GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10681/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	From 11 December 2024 to 11 December 2035

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of to facilitate the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 256623 (Reserve 4590)
Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 65923 (Reserve 7273)
Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11707476)
Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11726191)
Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11707477)
Beringarra Cue Road Reserve (PIN 11726195)
Robinson Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430588)
Heyden Place Road Reserve (PIN 11430589)
Richmond Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430586)
Stewart Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430579)
Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1006983)

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 22.7 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 11 December 2029.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

(a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;

(b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and

(c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

6. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

(a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;

(b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and

(c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

7. Directional clearing

The Permit Holder shall must:

(a) conduct all clearing authorised under this permit in one direction towards adjacent vegetation; and

(b) allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into that adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity.

8. Vegetation management

The permit holder must:

(a) where practicable the permit holder shall avoid *clearing riparian vegetation*; and

(b) where a *watercourse* or *drainage line* is to be impacted by clearing, the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural *drainage lines*.

9. Revegetation (temporary cleared areas)

The permit holder must:

(a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by *clearing* authorised under this permit and stockpile in an area that has already been cleared.

(b) at an *optimal time* no later than twelve (12) months following *clearing* authorised under this permit, *revegetate* the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were *cleared* under this permit by:

(i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding five metres of land;

(ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction, where required;

(iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under *condition* 9(a) on the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared; and

(iv) undertake ongoing *weed* control over the *revegetated* areas.

(c) within 24 months of undertaking the actions required under *condition* 9(b), the permit holder must:

(i) engage *an environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated*; and

(ii) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine whether the composition, structure and density determined under *condition* 9(c)(i) will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

(d) if the determination made by the *environmental specialist* under *condition* 9(c)(ii) is that the species composition, structure, and density determined under condition 9(c)(i) will not, without further *revegetation*, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, the permit holder must *revegetate* the area by deliberately planting *local provenance* propagating material and/or *direct seeding* of *local provenance* seeds that will result in a similar species composition, structure, and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

(e) where additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of *native vegetation* is undertaken in accordance with condition 9(d), the permit holder must repeat the activities required by *condition* 9(c)(i), *condition* 9(c)(ii) and *condition* 9(d) within two years of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding* of *local provenance*.

(f) where an *environmental specialist* has determined that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, that determination shall be submitted to the *CEO* within three (3) months of the determination being made.

(g) if the *CEO* does not agree with the determination made by the environmental specialist under condition 9(f), the *CEO* may require the permit holder to repeat the actions required under condition 9(d) and condition 9(e).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6; and (g) actions taken in accordance with conditions 7 and 8.
2.	In relation to *revegetation* pursuant to *condition* 9.	(a) actions taken in accordance with condition 9 to *revegetate* temporarily cleared areas; (b) the size of the area(s) *revegetated*; (c) the date(s) on which *revegetation* was undertaken; (d) the boundaries of the area(s) *revegetated*, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates. (e) (e) a description of any additional revegetation works undertaken in accordance with condition 9(d); and (f) a copy of the environmental specialist's monitoring report and determination, pursuant to condition 9(f).

11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under *condition* 10 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
Environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent and has a minimum of 2 years work experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this permit, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
local provenance	means native vegetation seeds and propagating material from natural sources within 50 km and the same IBRA subregion of the area cleared.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
optimal time	means the period from November to December for undertaking seeding.
revegetate/ed/ion	means the re-establishment of a cover of local provenance native vegetation in an are using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
weed/s	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

B. Walker.

Belinda Walker
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GREEN ENERGY
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

