Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Permit number:** | 10344/2 |
| **Permit type:** | Purpose permit |
| **Applicant name:** | Regan Scott Grant |
| **Application received:** | 3 September 2025 |
| **Amendment area:** | 53.9 hectares |
| **Purpose of clearing:** | Gypsum extraction and associated activities |
| **Method of clearing:** | Mechanical removal |
| **Tenure:** | Mining Lease 70/1382 |
| **Location (LGA area):** | Shire of Lake Grace |
| **Colloquial name:** | Lake Lockhart Gypsum Mine |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regan Scott Grant proposes to clear up to 53.9 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 53.9 hectares, for the purpose of gypsum extraction and associated activities. The project is located approximately 19 kilometres south of Newdegate, within the Shire of Lake Grace.

Clearing permit CPS 10344/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 19 December 2024 and was valid from 11 January 2024 to 10 January 2029. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 47.4 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 47.4 hectares, for the purpose of gypsum extraction and associated activities.

On 3 September 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 10344/1 to align their original permit boundary with recent satellite imagery and increase the amount of authorised clearing to 53.9 hectares, which resulted in an increase of approximately 6.4 hectares to the permit boundary from 47.4 hectares to 53.9 hectares (Regan Scott Grant, 2025). Approximately 26.6 hectares of native vegetation has been cleared under this permit (Accendo, 2025).

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

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|---|---|
| **Decision:** | Grant |
| **Decision date:** | 20 January 2026 |
| **Decision area:** | 53.9 hectares of native vegetation |

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (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, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation 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 will have negligible impact on habitat for flora, fauna and ecological communities, conservation areas.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment. The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit with existing management conditions.

## 1.5. Site map

A site map of proposed clearing is provided in Figure 1 below.

