

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10536/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd
Application received:	22 February 2024
Application area:	20 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of a solar farm and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 36/53
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Leonora
Colloquial name:	Alternative Power Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 20 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 66.3 hectares, for the purpose of constructing a solar farm as well as the construction of supporting infrastructure. The project is located approximately 20 kilometres in a southwest direction of Leinster, within the Shire of Leonora (GIS Database).

This application seeks approval for the construction of the next phase of the Alternative Power Project (APP), which includes the expansion of the existing solar farm and associated infrastructure. The proposed works are located within the original boundary of the previously approved permit CPS 8248/2 which covered the initial phase of the project. However, as outlined in Section 3.1, modifications to the footprint have resulted in a reduced boundary area, from the initial 73.21 hectares to 66.3 hectares. Further details regarding these changes can be found in Section 3.1.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	25 September 2025
Decision area:	20 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a 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 (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), 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 (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to 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;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

2. Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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. The proponent has outlined the following management measure to minimise impacts to native vegetation (Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd, 2024):

- Ground disturbance will only be undertaken via the AGM Surface disturbance permitting process to ensure close oversight of land clearing activities;
- Clearing areas demarcated and clearing will be kept to a minimum to allow proposal to be implemented;
- Topsoil stockpiled for re-use and returned to cleared areas during progressive rehabilitation operations;
- Areas no longer being utilised will be progressively rehabilitated throughout operations;
- Potential impacts of clearing and construction will be managed by standard avoidance and mitigation measures;
- Common dust suppression management practices will be used to manage impacts to adjacent vegetation;
- Operational speed limits enforced to mitigate the risk of fauna and vehicle interactions;
- Feral animal and weed control measures will be implemented during clearing activities and operations across the project area; and
- Localised erosion will be managed during operations through diversion bunds, surface water controls and sedimentation controls to prevent heavy sediment loads in surface water flows.

The original application included proposed clearing within a minor drainage line. Following consultation and in recognition of the importance of the preservation of drainage lines, and minimisation of potential environmental impacts, Agnew Gold Mining Company agreed to revise the clearing footprint. The updated boundary excludes the drainage line and incorporates a 50 metre buffer zone along it. As a result, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have any significant impacts on the native vegetation near or within the drainage line.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values. The Delegated Officer also took into consideration disturbance from previous clearing under expired permit CPS 8248/2, which overlaps the current application area

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing may present a risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and vegetation). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values - Clearing Principle (a)

Assessment

Stantec (2022) completed a desktop review of the survey area and identified four significant flora species that had been recorded during previous surveys undertaken within a five kilometre radius of the application area. One of these species, *Thryptomene* sp.

Leinster, has previously been reclassified and is now known as *Thryptomene decussata* (Rye, 2024), and is no longer listed as a priority species. The updated list of priority flora species recorded is listed below:

- *Hybanthus floribundus* subsp. *chloroxanthus* (P3)
- *Eremophila pungens* (P4)
- *Grevillea inconspicua* (P4)

These findings were supported by multiple flora and vegetation surveys that were conducted across the application area and broader surrounds (Stantec, 2022).

Grevillea inconspicua

Grevillea inconspicua (P3) has been recorded multiple times near the application area, with the closest record approximately 11 kilometres away. Although Stantec (2022) identified that this species is likely to occur in the survey area, it was not detected during the survey conducted in 2022.

Hybanthus floribundus subsp. *Chloroxanthus*

Hybanthus floribundus subsp. *Chloroxanthus* (P3) was previously recorded approximately two kilometres southwest of the application area. Although, Stantec (2022) considers the application area to contain suitable habitat for this species, it is located outside of this species' known distribution range. This species would have been detectable at the time of the survey if it were present (Stantec, 2022).