18 November 2024

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

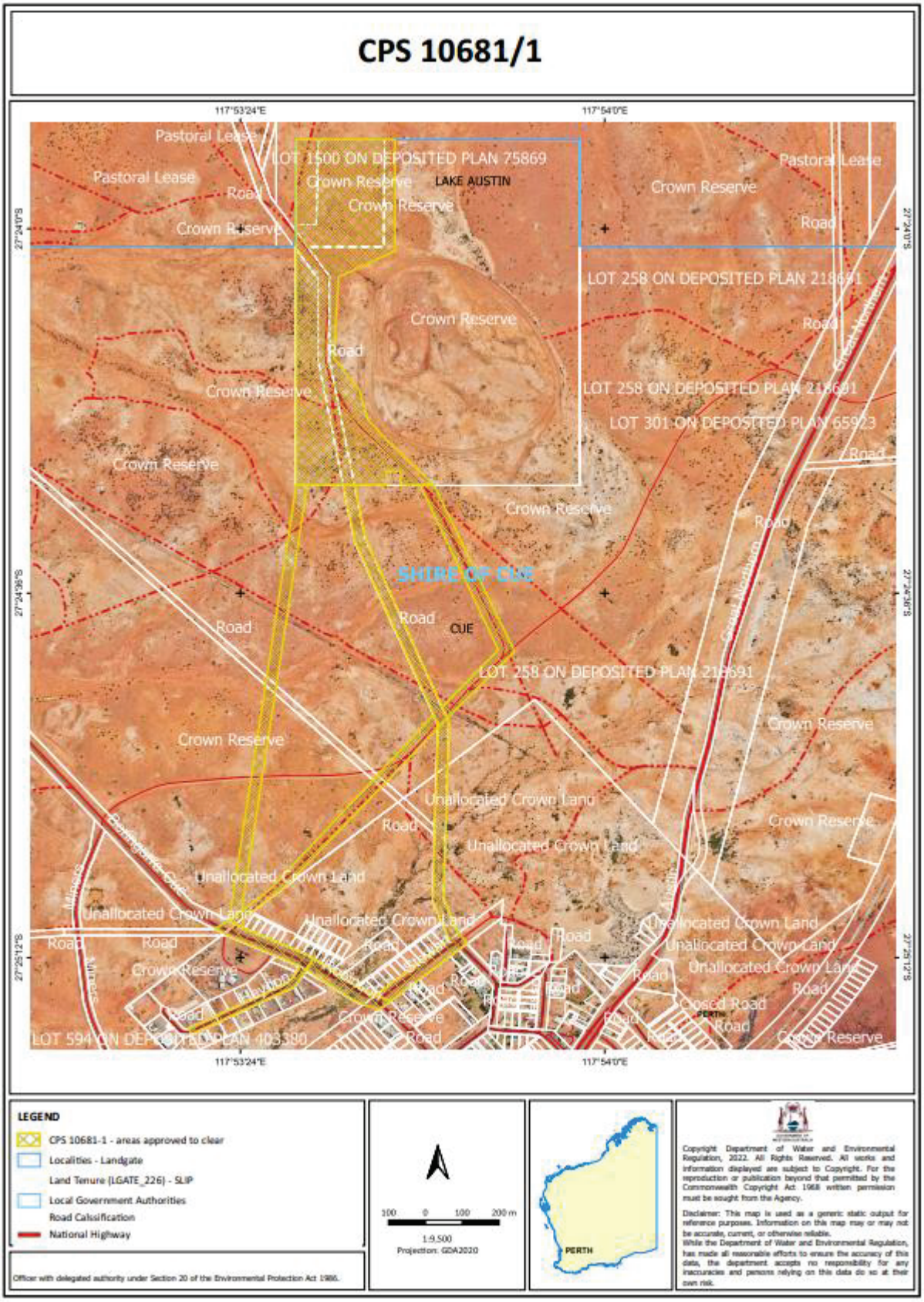

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10681/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Application received:	15 July 2024
Application area:	22.7 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	To facilitate the installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical clearing
Property:	Lot 2 on Deposited Plan 256623 (Reserve 4590) Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 65923 (Reserve 7273) Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11707476) Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11726191) Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11707477) Beringarra Cue Road Reserve (PIN 11726195) Robison Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430588) Heyden Place Road Reserve (PIN 11430589, PIN 12213239) Richmond Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430586) Stewart Street Road Reserve (PIN 11430579) Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 1006983)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Cue
Localities (suburb/s):	Cue

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Horizon Power is proposing to develop a future energy system (FES) in Cue (Midwest region) of WA as a part of a project to transition several Midwest and remote towns systems to higher levels of renewable energy penetration.

