Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

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| **Permit number:** | 10636/2 |
| **Permit type:** | Purpose Permit |
| **Applicant name:** | Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd |
| **Application received:** | 17 March 2026 |
| **Application area:** | 572.6 hectares |
| **Purpose of clearing:** | Mineral Production and Associated Activities |
| **Method of clearing:** | Mechanical Removal |
| **Tenure:** | Mining Lease 51/869 |
| | Miscellaneous Licence 20/92 |
| **Location (LGA area):** | Shire of Cue |
| **Colloquial name:** | Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore Project |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 572.6 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 967.6 hectares, for the purpose of mining related infrastructure (Ecotec, 2024a; Fenix Beebyn, 2026). The project is located approximately 60 kilometres northwest of Cue, within the Shire of Cue (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 10636/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 6 March 2025 and was valid from 29 March 2025 to 28 March 2030. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 262.1 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,297.24 hectares, for the mining and exporting of iron ore from the high-grade Beebyn-W11 iron ore deposit in the Weld Range, and will connect to the existing Iron Ridge Project operating on M51/869 (Ecotec, 2024a).

On 17 March 2026, the Permit Holder applied to amend CPS 10636/1 to modify the permit boundary, increase the amount permitted to clear and extend the permit duration by two years (Fenix Beebyn, 2026). Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 29 March 2025 to 31 July 2025, received 31 July 2025), a total of 122.8 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under the permit. Of this, 14.2 hectares of the allocated 25 hectares of drainage habitat was cleared and 17.3 hectares of the allocated 116.1 hectares of priority ecological community vegetation has been cleared.

Fenix Beebyn has signed a binding agreement with Sinosteel Midwest Corporation (SMC) securing the exclusive right to mine and export up to 10 million dry metric tonnes of iron ore from the high-grade Beebyn-W11 iron ore deposit in the Weld Range (APM, 2024). The application is to allow the increase in total clearing to 572.6 hectares (an additional 310.5 hectares) to allow for development of the Stage 2 project (increased open pit footprint, north waste rock landform, road drainage and miscellaneous historic disturbance) and future W10 expansion (Fenix Beebyn, 2026). The amendment also requested to modify the permit boundary and extend the duration of the permit for an additional two years (ending 29 March 2032), to coincide with the increased life of mine.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

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| **Decision:** | Grant |
| **Decision date:** | 7 May 2026 |
| **Decision area:** | 572.6 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 a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

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;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;

- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna;
- impacts to riparian vegetation; and
- potential land degradation.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed 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 and dieback;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- restricted clearing within drainage line habitat;
- restricting the clearing within the Priority Ecological Community;
- restricted, no clearing permitted in areas of *Verticordia jamiesonii*;
- restricted clearing of priority flora;
- avoid riparian vegetation and maintain existing surface water flow;
- no clearing within 25 metres *Idiosoma clypeatum* burrows; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 10636/1. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendments being sought is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