Eremophila pungens

Eremophila pungens (P4) may occur within the application area but was not recorded during the Stantec (2022) survey. This species was previously recorded during a 2018 Stantec survey conducted adjacent to the area surveyed in November 2021, which was finalised as part of the 2022 survey effort. The nearest known record for *Eremophila pungens* is approximately 25 kilometres from the application area. Although known populations are limited, records from (WAM, 1998) indicates the species has been recorded within the Matuwa and Kurrara-Kurrara Indigenous Protected Area and the Wanjarri Nature Reserve. As such, this species is not considered likely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Goodenia modesta

Goodenia modesta (P3) is likely to occur within the Stantec (2022) survey area, which contains suitable habitat for the species. However, it was not recorded during the survey, possibly due to sub-optimal seasonal conditions at the time. There are no known local records of this species.

Two introduced flora (weed) species were recorded within the survey area (Stantec, 2022). *Citrullus colocynthis* and *Rumex vesicarius*. Neither taxon is listed as a declared pest under Section 22 of the BAM Act or represent a Weed of National Significance (WoNS). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will not result in local impact to priority flora. Most of the species listed above are either well represented locally (Stantec, 2022), or do not occur within the application area. Therefore, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on priority flora. The potential impacts on native vegetation and biodiversity can be effectively managed by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 12 March 2024 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are two native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). One claim has been determined by the Federal Court, and one claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, 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 application 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.

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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan 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

Characteristic	Details																								
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by mining operations, pastoral lease and rural townships (GIS Database).																								
Ecological linkage	There are no formal ecological linkages within the application area (GIS Database).																								
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within the application area. The nearest DBCA managed land is the Wanjarri Nature Reserve which is located approximately 55 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).																								
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 18: Low woodland, mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database)</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Stantec Australia Pty Ltd (Stantec) in May and September 2018. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Stantec, 2018):</p> <table> <tr> <th>Vegetation Association</th><th>Description</th></tr> <tr> <td>AaAiEsEffEeMp</td><td><i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> open tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i> (<i>E. forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>) open shrubland over <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> (<i>Poaceae</i> sp. and <i>Monachather paradoxus</i>) very open grassland. This was the most commonly occurring vegetation type within the survey area.</td></tr> <tr> <td>AappEffEp</td><td><i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>A. ayersiana</i> (narrow phyllode variant) tall shrubland over <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) and <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> low shrubland over <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i> very open tussock grassland.</td></tr> <tr> <td>AcAiEff</td><td><i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) and <i>A. incurvaneura</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> open low shrubland to open shrubland.</td></tr> <tr> <td>AcAnEffEs</td><td><i>Acacia caesaneura</i> open low woodland over <i>Acacia aneura</i> (?<i>Santalum lanceolatum</i>) tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> shrubland over <i>E. spectabilis</i> low open shrubland.</td></tr> <tr> <td>AiEspP.SsMPsEm</td><td><i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i>, <i>Senna</i> sp. <i>Meekatharra</i>, <i>E. latrobei</i> subsp. <i>latrobei</i>, <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> and <i>E. ?margarethae</i> open shrubland over <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> very open tussock grassland.</td></tr> <tr> <td>AsppEspP.SeEpAc?Ta</td><td><i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i>, <i>A. caesaneura</i> and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> open shrubland over <i>E. serrulata</i> and <i>Sida ?ectogama</i> low open shrubland over <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> very open to open tussock grassland and <i>?Tragus australianus</i> very open grasses.</td></tr> <tr> <td>EffAtEmPoAcCa</td><td><i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> open shrubland over <i>Eremophila ?margarethae</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> open low shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> and <i>Cymbopogon ambiguus</i> open tussock grassland.</td></tr> <tr> <td>EffEm</td><td><i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> open shrubland over <i>E. margarethae</i> open low shrubland.</td></tr> </table> <p>An additional survey was completed by Stantec in November 2021 to support the Alternative Power Project expansion project (Stantec, 2022). The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area, which are consistent with the originally identified vegetation types (Stantec, 2022):</p> <table> <tr> <th>Vegetation Association</th><th>Description</th></tr> <tr> <td>AsppEspP.SeEpAc?Ta</td><td><i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i>, <i>A. caesaneura</i> and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> open shrubland over <i>E. serrulata</i> and <i>Sida ?ectogama</i> low open shrubland over <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> very open to open tussock grassland and <i>?Tragus australianus</i> very open grasses</td></tr> <tr> <td>EffEm</td><td><i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> open shrubland over <i>E. margarethae</i> open low shrubland.</td></tr> </table>	Vegetation Association	Description	AaAiEsEffEeMp	<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> open tall shrubland over <i>Eremophila spectabilis</i> (<i>E. forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>) open shrubland over <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> (<i>Poaceae</i> sp. and <i>Monachather paradoxus</i>) very open grassland. 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Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Stantec, 2022) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from poor to degraded. Disturbances were predominantly associated with livestock grazing, partial clearing and weed invasion (Stantec 2022).																								

