

# Main Roads WA defends large-scale tree-clearing

## Main Roads WA

Dean Roberts, spokesperson

MAIN ROADS WA recognises the environmental importance of Toodyay Road and, as such, established a Community Reference Group (CRG) in 2017 to enable input from stakeholders for this project.

The CRG includes representatives from Toodyay Agricultural Society, Toodyay Naturalist Club, Toodyay Roadwise Committee, Wildflower Society of WA, Toodyay Friends of the River, WA Police, Toodyay St John Ambulance, WALGA Roadwise, Shire of Toodyay and neighbouring landowners.

Main Roads have been granted approval to clear 54.87ha of native vegetation for the entire Toodyay Road upgrade program.

Main Roads has undertaken a number of initiatives to minimise environmental impacts such as:

- Optimisation of the road design to reduce the amount of vegetation removed. A recent measurement of the amount of vegetation cleared for the reconstruction, widening and overtaking lane works at Jingaling Brook Road was found to be 11 per cent less than the clearing

approved by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

- Perpetual conservation of an environmental offset of 196 hectares of prime Wandoo woodland adjacent to the Clackline Nature Reserve
- Installation of 188 artificial black cockatoo nesting hollows, in the reserve or in other nearby nature reserves
- Collection of seeds in the Toodyay Road reserve to ensure species currently on the roadside are available for re-vegetation

During winter 2020, interested people in the local community assisted with plant relocations with Main Roads staff

To prevent impacts on the environment in the vicinity of the works, Main Roads will use environmental management controls during construction.

Implementation of a revegetation plan to contribute to the ecological connectivity whilst preserving the look and feel of the roadside, using locally sourced vegetation species

Main Roads will continue to work with the CRG to refine and improve the design for future upgrades to further reduce vegetation clearing where possible, while improving safety for all road users accessing Toodyay.