The proposal is to clear up to 22.7 hectares of native vegetation within the development envelope (clearing footprint) of 38.92 hectares (see Figure 1 Section 1.5). The proposed clearing comprises 16.3 hectares of permanent clearing and 6.4 hectares of temporary clearing of permit area (PA).

Permanent clearing is required for the construction of solar infrastructure, the connection corridor, and access tracks. Temporary clearing is required for the geotechnical survey, stringing and winching of the connection line, and a temporary laydown area.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	18 November 2024

Decision area:	22.7 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

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 Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 7 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), the findings of a flora and vegetation survey (see Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the purpose for the application is to build transmission line, construction of the solar infrastructure, a connection to existing power station, access tracks and fire breaks ensuring to develop a future energy system (FES) in Cue, WA as part of a project to transition several Midwest and remote towns systems to higher levels of renewable energy availability.

The following was also noted that:

- A fauna survey over the application area did not observe the occurrence of conservation significant fauna species including: *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (VU); *Amytornis textilis textilis* (western grasswren) (P4); *Macrotis lagotis* (bilby, dalgyte, ninu) (VU) and *Thinornis cucullatus* (Hooded plover, Hooded dotterel) (P4);
- A flora and vegetation survey over the application area did not observe the occurrence of *Angianthus uniflorus* (Priority 1) and *Dodonaea amplisemina; Goodenia berringbinensis and Grevillea inconspicua* (Priority 4); and
- That is included in the 93% of pre-European and existing extent for Beard vegetation association 313.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- risk of potentially introducing and spreading of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*); and
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna if present during clearing activities.

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 clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation, and long-term adverse impacts on environmental values including those within the adjacent vegetation areas. Potential impacts of clearing can be minimised and managed to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures, to counterbalance the impacts to clearing (see Section 3).

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity and to remove fauna at risk; and
- Undertake revegetation and rehabilitation of areas no longer required.