## 1.5. Site map

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

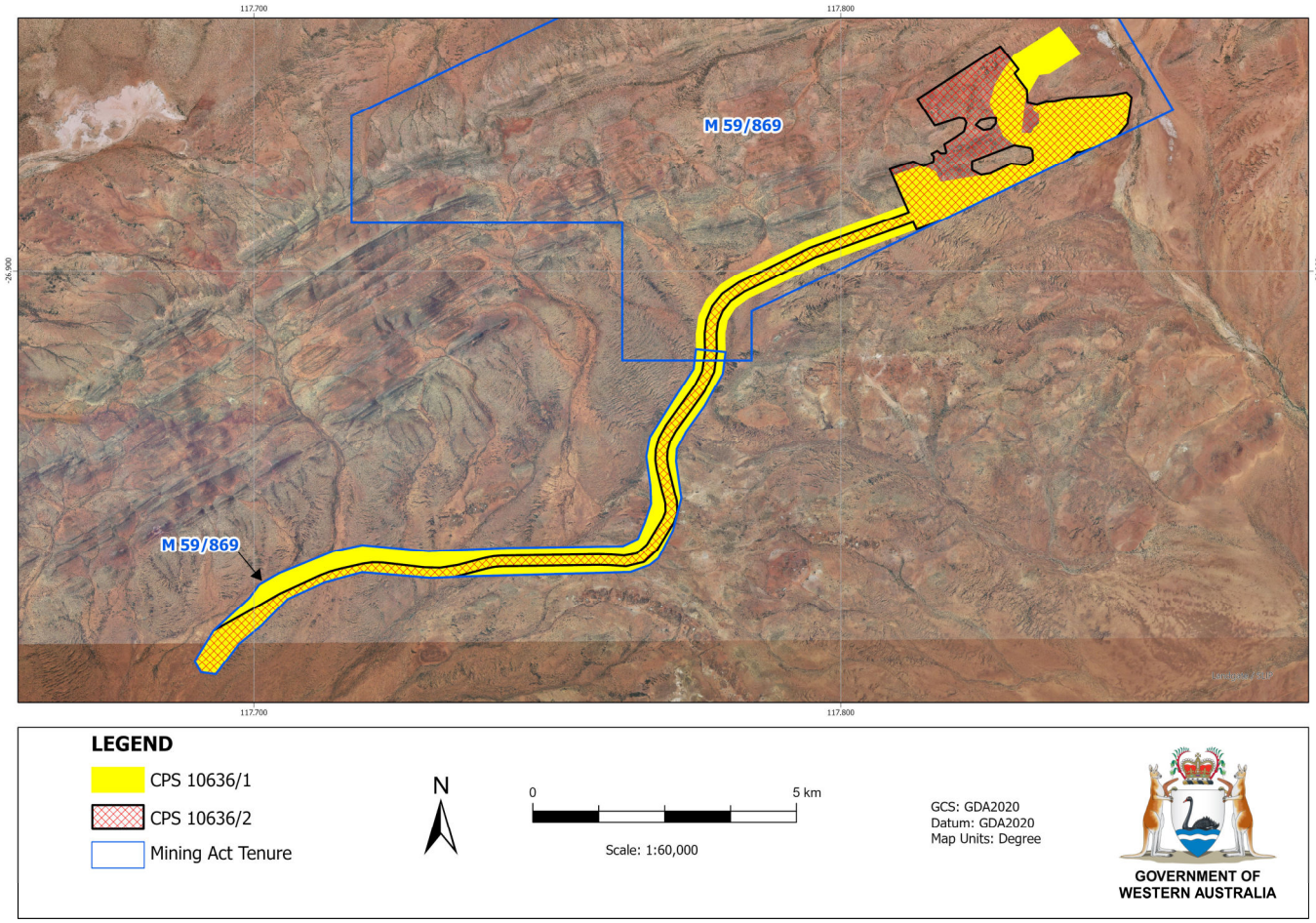


**Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit CPS 10636/1. The red hatched areas indicate the amended areas applied for under CPS 10636/2.**

## 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 (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has 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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

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, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

## 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.

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that various avoidance and mitigation measures such as the following will be implemented:

- the application area has been designed to avoid conservation significant flora and fauna previously recorded within the northern area on the Weld Ridge;
- implement a Site Disturbance Permit system with strict survey controls and requiring sign off by the Registered Manager prior to clearing commencing;
- clearly delineate areas to be cleared using survey pegs and coloured flagging tape and record (“pick up”) cleared areas on completion;
- maintain records of clearing undertaken;
- provide information to site personnel by way of an induction and specific training where necessary to identify conservation significant species and highlight the importance of clearing protocols;
- machinery and equipment are to be thoroughly cleaned prior to being mobilised to site;
- contractors are to provide a weed hygiene certificate for each item of machinery bought to site;
- machinery and equipment that arrives on site will be inspected. Machinery that does not meet the hygiene requirements will require removal and additional cleaning in an appropriate location;
- regular monitoring of disturbed areas and road verges to identify weeds;
- identifying weed species, abundance and cover during rehabilitation monitoring;
- control of weed outbreaks using herbicide or manual removal; and
- preventing stock access to rehabilitated areas (Ecotec, 2024a; Fenix Beebyn, 2026).

