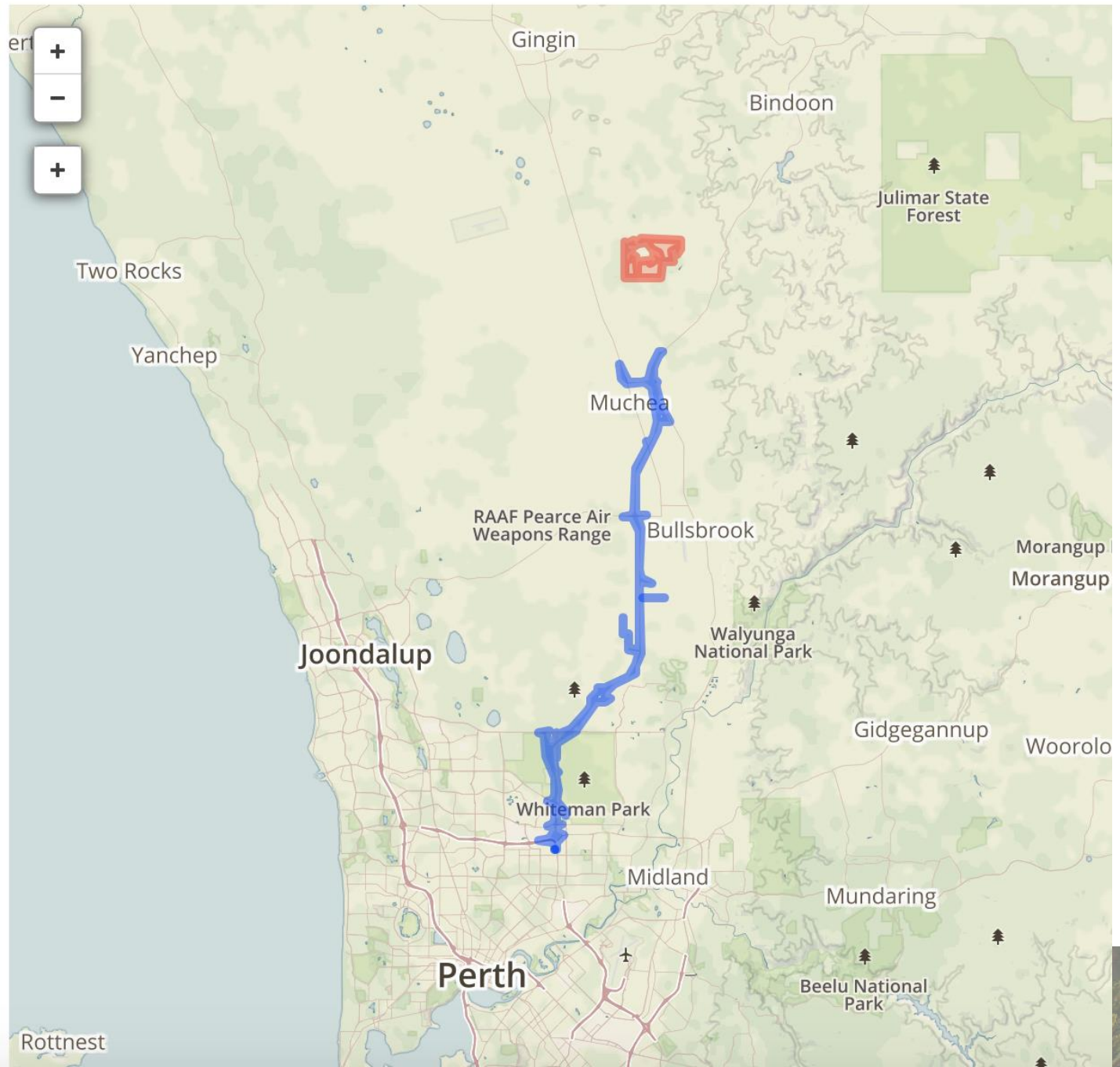
Perth and Peel at 3.5 million

- Perth at 2.1 million – clearing of 71% of remnant vegetation;
- Perth and Peel at 3.5 million – only an additional 3% loss of vegetation – total 74%
- Includes 23,000 ha of pines to be cleared

Case study - Perth – Darwin National Highway (Swan Valley Section)

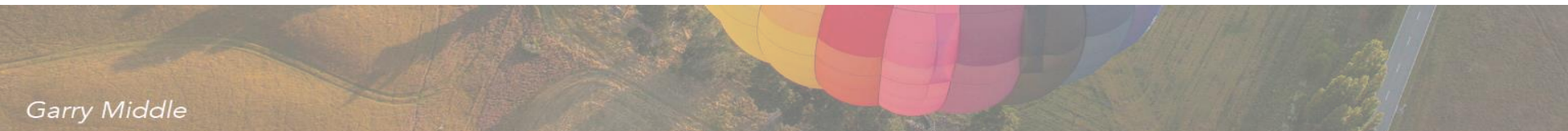
- loss of 207.2 ha of foraging habitat for Carnaby's Black Cockatoo
- loss of 120.5 ha of foraging habitat for Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
- Offset - 673.5ha land purchase and on-going management

Project and Offset Boundaries



Landscape scale alternative

- Contribute to urban forest across whole of Perth Peel region;
- Provide trees/native vegetation to residents for street verges and local parks;
- Strengthens links of people and nature
- Reduces heat island effect



Proposed research

- Based on this idea – broader interpretation of landscape scale IA - write draft paper and circulate to those interested;
- Add ideas, case studies, edits etc;
- Re-edit and circulate
- Present final paper at IAIA 2019