1.5. Site map

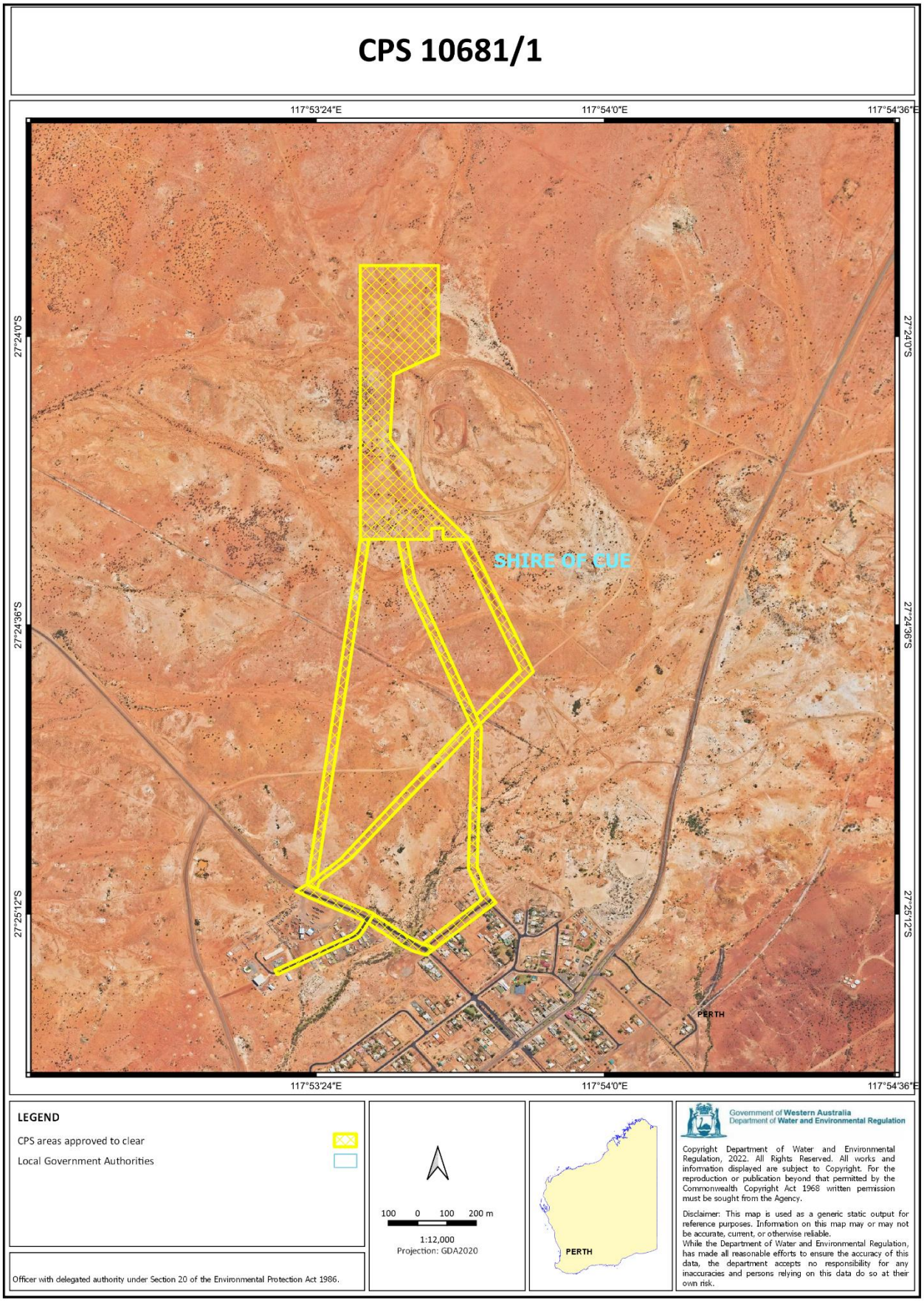

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The areas cross-hatched blue indicates the application area.

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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has provided information on avoidance and mitigation supporting document (GHD, 2024) which describes the following:

Minimisation (Site selection)

The applicant commits to minimising impacts of clearing native vegetation by:

- Placing infrastructure close to the existing assets to reduce clearing required for a longer transmission line.
- Minimising the impact of clearing by removing environmental constraints from the Permit Area (PA).

Avoidance (geotechnical investigation)

- The applicant stated that they aim to avoid impacts on known records of *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* (Threatened – BC Act listed and Critically Endangered - EPBC Act) in the permit area (PA)
- The applicant commits to avoiding impacts on known records of *Maireana prosthecochaeta* (Priority 3) and *Ptilotus* sp. Cue (P. Armstrong PA 16/362) (Priority 1) through the revised PA, which excludes areas where these species occur.
- Where possible, pre-existing access tracks will be used, and vehicles and machinery will exit the PA along the same route used for access.
- Mechanical clearing for the development of formal access tracks is not proposed during geotechnical works.
- Standard weed and hygiene management practices which will be applied to these works.
- Vehicles and equipment will remain on designated vehicle tracks where possible and avoid driving over, or parking on native vegetation
- Areas of degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared areas will be preferentially selected for the location of test pit and laydown areas.
- Works will be undertaken systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks.
- Standard weed and hygiene management practices which will be applied to these works.
- Mechanical clearing will be undertaken slowly and in a one-way direction to allow fauna to move offsite if present.
- No clearing will be done outside the PA.
- The applicant states that they aim to avoid impacts on known records of *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* (Threatened – BC Act listed, and Critically Endangered – EPBC Act) by revising the permit area (PA) to exclude *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata*."