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed from the clearing permit decision report CPS 10636/1.

#### *3.2.1. Biological values (flora and fauna) - Clearing principles (a) & (b)*

Assessment

No new conservation significant flora species were identified within the amended areas during the targeted biological survey undertaken by Ecotec (2025b), however the following five priority flora species were identified within this amendment area:

| Species | Conservation Code | Previous known records (Ecotec 2024b) | Number recorded during recent survey (Ecotec, 2025b) | Number of records from ecologia (Weld Range Survey Area) (2012) | Total recorded within Beebyn project area | Number of individuals recorded within permit area | Number of individuals proposed to be impacted |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Acacia speckii* | P4 | 51 | 57 | 1,193 | 108 | 61 | 49 |
| *Beyeria lapidicola* | P1 | 100 | 279 | 771 | 379 | 379 | 2 |
| *Micromyrtus placoides* | P3 | 1,075 | 588 | 6,567 | 1,663 | 12 | 12 |
| *Prostanthera petrophila* | P3 | 108 | 5 | 2,184 | 113 | 113 | 19 |
| *Verticordia jamiesonii* | P3 | 147 | 0 | 498 | 147 | 147 | 147 |

The proposed clearing is not expected to result in a significant impact to the Priority flora species *Acacia speckii, Beyeria lapidicola*, *Micromyrtus placoides* and *Prostanthera petrophila* at either the local or regional scale, as areas of suitable habitat are well represented in the surrounding landscape and within the bioregion, and additional individuals of these species have been recorded beyond the disturbance footprint. Clearing of these species will be managed by placing a condition on the permit limiting the impact to these species.

The population of *Verticordia jamiesonii* identified within the application area is considered locally significant as this species has not been recorded in other locations within the Weld Range area (Ecotec, 2025b; GIS Database). The proposed clearing may not be regionally significant as this species is dispersed across five IBRA regions (Gascoyne, Gibson Desert, Great Victoria Desert, Murchison, Yalgoo) and suitable habitat is present across the bioregions and in the surrounding areas. Prior to clearing individuals of this species, the Proponent must undertake further surveys to demonstrate a larger population.

*Stenanthemum mediale* identified by Ecotec during the 2024 survey, was subsequently confirmed to be *S. petraeum* (not considered conservation significant) during the 2025 survey (Ecotec, 2025b). The condition requiring no clearing of more than four individuals of this species has therefore been removed from the permit.

The application area transects Priority 1 Ecological Community (PEC) Weld Range Vegetation Complexes (banded ironstone formation) (Ecotec, 2024a; 2024b; GIS Database). Intersecting vegetation types 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8 correspond to the PEC (Ecotec, 2024b), with 291.8 hectares of disturbance proposed for the project occurring within the PEC (Ecotec, 2024a).The impacts to the PEC are not considered significant as the Weld Range PEC occupies an area of 20,073 hectares and the proposed clearing will impact less than one percent of the PEC. Cumulative impacts to the PEC is considered likely given the mining activities proposed within the area. It is considered that these impacts can be managed through a vegetation condition restricting the amount of clearing permitted within the PEC.

The application area contains several large trees that may have the potential to develop hollows over time; however, the site is already substantially disturbed as a result of historic and ongoing grazing by stock from Beebyn Station, impacts from feral goats, and previous clearing associated with mining exploration activities (Ecotec, 2025b). The understorey is generally sparse, and the litter layer is sparse to absent across most of the site, becoming more developed only in narrow bands adjacent to drainage lines. Due to the poor condition and limited structural complexity of the understorey, the application area is unlikely to provide habitat critical to the survival of the Southern Whiteface. Notwithstanding this, the potential presence of the species cannot be entirely discounted without targeted investigation. To appropriately manage any potential impact, a pre-clearing targeted survey during the breeding season will be required prior to clearing to confirm the presence or absence of the species and inform any necessary avoidance measures.