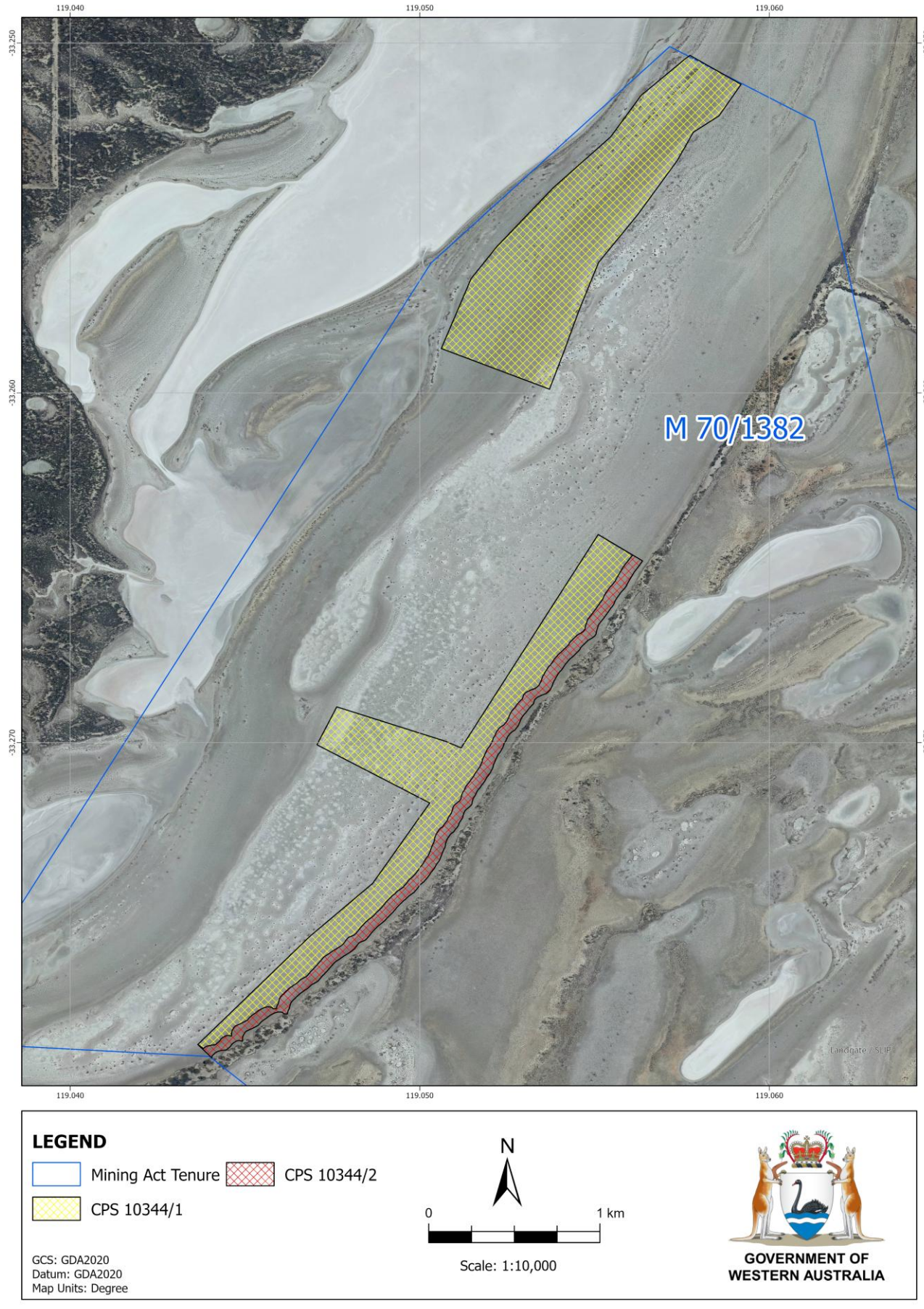


**Figure 1. Map of the amendment area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit 10344/1. The red area indicates the additional area applied for under CPS 10344/2.**

## 2. Assessment of application

### 2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant adequately demonstrated that all reasonable efforts had been taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values. Regan Scott Grant (2023; 2025) advised that:

- The *Fitzwillia axilliflora* (P2) population, comprised of approximately 330 individuals occurring within the amendment area, will be avoided during the clearing process (a 20 metre buffer to all conservation significant flora and vegetation will be demarcated);
- Clearing will be undertaken on an as needs basis and clearing areas will be progressively rehabilitated at the end of each mining season (November to April);
- The amendment area has been designed to provide a 10 meter buffer to the adjacent PEC; and
- No flora of conservation significance is located within the amendment area.

### 2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 10344/1.

A recent flora and vegetation survey has been provided in support of the amendment application, conducted by Plantecology Consulting in October 2024. The environmental values of the amendment area are well understood and are described in the previous version of the Decision Report, based on biological studies undertaken by Rick (2019), flora and vegetation survey done by Plantecology (2024) and the annual compliance report carried out by Accendo (2025). Similarly, the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing have been previously assessed and conditionally approved via clearing permit CPS 10344/1. The assessment against the ten clearing principles identified that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to provide habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna; does not contain or form a part of a threatened or priority ecological community or impact on any riparian vegetation. At the bioregion Mallee and local (10 kilometre radius from the perimeter of the amendment area) scale, over 67.27 per cent of the pre-European vegetation extent remains. The nearest conservation area is located approximately 650 meters west of the amendment area, and the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the environmental values of this area. The proposed clearing is not likely to lead to appreciable land degradation or impacts surface water quality, groundwater quality or lead to increase in flooding.

The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the amendment area, are well represented in surrounding areas (Bamford, 2022; Plantecology, 2024; GIS Database). The increase in authorised clearing from 47.4 hectares to 53.91 hectares within the permit boundary is unlikely to result any significant change to the environmental impacts of the proposed clearing.

The amendment application has been assessed against the clearing principles, planning instruments and other matters in accordance with s.51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Environmental information has been reviewed, and the assessment of the proposed clearing against the clearing principles remains consistent with the assessment contained in decision report CPS 10344/1.

### 2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 14 October 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The permit area is within the South West Native Title Settlement area (DPLH, 2025). This settlement resolves Native Title rights and interests over an area of approximately 200,000 square kilometres within the southwest of Western Australia. 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 are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the amendment area (DPLH, 2025). 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 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.