Characteristic	Details																
	The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.																
Climate and landform	The climate of the region is semi-arid to arid (Stantec, 2022). The total annual rainfall recorded at Leinster Aero station is approximately 227.6 millimetres (BOM, 2025). The landform within the application is relatively flat with elevations ranging between 500 and 510 metres Australian Height Datum (mAHD) (GIS Database).																
Soil description	Majority of the application area consists of gravelly hardpan plains and sandy banks, while the remainder features gently undulating stony plains, minor limonitic low rises, and drainage floors (DPIRD, 2025).																
Land degradation risk	The Tiger land system is generally susceptible to wind erosion especially in areas with sparse vegetation and the Nubev land system is moderately susceptible to wind erosion, if stony mantles are disturbed or vegetation cover is removed (Pringle et al., 1994). Majority of the application area consists of the Tiger land system.																
Waterbodies	There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest ephemeral lake, Lake Miranda, occurs approximately 26 kilometres north, an unnamed non-perennial lake system also occurs approximately 32 kilometres south of the application area (Stantec 2022; GIS Database).																
Hydrogeography	Groundwater salinity in the area ranges between 500 – 1000 milligrams per litre of total dissolved solids (TDS) (GIS Database). Surface water drainage is via a combination of sheet flow (with shallow flow depths and low velocities) and poorly defined drainage lines (Stantec, 2018). The drainage lines within the application area do not contain vegetation communities or species that are confined to watercourses or wetlands, or are groundwater dependant (Stantec, 2018).																
Flora	No threatened or priority flora species were recorded within the survey area (Stantec, 2022, GIS Database). One Priority three species is considered 'possible' to occur within the survey area based on the post-survey likelihood assessment (Stantec, 2022).																
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded within the application area (Stantec, 2022; GIS Database).																
Fauna	A total of 12 terrestrial vertebrate fauna species were opportunistically recorded during the survey conducted by Stantec in 2022. These included seven bird species, three mammals, and two reptiles. No fauna species of conservation significance were observed within the survey area (Stantec, 2022; GIS Database).																
Fauna habitat	<p>Stantec (2018) identified six broad fauna habitats. These comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shrubland • Drainage line • Open plain; and • Cleared <table> <tr> <th>Habitat Type</th><th>Condition</th></tr> <tr> <td>Shrubland –</td><td>Poor – very good</td></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance </td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Drainage Line -</td><td>Degraded – very good</td></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance </td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Open Plain</td><td>Degraded – very good</td></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance </td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Cleared</td><td>Completely degraded</td></tr> </table>	Habitat Type	Condition	Shrubland –	Poor – very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance 		Drainage Line -	Degraded – very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance 		Open Plain	Degraded – very good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widespread • Limited significance 		Cleared	Completely degraded
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A.2. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and biological survey information impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Baeckea</i> sp. Sandstone	P3	Yes	Yes	Yes	~ 8	Yes
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	Yes	Yes	Yes	~ 11	Yes
<i>Eremophila pungens</i>	P4	Yes	Yes	No	~25	Yes