Two possible extinct (long unused and unlikely to be used again, low and flat profile without a peak or crater) malleefowl mounds were recorded during the survey, bringing the total possible extinct mounds in the project area to eleven (Ecotec, 2025b). The survey area now lacks much of the understorey biomass that was once present and is therefore lacking in leaf litter, food resources and cover provided by denser vegetation (Ecotec, 2025b).

Intensive targeted surveys have previously been conducted throughout the Weld Range when the northern shield-backed trapdoor spider was previously regarded as *Idiosoma nigrum* (Vulnerable), now regarded as *Idiosoma clypeatum* (Priority 3) (Ecotec, 2024b). Over 1,800 trapdoor burrows have been identified from database searches, the majority from within the Weld Range (Ecotec, 2024b). Biologic (2012) estimated the population size of *I. clypeatum* across the Weld Range to be more than 14,000 individuals. Ecotec (2024b) found that shield-back trapdoor spider burrows in this region are associated with drainage lines and denser stands of Acacia where the soil has a higher moisture content. Ecotec undertook searches of the main areas of Drainage Line habitat, which is present from the western end of the project infrastructure area and along the haul road route (Ecotec, 2024b). Eleven active and five abandoned *Idiosoma clypeatum* burrows were recorded during the survey within the application area, however it is highly likely that many more burrows are present in suitable habitat across the application area (Ecotec, 2024b). There is abundant suitable habitat in the surrounding region and *I. clypeatum* is known to be widespread across the Murchison and Yalgoo bioregions (Ecotec, 2024a). The proponent has committed to avoiding all known burrows and will be conditioned on the permit (as recorded by Ecotec, 2024a). No additional burrows were recorded during the 2025 survey (Ecotec, 2025b).

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora and priority ecological community can be managed by avoiding and minimising disturbance and by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and by implementing a flora management condition limiting the impacts to priority flora.

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;

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- restricting clearing within the Priority Ecological Community;
- slow directional clearing in one direction to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activities;
- restricted clearing within drainage line habitat;
- restricted, no clearing 10 metres within, or of *Verticordia jamiesonii*;
- avoid riparian vegetation and maintain existing surface water flow;
- restricted clearing of priority flora;
- no clearing within 25 metres *Idiosoma clypeatum* burrows; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

### 3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 17 March 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 11 October 2024 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (Wajarri Yamatji Part A (WC2004/010)) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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 is one 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.

