

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10170/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Abra Mining Pty Ltd
Application received:	28 November 2025
Application area:	150 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	General Purpose Lease 52/292 Mining Lease 52/776 Miscellaneous Licence 52/194, 52/198, 52/210, 52/240
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	Abra Base Metals Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Clearing permit CPS 10170/1 was granted by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 18 July 2023 and was valid from 10 August 2023 to 9 August 2028. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 70 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,065 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production, mining infrastructure, and associated activities. Under CPS 10170/1 approximately 40.8 hectares has been cleared.

On 28 November 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 10170/1 to increase the total authorised clearing limit from 70 hectares to 150 hectares; and to extend the duration of the permit by an additional five years from the date of approval of the amended permit.

Native vegetation clearing was undertaken in the eastern portion of the application area under CPS 8558/1 where a total of 52.0853 hectares had been cleared to the end of 2021/2022 for the construction of an airstrip, which is now operational (Endurance Mining, 2025). Native vegetation clearing was undertaken in the western portion of the application area under CPS 8234/1 where a total of 126.84 hectares had been cleared to the end of the 2023 reporting period for mineral production, including the construction of infrastructure including tailing storage facilities (TSFs), borrow pits and storage areas (Endurance Mining, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	28 May 2026
Decision area:	150 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) on 28 November 2025.

DMPE advertised the application for public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics set out in CPS 10170/1 Decision Report, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey and fauna survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential impacts to conservation significant flora;
- loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging and nesting habitat for conservation significant fauna species;
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion; and

- potential impacts to riparian vegetation and surface water.

After reviewing the available information and the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 2.1), the Delegated Officer found that the assessment remains largely consistent with the previous assessment for CPS 10170/1. The Delegated Officer also identified the need to include a condition to address potential impacts on *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface). Despite this addition, the overall conclusion of the assessment remain unchanged, with the proposed clearing considered unlikely to result in long-term adverse impacts on environmental values.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity which will minimise impact to individuals;
- watercourse management condition to reduce the impacts to surface water and riparian vegetation;
- staged clearing – the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within 6 months of the authorised clearing being undertaken; and
- conduct a pre-clearance survey to identify any active, in-use *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) nests.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

As per CPS 10170/1, the applicant has adequately demonstrated that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values. Avoidance and mitigation measures include:

- infrastructure has been located to minimise impacts on drainage lines; development has been kept compact to minimise the clearing envelope;
- an Environmental Management System (EMS) has been developed to manage environmental impacts associated with its mining operations;
- detention basins will be prepared to contain sediment off disturbed areas prior to discharge to the environment as per Abra Mining EMS water monitoring procedure;
- all personnel are to be inducted on the importance of minimising clearing and disturbance; all clearing will be supervised by the relevant site supervisor (Abra Mining, 2023).

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A of CPS 10170/1 Decision Report) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The previous assessment against the Clearing Principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is 'at variance' with Principle (f); 'may be at variance' with Principle (b), (g) and (i); 'not at variance' with Principle (e) and is 'not likely to be at variance' with the remaining clearing principles.

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna and flora). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in accordance with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, remains consistent with the decision report for CPS 10170/1. However, following a recent change in the conservation status of *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface), now listed as Vulnerable under both the BC Act and EPBC Act (Stantec, 2026), potential impacts to this species require consideration. As a result, impacts relevant to Clearing Principle (b) - which remains assessed as 'may be at variance' - are examined below with specific reference to this species.

1.1.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

Assessment

***Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface)**

This species has been included on the EPBC Act threatened species list as a vulnerable species as of March 2023. During the 2018 and 2019 surveys conducted over the area, the Southern Whiteface was not considered as a vulnerable species and consequently was not assessed (Stantec, 2026). However, Stantec (2026) did note this species as possibly occurring within the application area.

Habitat critical for survival of the Southern Whiteface includes areas of relatively undisturbed open woodlands and shrublands with an understorey of grasses or shrubs, or both, as well as habitat with low tree densities and a herbaceous understorey litter cover (DCCEEW, 2022). This vegetation provides essential foraging habitat and living and dead trees with hollows and crevices which are essential for roosting and nesting.

The application area is mapped within the Augustus 18 and Augustus 39 land systems, both of which are associated with low woodland and shrubland communities dominated by mulga (*Acacia aneura*) (GIS Database). Stantec (2018) describes the vegetation across the application area's plains and low hills as mixed *Acacia* open shrublands, with a mid-storey largely composed of *Eremophila* species over a sparse tussock grass layer. These vegetation characteristics are consistent with habitat known to support the Southern Whiteface. Stantec (2026) further notes that the species may occur within the application area, as the site lies within its known distribution range.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing has the potential to impact *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface). Potential impacts to this species can be appropriately managed through the implementation of specific fauna management conditions outlined below.

Conditions

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- identified *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) nests should be avoided by 10 metres between the months of July and October.

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 24 February 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There is one registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*
- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

Appendix A. References and databases

A.1. GIS datasets

Publicly available GIS datasets used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

A.2. References

Abra Mining (2023) Abra Base Metals Mine Purpose Clearing Permit Application, May 2023.
Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 10170/1 Abra Mining Pty Ltd.

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2022) Consultation Document on Listing and Conservation Actions *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface). [Consultation Document on Listing Eligibility and Conservation Actions - Aphelocephala leucopsis](#) (Accessed 19 May 2026)
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 12 May 2025).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Endurance Mining Pty Ltd (Endurance Mining) (2025) Supporting Report Application to Amend Native Vegetation Clearing Permit CPS 10170/1. Abra Metals Project. November 2025.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004a) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56, June 2004.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- Stantec (2018) Abra Flora, Fauna and Vegetation Survey. Prepared for Galena Mining Ltd. November 2018.
- Stantec (2026) Desktop Review for NVCP Amendment. Prepared for Endurance Mining Pty Ltd. April 2026.

3. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union

PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

T Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

Threatened fauna is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

Threatened flora is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR Critically endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

EN Endangered species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

VU Vulnerable species

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

Extinct species

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

EX Extinct species

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

EW Extinct in the wild species

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

MI Migratory species

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

OS Other specially protected species

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

Priority species

P Priority species

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations

Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.

P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.