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.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see 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 assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological conservation, or water resource values are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise management conditions. 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 (Biodiversity and Flora) - Clearing Principles (a) and (c)

Assessment

A flora and vegetation survey undertaken by GHD (2023) included the permit area and the surrounding area. Based on this survey and available databases, six conservation significant flora species are likely to occur within the permit area, with two recorded within the survey area:

- *Ptilotus* sp. Cue (P. Armstrong PA 16/362) and *Angianthus uniflorus* (Priority 1) – Recorded within the permit area.
- *Maireana prosthecochaeta* (Priority 3) – Recorded within the permit area.
- *Dodonaea amplisemina* (Priority 4)
- *Goodenia berringbinensis* (Priority 4)
- *Grevillea inconspicua* (Priority 4)
- *Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* – One taxon listed as Threatened (BC Act) and Critically Endangered (EPBC Act).

***Maireana prosthecochaeta* (Priority 3) – Recorded within the survey area**
One individual was recorded within the permit area, and is described as an open, densely – leaved shrub, 0.3 – 0.6 metres in height, known from laterite, hills and saline area (WAH, 1998-). This species appears to be well distributed across two bioregions, with several records within conservation reserves (WAH, 1998-). This record has been excluded from the PA.

***Ptilotus* sp. Cue (P. Armstrong PA 16/362) (Priority 1) – Recorded within the survey area**
One individual was recorded within the survey area, outside the PA. This species is only known from one previous specimen record at the WA Herbarium from 2016 from near the townsite of Cue. This specimen has very limited collecting information available on habitat (WAH, 1998).

***Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata* (Threatened) - Likely to occur**
This species is described as an erect, rounded shrub, that can grow up to 3 metres in height. It has glossy, dark green leaves and pendulous scarlet flowers, flowering from June to October (WAH, 1998). In 2008 the known population of this species was approximately 90 mature plants. This species is found in two geographically distinct population groups with different habits. The Cue population group is known to grow on stony, buff-coloured saline clays at the base of quartzite hills in an open shrubland of *Acacia* and *Eremophila* species (DCCEEW, 2009). The known population is outside the permit area, 80 metres east of the application area. No individuals were recorded within the PA.

***Goodenia berringbinensis* (Priority 4) - Possible**
These species may occur within the survey area, as suitable habitat is present. However, the survey was unable to identify their presence, as it was conducted outside the flowering period, and this is an annual species that cannot be identified outside of its flowering period. This species has a wide distribution, with several known records within conservation areas. If individuals of this species were to persist within the PA, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing would impact the species on a local or regional scale.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact on the biodiversity of the local area. Given the distance between the records of conservation significant and the permit area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to affect these populations.

Conditions

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

- Avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing.
- A weed management condition.

3.2.2. Biological values (Fauna) - Clearing Principle (b)

Assessment

A desktop assessment indicated that 18 vertebrate conservation significant fauna species are likely to occur within the local area (20 kilometre radius area) (GIS database). Based on the factors and the desktop assessment of the local area, the PA is likely to provide suitable habitat for the following species (See C.4 for fauna analysis table):

- *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (Vulnerable)
- *Amytornis textilis textilis* (western grasswren) (Priority 4)
- *Macrotis lagotis* (bilby, dalgyte, ninu) (Vulnerable)
- *Lerista eupoda* (West Coast mulga slider) (Priority 1)
- *Thinornis cucullastu* (Hooded plover, Hooded dotterel) (Priority 4)

The applicant's desktop fauna assessment identified an additional two species in the permit area likely to occur (GHD, 2023):

- *Falco hypoleucos* (Grey Falcon) (Vulnerable)
- *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon) (Other specially protected)

Malleefowl (VU)

The Malleefowl generally occurs in semi-arid areas of Western Australia, in shrublands and low woodlands that are dominated by mallee vegetation, as well as native pine callitris woodlands. They are also found in Acacia shrublands, paperbark, sheoak, broombush melaleuca uncinata vegetation, eucalypt woodlands, or coastal heathlands. Mostly they are found where there are sandy or gravel soils. The nest is a large mound of sand or soil and organic matter (Morcombe 2004; Nevill 2013). In WA they are found from the southwest Nullarbor to Albany, north, and then west from Moore River up to Shark Bay, past Cue, across to Wiluna and east to the northern Victoria Desert south of the Blackstone Ranges (Nevill 2013; Pizzey & Knight 2012).