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

| Characteristic | Details |
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| Local context | The application area is located approximately 60 kilometres northwest of Cue, within the Shire of Cue and falls within the Western Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) region (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). |
| Ecological linkage | Aerial imagery shows the application area does not form part on any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database). |
| Conservation areas | The application area does not intersect any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area, Lakeside Conservation Park (R 54420), is located approximately 50 kilometres south from the application area (GIS Database). |
| Vegetation description | The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:<br>• 18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and<br>• 202: Shrublands; mulga & *Acacia quadrimarginea* scrub (GIS Database).<br><br>A detailed flora and vegetation survey (1,056 hectares survey area) was conducted over the application area by Animal Plant Mineral Pty Ltd from 15-17 November 2023 (APM, 2024) and a targeted biological survey was undertaken from 29 July to 3 August 2024 and during 12 and 13 August 2025 by Ecotec (Ecotec, 2024b; 2025b). The following vegetation types were recorded within the application area (APM, 2024):<br>• **2a. BIF outcrops:** Scattered low *Acacia aneura, Psydrax latifolia* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobeii*, *Thryptomene decussata* and *Philotheca brucei* mid sparse shrubland with *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Dysphania rhadinostachya* low sparse shrubland;<br>• **3a. Gravely plains:** *Acacia aneura, A. ramulosa* subsp. *linophylla* and *Acacia mulganeura* tall sparse shrubland over *Eremophila punicea*, *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* and *Eremophila margarethae* mid sparse shrubland with *Ptilotus obovatus, Eragrostis eriopoda* and *?Swainsona purpurea* scattered low groundcover; and<br>• **3b. Sandy outwash plains:** *Acacia aneura, Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla* low open woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* ssp *forrestii*, *Eremophila latrobei* and *Grevillea obliquistigma* mid open shrubland and *Ptilotus obovatus*, *Sida calyxhymenia* and *Abutilon cryptopetalum* sparse low shrubs.<br><br>The targeted flora and vegetation survey refined the aforementioned three vegetation types recorded into the following 16 vegetation types (Ecotec, 2024b):<br>• **1.** *Acacia pruinocarpa* open woodland or isolated trees over *Acacia aptaneura, A. caesaneura, A. craspedocarpa* tall sparse shrubland over *Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri, Acacia tetragonophylla, Rhagodia eremaea, Teucrium teucriiflorum* sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus, Menkea villosula, Goodenia tenuiloba* low sparse to open shrubland; understory denser under pockets of trees. Landform: Stony plains and lower slopes;<br>• **2.** *Acacia pruinocarpa* mostly absent; *Harnieria kempeana* subsp. *muelleri*, *Acacia* sp. Weld Range occasional *Acacia incurvaneura, A. pteraneura, Acacia aptaneura, Grevillea berryana* tall open shrubland over *A. ramulosa* var. *linophylla, Ptilotus rotundifolius, Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri, E. glutinosa, E. forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* sparse shrubland over *Eragrostis eriopoda, Ptilotus aervoides, Erodium cygnorum,* low sparse tussock grassland. Landform: lower to upper midslopes on south facing colluvial outwash slopes; stony and gravel mantles;<br>• **3.** *Acacia ramulosa var. linophylla, A. rhodophloia* isolated tall shrubs over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, E. latrobei* subsp. *latrobei, Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla, Harnieria kempeana* subsp. *muelleri, Sida s*p. Golden calyces glabrous open shrubland over *Erodium cygnorum, Goodenia tenuiloba* Landform: Hills; mostly mid to upper slopes; south aspect;<br>• **4.** *Acacia pruinocarpa, A. incurvaneura* isolated trees over *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei, Dodonaea pachyneura, Philotheca brucei* subsp. *brucei, Prostanthera petrophila, Tribulus suberosus* open shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus, Micromyrtus sulphurea, Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei, Dysphania rhadinostachya* subsp. *rhadinostachya, Stylidium longibracteatum, Goodenia tenuiloba, Hysterobaeckea occlusa* low open; shrubland/ low open forbland;<br>• **5.** *Acacia incurvaneura* low open woodland/ tall sparse shrubland over *Acacia* sp. Weld Range*, Eremophila macmillaniana* tall sparse shrubland over *Eremophila macmillaniana, Senna glaucifolia, Ptilotus rotundifolius* open shrubland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, E. macmillaniana, Hibiscus sturtii* low sparse shrubland over *Maireana melanocoma, Ptilotus aervoides, Goodenia tenuiloba* low sparse chenopod shrubland. Landform: Hill; BIF ridge and upper slopes, moderate to steep slopes; > 80 % rock, boulders, rock outcrops; |