## End

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The amendment area is located approximately 18 kilometres south of Newdegate. The area is part of seasonally flooded zone of Lake Lochart and is of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Western Mallee sub-region of Mallee Bioregion. The area comprises part a patchwork of vegetation types ranging from samphire shrubland to open isolated patches of mallee woodland (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage & Conservation areas</td><td>According to available database, the amendment area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages. The closest conservation area is the Lockhart Nature Reserve which is located approximately 636 meters west of the amendment area at its closest point.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>The vegetation of the amendment area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:<br>125: Bare areas; salt lakes (GIS Database).<br><br>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the amendment area from 30 September to 4 October 2024 (Plantecology, 2024). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024):<br><br>
<table>
<tr><th>Broad Floristic Formation</th><th>Vegetation Association Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Tecticornia low shrubland</td><td>Low shrubland of Tecticornia halocnemoides subsp. caudata with Tecticornia loriae and Tecticornia sp. on clays of saline lakebed.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mixed shrubland on gypsum dunes</td><td>Open shrublands variously dominated by Melaleuca hamulosa, Melaleuca thyoides and/or Pittosporum angustifolium over shrublands of Rhagodia crassifolia, Tecticornia halocnemoides subsp. caudata and Atriplex vesicaria over herbland of Carpobrotus modestus, Austrostipa pycnostachya and Senecio glossanthus on sandy clay loams to medium clays of gypsiferous low dunes and depressions.</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The flora and vegetation survey (Plantecology, 2024) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the amendment area was identified as excellent to very good (Keighery, 1994).<br>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The amendment area is located in winter zone of Western Australia (BoM, 2025) where there is wet winter and low summer rainfall. The average annual rainfall (Newdegate Research Station) in the amendment area is 363.8 millimetres (BoM, 2025).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>The soils in the amendment area are part of the Lagan 1 subsystem (DPIRD, 2025; GIS Database). They include two main types:<br>• 250La_1sl: These are large, seasonally dry salt lakes. The soils here are mostly salty and contain clays and silts with gypsum; and<br>• 250La_1lf: These areas have mainly salty loams and clays, calcareous loamy earths, salt lake soils, and some sandy dunes called lunettes.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>Lack of slope make the soil generally resistant to erosion. Wind erosion of lake margins may be exacerbated by loss of stabilising perennial shrubs (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies and Hydrography</td><td>The amendment area intersects Lake Lockhart mapped as a Wheatbelt Wetland (GIS Database). The amendment area is not within any public drinking water source areas. The mapped groundwater salinity is greater than 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as hypersaline (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>The local area contains 59 species of conservation significant flora with in (GIS Database). There are records of Fitzwillia axilliflora (P2) flora in the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024).<br>The nearest priority flora recorded approximately 607 meters away west from the amendment area is Fitzwillia sp. Newdegate Priority 1 (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological communities</td><td>There are two Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) which are in the list of critically endangered occurs in Local area and one Priority Ecological Community (PEC) in the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024; GIS Database). Assemblages of Gypsum Dunes of the central and southern Wheatbelt is a Priority 3 PEC which occurs in the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna</td><td>There are seven fauna species records of conservation significance within the local area (Accendo, 2022; GIS Database).</td></tr>
</table>

## Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|---|---|---|
| **Environmental value: biological values** | | |
| Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>The amended area proposed to be cleared contains locally or regionally significant flora (Plantecology, 2024; GIS Database).<br><br>*Fitzwillia axilliflora* (P2) was recorded in high density in the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024). One new species, *Acacia drewiana* subsp. *minor* (P2), was found within the distance of approximately 20 kilometres from the amendment area (GIS Database), however suitable habitat for this species is not recorded within the amendment area (Plantecology, 2024).<br><br>Potential impacts to the Priority Flora that are present or potentially occur in the amendment area can be minimised by the continued implementation of the existing flora management condition. | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>Although records of several fauna species of conservation significance exist within the local area, the amendment area is considered to be of low fauna habitat significance (Bamford, 2022).<br><br>Some suitable foraging habitats may be present in areas were Myrtaceae and Proteaceae shrubs dominate, however these areas are too small to be of significant value. It is considered that the proposed clearing is not expected to result in a significant impact on any conservation significant fauna and its habitat (Bamford, 2022).<br><br>Potential impact to such foraging habitat present in the amendment area can be minimised by continuing the implementation of existing fauna management condition. | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act (Plantecology, 2024; Rick, 2019). | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt which is a priority 3 and critically endangered TEC in the local area approximately 700 meters west to the amendment area. The area proposed to be cleared does not contains species that can indicate a threatened ecological community (GIS Database). | Not at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| **Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas** | | |
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Rick, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (Rick, 2019; GIS Database). | Not at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|---|---|---|
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>Given the nearest conservation area which is Lockhart Nature Reserve is approximately 636 kilometres away from the amendment are, the proposed clearing may have some impact on the environmental values of the conservation area (GIS Database).<br><br>Although, the amendment is to add approximately 6.4 hectares to the outer part of application area of CPS 10344/1 (see figure 1), it collectively adjoins a previously cleared area under clearing permit CPS 6948/2, and may increase the risk of weed infestation within the reserve (GIS Database).<br><br>Potential impacts can be minimised by continuing the implementation of existing weed management condition. | May be at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| **Environmental value: land and water resources** | | |
| Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>Given the amendment area is located within Lake Lockhart, which forms part of a network of salt lakes in the south-west Western Australia and is a natural source of gypsum (Department of Water, 2008). The proposed clearing is likely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality (GIS Database).<br><br>Potential impacts to the lake can be minimised by continuing the implementation of existing vegetation management condition. | At variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>The mapped soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion. Noting the location of the amendment area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation (Accendo, 2022; GIS Database). | At variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>Given the amendment area is within a salt lake, it is naturally highly saline and support a specialised salt tolerant vegetation. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database). | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |
| Principle (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."*<br><br>Assessment:<br><br>The area of proposed to be cleared is located within a salt lake, and floods intermitted as a natural function of its ecology. The clearing of native vegetation is therefore unlikely to exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding (Accendo, 2022; GIS Database). | Not at variance<br><br>(As per CPS 10344/1) | No |

## Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

**Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)**

| Condition | Description |
|---|---|
| Pristine | Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance. |
| Excellent | Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species. |
| Very good | Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing. |
| Good | Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing. |
| Degraded | Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing. |
| Completely degraded | The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs. |

# Appendix D. References and databases

## D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

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)

## D.2. References

Accendo (2022) Clearing Permit Application within Mining Lease M70/1382 & L70/193, CPS 9648/1. Prepared for Regan Scott Grant, by Accendo Australia, July 2025.

Accendo (2025) Annual Compliance Report within Mining Lease M70/1382 & L70/193, CPS 10344/1. Prepared for Regan Scott Grant, by Accendo Australia, July 2025.

Bamford (2022) Malleefowl Survey – Lakeside Minerals. Report prepared for Lakeside Minerals by Bamford Consulting Ecologists, by Bamford Consulting Ecologists, October 2022.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Newdegate Research Station. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 17 December 2025).

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 17 December 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 17 December 2025).

Department of Water. (2008). Waterway assessment for the lower Lockhart River: Caroline Gap to Old Beverly Road. Water resource management series Report No. WRM 54. Retrieved from https://www.water.wa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/3249/78112.pdf

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Plant Ecology Consulting (Plantecology) (2024) Part Mining Tenement M70/1382 Lake Lockhart Flora and Vegetation Survey Prepared for Lakeside Minerals, by Plant Ecology consulting.

Regan Scott Grant (2023) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10344/1, received 17 November 2023.

Regan Scott Grant (2025) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10344/2, received 3 September 2025.

Rick, A (2019) Lake Lockhart – Proposed Gypsum Mine M70/1382 – Vegetation and Flora survey. Report prepared by Anne (Coates) Rick, March 2019.

Waddell, PA., and Galloway, PD (2023) 'Land systems, soils and vegetation of the southern Goldfields and Great Western Woodlands of Western Australia', Technical bulletin 99, vol 2, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

## 1 Glossary

**Acronyms**:

| | |
|---|---|
| **BC Act** | *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* 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** | *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia |
| **EPA** | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia |
| **EPBC Act** | *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (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** | *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, 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.