This species is known to occur in the region with the closest known record less 1 kilometre from the permit area, likely to be historical (GHD, 2023). However, the habitat types identified within the permit area are not considered suitable for Malleefowl, as the vegetation is too sparse and offers minimal upper story cover. The survey found no evidence of Malleefowl presence, such as mounds, although the permit area may be used for dispersal purposes (GHD, 2023).

Western grasswren (P4)

The western subspecies of the Thick-billed Grasswren occurs in semi-arid shrubland on coastal dunes, plains, drainage lines and semi-arid shrubland (DCCEEW, 2024; GHD, 2023).

There are historical records (1899 and 1903) of this species being present in the Cue area, but it is now considered locally extinct (GHD, 2023). Its current distribution is restricted to the Shark Bay region (TSSC, 2006). The permit area does not fall within the species known range, nor does it provide suitable habitat for this species within the permit area (GHD, 2023).

Bilby, dalgyte, ninu (VU)

The Greater Bilby occupies sand plains, sandy dune systems or along drainage or Salt Lake systems (GHD, 2023). This species prefers three major vegetation types; open tussock grassland on uplands and hills, mulga woodland /shrubland growing on ridges and rises, and hummock grassland in plains and alluvial areas (GHD, 2023). In the south of its range, the Greater Bilby lives on rises and ridges among sparse grasses, especially Mitchell grass, Astrebla and short shrubs. There are disjunct populations in the Gibson Desert, south-western Kimberley, inland areas of the Pilbara and northern Great Sandy Desert (Van Dyck and Strahan, 2008).

The habitat types within the permit area are not considered suitable for the Bilby. The permit area is outside the current known distribution for this species.

West Coast mulga slider (P1)
The West Coast Mulga Slider is found in the arid interior of southern WA. It inhabits open mulga on red loams and sandy loams (Cogger, 2014). This species is known to occur between Cue and Meekatharra (GHD, 2023).

There is suitable habitat (saline stony/rocky plains and low rises and minor drainage line habitat) within permit area. Based on available databases, habitat for the West Coast mulga slider is widespread within a 10 kilometre radius of the PA. Given the species' highly mobile nature and extensive range, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact critical habitat for this species (GHD, 2023; GIS Database).

Grey Falcon (VU)
The Grey Falcon usually confined to the arid inland. It inhabits lightly *Triodia* grassland, *Acacia* shrubland, and lightly timbered arid woodland especially stony, inland plains, gibber deserts, sandridges, pastoral lands, and timbered watercourses, but seldom in driest deserts (Morcombe, 2004). Its distribution is centred on inland drainage systems. It also hunts in treeless areas and frequents tussock grassland and open woodland, especially in winter (Morcombe, 2004; Pizzey & Knight, 2012). It can mostly be seen on the northwest coast from Shark Bay to east Kimberley, and in the Pilbara and desert regions (Nevill, 2013; Pizzey & Knight, 2012).

The PA is within the known distribution of this species. The vegetation within the PA provides suitable foraging habitat (saline stony/rocky plains and low rises and minor drainage line) for this species, with the Grey Falcon likely to occur at least on an occasional/opportunistic basis (GHD, 2023). However, given the species mobile nature and extensive range, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact critical habitat for this species (GHD, 2023).

Peregrine Falcon (OS)
The Peregrine Falcon is found on and near cliffs, gorges, timbered watercourses, riverine environments, wetlands, plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings, though less frequently in desert regions (Morcombe, 2004; Pizzey & Knight, 2012). This species is not common but can be found almost anywhere throughout WA and in the southwest (Nevill, 2013).

This species is known to persist in the region, however use would be opportunistic/ foraging only as the permit area lacks suitable breeding habitat, such as tall structures or steep topography (GHD, 2023).