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| | • **6.** *Acacia incurvaneura, A. pruinocarpa, A. fuscaneura* low woodland over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla, Psydrax latifolia* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, E. georgei, Rhagodia eremaea, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *x sturtii, S. glutinosa* subsp. *xluerssenii* shrubland over *Erodium cygnorum, Tetragonia cristata, Isoetopsis graminifolia, Menkea villosula, Cheilanthes sieberi* subsp. *sieberi* low forbland. Landform: Drainage lines and depressions; lower to midslopes; water gaining areas;<br>• **7.** *Acacia incurvaneura, A.* sp. Weld Range, *A. speckii* tall sparse shrubland over *Ptilotus rotundifolius, Eremophila fraseri, E. latrobei, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *helmsii* sparse shrubland over *Sida ectogama, Ptilotus aervoides, P. schwartzii, Erodium cygnorum* low sparse shrubland. Landform: Hill; Midslopes; dolerite; very rocky, minor outcrops;<br>• **8.** *Acacia incurvaneura, A. pruinocarpa* tall open shrubland over *Acacia ramulosa, Eremophila latrobei, Scaevola spinescens, Senna glaucifolia,* sparse shrubland over *Eremophila latrobei, Stenanthemum mediale, Sida ectogama, Micromyrtus sulphurea* low sparse shrubland. Landform: Low hill; minor outcrops;<br>• **9.** a) Patches of Acacia *pruinocarpa* low woodland over *Acacia incurvaneura, A. ramulosa* var. *linophylla* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila simulans* subsp. *simulans, E. georgei, E. forrestii* subsp. *forrestii* open shrubland over *Eragrostis eriopoda, Paspalidium basicladum, Ptilotus obovatus* low sparse tussock grassland. b) Tall open shrubland of *Acacia incurvaneura* and *A. ramulosa* var. *linophylla* over sparse shrubland over low sparse tussock grassland c) Mulga low woodlands further away from disturbance areas Landform: Hardpan plain lower catchment;<br>• **10.** *Acacia incurvaneura, A. caesaneura, A. pruinocarpa, A. ramulosa* var. *linophylla, Grevillea berryana,* low open woodland/ tall open shrubland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Acacia* spp. open shrubland over *Eremophila jucunda* subsp. *jucunda, E. forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, E. simulans* subsp. *simulans, Sida ectogama, S.* sp. Golden calyces glabrous, *Ptilotus schwartzii, Eragrostis eriopoda* low sparse shrubland. Landform: Low gravel hills;<br>• **11.** a) *Acacia pruinocarpa, A. incurvaneura* open forest over *Glycine canescens, Santalum spicatum, Psydrax latifolia* vineland over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla, Glycine canescens, Psydrax latifolia, Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *hastieana, E. georgei* open shrubland over *Sida ectogama, Ptilotus obovatus, Glycine canescens, Rhagodia eremaea* low shrubland b) *Acacia pruinocarpa, A. incurvaneura* open forest over *Psydrax suaveolens* low open woodland over *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *hastieana, E. georgei, Sida ectogama, Glycine canescens* shrubland over *Ptilotus obovatus, Eremophila georgei, Acacia incurvaneura* low open shrubland. Landform: Alluvial plain; broad unincised drainage line;<br>• **12.** *Acacia incurvaneura, A. caesaneura, A. pruinocarpa* low woodland/ *A. tetragonophylla, A. craspedocarpa, Psydrax latifolia* tall open shrubland/ *Eremophila forrestii* var. *forrestii* or var. *hastieana, A. ramulosa, Eremophila georgei* shrubland/ *Sida ectogama, Cheilanthes sieberi* low shrubland. Landform: Drainage lines lower catchment, plains; often associated with VC11;<br>• **13.** Groves: *Acacia pruinocarpa* low isolated trees over *Acacia incurvaneura, A. tetragonophylla* tall sparse shrubland over *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla, A. incurvaneura, Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii, E. latrobei* subsp. *latrobei, E. georgei* open shrubland over *Eremophila georgei, E. foliosissima, Ptilotus schwartzii, Stenopetalum filifolium, Menkea villosula, Isoetopsis graminifolia* low open forbland Stony plain: *Acacia aptaneura* tall sparse shrubland over *Acacia tetragonophylla, A. ramulosa* var. *linophylla Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* sparse shrubland over *Eremophila jucunda subsp. jucunda* or *E. compacta* or *E. punicea, Ptilotus schwartzii, Solanum lasiophyllum, Eragrostis eriopoda, Monachather paradoxus* low isolated to sparse shrubs and grass tussocks. Landform: Ironstone gravel plain;<br>• **14.** *Acacia aptaneura, A. grasbyi* low open woodland over *Eremophila pantonii, Acacia aptaneura, Senna glaucifolia* sparse shrubland over *Maireana thesioides, M. triptera, Senna glaucifolia* low open chenopod shrubland;<br>• **15.** *Acacia aneura, A. sp. Weld Range* tall isolated shrubs over *Eremophila macmillaniana, Acacia* sp. Weld Range, *Acacia speckii* sparse shrubland over *Cephalipterum drummondii, Sida ectogama, Aristida contorta* low sparse forbland;<br>• **16.** *Acacia pteraneura, A. fuscaneura* tall open shrubland over *Acacia fuscaneura, Grevillea deflexa, Eremophila fraseri* subsp. *fraseri* sparse shrubland over *Calytrix desolata, Grevillea deflexa* low sparse shrubland over *Calytrix desolata, Grevillea deflexa* low sparse shrubland over *Cymbopogon ambiguus* low sparse tussock grassland; and<br>• **CL.** Cleared areas.<br><br>The targeted biological survey undertaken within the amended areas (Ecotec, 2025b) identified one additional vegetation type:<br>• **6b**. *Acacia pruinocarpa, A. aptaneura, A. mulganeura* low woodland over *Psydrax latifolia, Gastrolobium laytonii, Acacia ramulosa* tall shrubland over *Beyeria lapidicola, Eremophila forrestii, E. granitica, Grevillea deflexa* open shrubland over *Beyeria lapidicola, Psydrax latifolia, Eremophila granitica* low sparse shrubland. |