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Hybanthus floribundus</i> subsp. <i>chloroxanthus</i>	P3	Yes	No	No	~62	Yes
<i>Goodenia modesta</i>	P3	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No
<i>Hemigenia exilis</i> Not found within the survey area, or application area. Unlikely to be impacted by clearing	P4	No	No	No	~ 22	Yes
<i>Verticordia jamiesonii</i> Not found within the survey area, or application area. Unlikely to be impacted by clearing	P3	No	No	No	~ 20	Yes
<i>Mirbelia ferricola</i> Not found within the survey area, or application area. Unlikely to be impacted by clearing	P3	No	No	No	~ 25	Yes

A.3. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna may require further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (Fork-tailed swift) May very infrequently be seen in the area, however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species	MI	No	No	NA	631	Yes
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine falcon) May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.	OS	No	Yes	~ 30	1,815	Yes
<i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i> (Northern shield-backed trapdoor spider) Not found within the survey area, or application area. Unlikely to be impacted by clearing	P3	No	No	NA	~ 2,000	Yes

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, MI: migratory, CD: conservation dependent, OS: other specially protected, P: priority

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The proposed clearing area has the potential to support habitats for conservation significant flora and fauna species (Stantec, 2022), and several Priority species have been identified within a 30 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	<p>Yes</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</p>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
However, no conservation significant species were recorded during the survey, and no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) were identified in the application area (GIS Database).		
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The vegetation habitat types found within the survey area were noted to be widespread and were of limited significance to potential fauna species (Stantec, 2022). The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain foraging, roosting, breeding, critical, significant habitat for conservation significant fauna and is mainly of a degraded condition (Stantec, 2022).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known records of threatened flora within or near the application area (Stantec, 2022; GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey conducted across the application area and its surroundings did not identify any species of threatened flora (Stantec, 2022).</p> <p>The vegetation associations present within the survey area are considered common and widespread in the region (Stantec, 2022). As such, the vegetation proposed for clearing is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or near to the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey completed by Stantec in November 2021 did not identify any TECs (Stantec, 2022).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p> <p>Approximately 99% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area is approximately 55 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses, drainage lines (minor or major) or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database). There is one minor drainage line that runs parallel to the application area (GIS Database). One vegetation community identified within the survey area is attributed to watercourses (Stantec, 2022), however the updated boundary excludes the drainage line and incorporates a 50 metre buffer zone</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
around it. As a result, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the nearby drainage line and associated vegetation.		
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The Nubev land system is susceptible to soil erosion (DPIRD, 2025), while the Tiger land system is generally susceptible to wind erosion (Pringle et al., 1994). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. However, to minimise the risk of erosion, staged clearing will be considered as a condition of the permit.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses, wetlands, and Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within or within close proximity to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within or close proximity to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging or increase the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	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 Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Soil Sites (DPIRD-071)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Zones (DPIRD-017)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- Tuart Woodlands (DBCA-048)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

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

- Agnew Gold Mining Company Pty Ltd (2024) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10536/1, received 22 February 2024.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 13 August 2025).
- 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) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 14 August 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://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 14 August 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>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment.

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

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>

Pringle, H.J.R., Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., and Gilligan, S.A. (1994) An Inventory and Condition Survey of rangelands in the northeastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 87. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

Rye, B.L. (2024). New taxa and a key for Thryptomene (Myrtaceae: Chamelaucieae: Thryptomeninae). *Nuytsia* 35: 101–135. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

Stantec (2022) Agnew Renewable Energy Expansion: Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey. Prepared for Gold Fields Pty Ltd

Stantec (2018) Flora and Fauna Survey Agnew Gold Mine Pipeline, Camp, Alternative Power Plant and Airstrip.

Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAM) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 1 September 2025).

4. 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.