

Myalup Primary Industries Reserve (MPIR)

Frequently Asked Questions - August 2025

Has the project already been approved, and what stage is it at now?

No, the MPIR project has not been approved. It is still in the early feasibility stage, and many studies and approvals are needed before the project can move forward.

These steps are part of a considered, staged approach that follows all legislative requirements and will take many years to complete. If approved, the earliest a first stage could begin is the early 2030s.

For more detail on the studies and approvals required, see our project [fact sheet](#) and [timeline](#).

Who is responsible for the project?

The MPIR is an initiative of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). We work closely with other government agencies and key stakeholder organisations that provide advice and support throughout the process.

When will the community be consulted on the project?

DPIRD will begin formal community consultation if the project is found to be feasible and a viable water supply is confirmed. These investigations are expected to take several years, and if feasibility or water supply cannot be confirmed, the project will not proceed.

Community input is an important part of the process and will help inform the department's preparation of a business case for government consideration. In addition, there will be several statutory public advertising processes in the future as part of planning and environmental approvals.

In the meantime, we are sharing early-stage project updates on our website and providing an opportunity for feedback online.

Where is the proposed location for the MPIR?

The proposed project site is located near Myalup in a portion of the State Forest 16 pine plantation, between Goss Road and Boonilup Road.

Who owns / manages the proposed MPIR project site?

The proposed project site comprises Crown land vested in the Conservation and Parks Commission of Western Australia and managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. The site is currently used for pine plantation purposes by the Forest Products Commission (FPC).

Will the project result in the removal of pine trees?

The pine trees will be harvested in stages over approximately 30 years by the FPC, but only once they reach maturity, as is standard practice for timber production. An equivalent area of pine trees would be replanted elsewhere.

DPIRD is working with the FPC to secure alternative pine plantation sites so there is no net loss of pines.

The proposed project site of 1,500 hectares is subject to a rotational harvesting program through to about 2055. It forms part of a larger 4,850 hectare pine plantation, referred to as State Forest 16.

Will there be buffers between proposed horticulture and nearby properties?

DPIRD is considering forested buffers between proposed horticultural areas and neighbouring sensitive sites. Further planning and consultation with stakeholders, including the local community, will help determine how buffers could be incorporated into the project design, and guide decisions about their width and how they would be managed.

What is being done to preserve the 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail?

DPIRD has met with the 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop and will work closely with the group to ensure that the project preserves community access to the section of the trail within the project site. As planning progresses, any future proposals regarding the trail will be shared with the community before decisions are made.

Will the native bushland be protected?

Yes. There is approximately 180 hectares of remnant native vegetation within the project area that would be fully protected by creating conservation areas in place.

What measures are in place to protect fauna like black cockatoos?

DPIRD is taking several steps to minimise the impacts of the project on native fauna. These include:

- protecting all remnant native vegetation within the project site by creating a series of conservation areas in place.
- undertaking flora and fauna surveys in accordance with Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) survey standards
- investigating the potential impact of the project on black cockatoos and ways this can be minimised
- working with the FPC to secure alternative pine sites so there is no net loss of pines, ensuring continuity of the state's timber supply and habitat for black cockatoos
- requiring future horticulturalists to prepare and implement management plans to control fertiliser application
- referring the project to the EPA and federal government for review under the *WA Environmental Protection Act 1986* and *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, respectively.

Will DPIRD conduct sand mining as part of the project?

No, DPIRD does not undertake sand mining. The MPIR project is focused on investigating the potential development of a new food production area adjacent to one of the state's prime food-growing regions in Myalup.

State Forest 16, including the proposed MPIR area, contains an important sand and limestone resource. Access to this resource is controlled by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration.

Why was this project site selected?

The project site is being investigated for several reasons, including the following:

- It contains good quality horticultural soils.
- It is located close to existing horticulture in Myalup, which may provide benefits such as workforce crossover, technical knowledge, equipment and infrastructure (e.g. packing sheds).
- The site includes a large area of government-managed land, which helps support planning and coordination for a project of this scale.
- The site contains only a small amount of remnant native vegetation, which means bushland clearing would not be required. The remaining bushland onsite will be conserved in full.
- There are significant constraints to horticultural development to the north of State Forest 16, such as the Peel-Harvey catchment and the McLarty State Explosives Facility.

Where will the project water supply come from?

No groundwater is available in the local area as it has been fully allocated. DPIRD is investigating several possible source options for the project including unallocated groundwater from elsewhere in the region and potential new water supplies.

How can I stay updated on the project?

DPIRD is sharing early-stage updates on its website and providing opportunities for online feedback. If the project progresses, there will be formal community consultation and several statutory public advertising processes as part of planning and environmental approvals.

You can also subscribe for updates by completing the online feedback form and ticking 'Yes' to receive project updates.

Visit our website for more information: dpiird.wa.gov.au/myalupreserve

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