| Characteristic | Details |
|---|---|
| Vegetation condition | The vegetation surveys (APM, 2024; Ecotec; 2024b; 2025b) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in "Completely Degraded" to "Good" condition, described as<br>• 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; and<br>• 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.<br><br>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. |
| Climate and landform | The application area is located in the Midwest Region of Western Australia and experiences hot, dry summers and mild winters (APM, 2024). The area experiences an average annual rainfall of 232.6 millimetres (BoM, 2026). |
| Soil description | The soil is mapped within four soil landscape systems:<br>• Jundee system: Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy banks supporting weakly groved mulga shrublands;<br>• Violet system: Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands;<br>• Weld system: Rugged ranges and ridges of banded ironstone and quartzite, supporting acacia shrublands; and<br>• Wiluna system: Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs; and (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). |
| Land degradation risk | The four land systems mapped within the application area may be susceptible to accelerated erosion when degraded or when vegetation is removed (Curry, et al., 1994). |
| Waterbodies | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor non-perennial watercourses transect the application area (GIS Database). |
| Hydrogeography | The application area is mapped within the East Murchison Groundwater area; however, is not within any public drinking water supply areas (GIS Database). |
| Flora | No Threatened flora species have been recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There are records of 23 conservation significant flora within the local area (20 kilometres), and five Priority listed flora species were recorded within the application area (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; 2025b; GIS Database). |
| Ecological communities | There are no mapped Threatened Ecological Communities within the permit area (GIS Database). The application area transects the mapped distribution of the Priority 1 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) Weld Range Vegetation Complexes (banded ironstone formation) (GIS Database). Vegetation types 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 15 were considered representative of this PEC. |
| Fauna | There are records of 30 fauna of conservation significance within the local area (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). Two conservation significant fauna species, *Idiosoma clypeatum* (Priority 3) and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) (Vulnerable), have been recorded within the application area (Ecotec, 2025b; GIS Database). |
| Fauna habitat | Four main habitat types have been recorded within the application area:<br>• Acacia Sand Plains: Occasional *Acacia pruinocarpa* low trees with *A. aneura* (mulga) and *Acacia ramulosa* var. *linophylla* tall shrubs, over medium to low mixed shrubs predominantly of *Eremophila* spp., over sparse grasses and perennial herbs, on a sandy to lightly rocky clay loam;<br>• Banded Ironstone Ridge: Occasional *Acacia pruinocarpa* low trees and/or *Acacia aneura* (mulga) tall shrubs, over medium to low mixed shrubs, over sparse grasses, on an ironstone and clayey loam;<br>• Drainage Line: Open *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aneura* low trees over low to medium mixed shrubs, over sparse to dense grasses on a stony sandy and clayey soil;<br>• Mulga Woodland on Hill Slope: Open *Acacia pruinocarpa* low trees over *Acacia aneura* high shrubs, over mixed medium shrubs, over sparse grasses and herbs on a sandy or stony clay loam (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; 2025b). |

