

Where impacts were unavoidable, we referred activities with potentially significant impacts to the relevant regulatory authorities for assessment and approval. This is a summary of our applications for approvals over the past three calendar years.

Applications for Approval	2019	2020	2021
Aboriginal Heritage approval sought ¹	27	29	28
Aboriginal Heritage approval granted ¹	18	26	27
Historic Heritage approval granted ²	-	-	5
Project specific clearing permit applications	14	11	7
Project specific clearing permits granted	18	7	5
Projects assessed using Main Roads state-wide clearing permit	101	118	98
Projects referred to the WA Environmental Protection Authority under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	6	5	1
Projects approved by the WA Minister for the Environment under Part IV of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>	1	1	0
Number of projects referred to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the Commonwealth's <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	6	7	1
Number of projects approved under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	2	3	7

NOTE: all approvals granted may include applications made in previous years.

¹This includes regulation 10 and section 18 applications under the WA Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 1974 or WA *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (respectively) submitted or granted between 1 January and 31 December 2021.

²This includes Government Heritage Property Disposal Process approvals and any other type of formal approval from the Heritage Council of WA.

In 2021, we applied for 28 Aboriginal heritage approvals and five project-specific clearing permits. A total of 98 projects were assessed under our State-wide Clearing Permit (CPS 818) in 2021, with 12 projects referred to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation in accordance with the permit conditions.

One project was considered to have potentially significant impacts and was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for assessment; however, the EPA concluded that this project did not have potentially significant impacts and made the decision to not assess the works. Three other projects referred to the EPA were still under assessment at the close of 2021. No projects were approved by the Minister for the Environment in 2021.

One project was considered to have potentially significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance and was referred to the

Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Water and Environment (DAWE) for assessment which concluded the project did not have potentially significant impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance and made the decision to not assess the works. Two other projects referred to DAWE were still under assessment at the close of 2021. Seven projects were approved under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 in 2021.

Clearing Native Vegetation

While we strive to find a balance between achieving road safety objectives and the environment, it is not always possible to avoid the clearing of native vegetation. When this occurs, we offset negative impacts through revegetation, seeding or planting, purchasing land for contribution to the conservation estate or monetary contributions to the State Offset Fund for the acquisition of land and addition to the Conservation Estate.

This table summarises our clearing, revegetation and offset activities over the past three years. Clearing of native vegetation undertaken in 2021 under our State-wide Clearing Permit (CPS 818) is available on our website.

Clearing, Revegetating and Offsetting	2019	2020	2021
Clearing (ha)	663	210	631
Total revegetation* (ha)	58	214	96
Offset			
Revegetation (ha)	(a) 15	0	0
Land acquisition (ha)	(b) 334	204	108
(Value of land acquired (\$))	\$1,636,895	\$1,528,091	\$1,214,683
Financial contribution	(\$)	\$944,800	\$629,976
(Area of land to be acquired using the financial contribution (ha))	(c) (437)	(368)	(32)
Total offset (ha)	(a+b+c) 786	571	140

*Offset bank related revegetation is not included in the Total revegetation figures. (See Wheatbelt Revegetation Bank below.)

During 2021 we cleared 631 hectares of native vegetation for the delivery of 112 projects. We provided offsets in the form of land acquisition and monetary contributions to the Western Australian Environmental Offsets Fund for the purchase and management of a total of 136.08 hectares of native vegetation. We also undertook 102 hectares of revegetation works, 84 hectares of this was not required under a legislative approval and was initiated proactively by us.