## 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>Assessment:<br>The area proposed to be cleared contains conservation significant flora, fauna, and assemblages of plants (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; GIS Database). A portion of the application area is mapped as the 'Weld Range Vegetation Complexes (banded ironstone formation)' (Priority 1) Ecological Community (PEC) (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; GIS Database). | May be at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | Yes<br>*Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.* |
| 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>Assessment:<br>The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for several conservation significant fauna species. | May be at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | Yes<br>*Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.* |
| Principle (c): "*Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."*<br>Assessment:<br>There are no known records of Threatened flora within the permit area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the permit area did not record any species of Threatened flora (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; GIS Database). | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | 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>Assessment:<br>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within the permit area (GIS Database). The flora and vegetation surveys over the permit area have not identified any TECs (APM, 2024; Ecotec, 2024b; GIS Database). | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | 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>Assessment:<br>The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Approximately 99.73% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 18 and 202 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The permit area does not contain any remnants nor does it form part of any remnants in the local area (GIS Database). | Not at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | No |
| 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>Assessment:<br>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas. | Not likely to be at variance<br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | No |
| **Environmental value: land and water resources** | | |

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|---|---|---|
| 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>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands mapped within the application area (GIS Database). There are several minor ephemeral drainage lines which intersect the application area (GIS Database). | May be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | Yes<br><br>*Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.* |
| 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 land systems may experience accelerated erosion following clearing of native vegetation (Curry, et al., 1994). Land degradation may be managed by implementing a staged clearing condition on the permit ensuring native vegetation is not cleared unless the purpose for which the clearing is authorised is enacted within three months of the authorised clearing being undertaken. | May be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | 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>There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). Drainage lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows or to cause deterioration in the quality of groundwater, however potential impacts may be managed by implementing a condition on the permit, requiring the permit holder to maintain any existing surface water flows. | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | 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>There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events. | Not likely to be at variance<br><br>(as per CPS 10636/1) | 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 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. |

| Condition | Description |
|---|---|
| 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)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Bush Forever (Regional Scheme) (DPLH-022)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- 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)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Esri World Imagery
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- 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

Animal Plant Mineral (APM) (2024) Beebyn 11 Weld Range Biological Survey Murchison, Western Australia. Report prepared for Sinosteel Midwest Corporation Limited by Animal Plant Mineral Pty Ltd, February 2024.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station: 007045. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 20 April 2026).

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Curry, P J, Payne, A L, Leighton, K A, Hennig, P, and Blood, D A. (1994) An inventory and condition survey of the Murchison River catchment, Western Australia. Department of Agriculture, Perth. Technical Bulletin 84.

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 20 April 2026).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) 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 20 April 2026).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Ecotec (2024a) Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore Project Clearing Permit Application Supporting Information Tenements: M51/869, L20/92. Report prepared for Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd by Eco tech (WA) Pty Ltd, November 2024.

Ecotec (2024b) Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore Project Targeted Biological Survey. Report prepared for Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd by Ecotec (WA) Pty Ltd, July 2024.

Ecotec (2025a) Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore Project CPS 10636/1 Amendment Application Supporting Information. Report prepared for Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd by Ecotec (WA) Pty Ltd, November 2025.

Ecotec (2025b) Beebyn-W11 Iron Ore Project Targeted Biological Survey. Report prepared for Fenix Beebyn Pty Ltd by Ecotec (WA) Pty Ltd, August 2025.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004a) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 56, June 2004.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016b) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Fenix Beebyn (2026) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10636/2, received 4 March 2026.

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

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## 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.