No Threatened fauna listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act was recorded during the survey (GHD,2023). In determining the likelihood of conservation significant fauna occurring within the PA, consideration was given to the preferred habitat types, records of conservation significant fauna within the PA and local area, as well as the type and condition of the vegetation within the PA.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the permit area (PA) provides some suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna. However, the extent of impact on this habitat from the proposed clearing is not likely to be significant or affect the biodiversity values of the surrounding or broader ecosystem. Furthermore, the application area does not contain breeding habitat or critical habitat for conservation significant fauna.

Conditions

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

- Undertake slow, progressive, one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individuals.
- Avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing.
- Engage a fauna spotter for the duration of clearing activities

3.2.3. Environmental value (Land and water resources) - Clearing Principle (f)

Assessment

There are no major watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database), However, there are several mapped non-perennial minor watercourses located 5-6km away from the application area (GIS Database).

A vegetation type (VT05) was recorded in the southern extent of the PA is one of the connection corridors and represents a minor drainage line may be riparian vegetation (GHD, 2023). However, the VT05 is characterised as *Eucalyptus victrix* isolated clumps of trees over, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Sida* sp. and *Eremophila longifolia* sparse shrubland over, *Enteropogon ramosus* and *Cenchrus ciliaris* grassland on orange clay within minor drainage lines (0.92 ha / 2.4%). These drainage lines and areas are subject to intermittent flow and contain species which are known to be ground water dependent such as *Eucalyptus victrix*, *E. camaldulensis* and mulga species.

Furthermore, the applicant has indicated if the connection corridor that contains VT05 is selected, pole pads will be positioned to avoid this vegetation type where possible. If clearing of VT05 is required for the connection corridor this will be limited to 0.05 ha of clearing for one pole pad.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, this will be short-term, localised impact, and limited to the clearing process. The proposed clearing may be at variance with this Principle; however, the impact is minor and not considered significant.

Conditions

To address the potential impacts on the surface watercourses, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:

- as the minor non-perennial watercourses are ephemeral, if the clearing and works are undertaken during the dry season these impacts would be significantly reduced.
- Maintain the surface flow of any watercourses.
- A revegetation and rehabilitation condition to be imposed on the permit.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 25 September 2024 by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received from the Shire of Cue, raising no objections.

The projeect is located within the proclaimed East Murchison Groundwater Area under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act).

Several Aboriginal registered sites of significance have been mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The permit area proposed to be cleared is 22.7 hectares within a 38.92 hectares boundary in the Midwest region within the Shire of Cue that borders the extensive land use zone. It is adjacent to Cue townsite. The proposed clearing is to generate approximately 1.44 megawatts (MW) of solar power, including a connection corridor to the existing power station, access tracks, and fire breaks. The permit area has remnant patches including and continual grazing and, near the Cue townsite, remnant vegetation. Aerial imagery indicates the local area (20-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 97.8 percentage of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The permit area does not occur within any formally mapped or informally ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	The permit area is not within any conservation area, however, is adjacent to Unmanaged Reserve, 203 (North) and Unmanaged Reserve, 32072 (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2023) indicates that the vegetation within the permit area consists of a four vegetation types: • VT02 - 27.20 hectares (59.41%) - *Acacia grasbyi* and *Acacia aptaneura* isolated clumps of shrubs over *Maireana georgei*, *Maireana glomerifolia*, *Sclerolaena eriacantha* and *Ptilotus obovatus* sparse chenopod and mixed shrubland over *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus* isolated clumps of grasses on orange, sandy-loam on flat plains with sparse quartz pebble scatter. • VT03 – 0.86 hectares (1.87%) - *Acacia incurvaneura* open woodland over *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Psydrax suaveolens* sparse shrubland over, *Tripogonella loliiformis*, *Cheilanthes sieberi* susp. *sieberi* and *Erodium* sp. isolated clumps of forbs on orange sandy clay loam on rocky granitic hills. • VT04 - 11.39 hectares (24.88%) - *Acacia kalgoorliensis*, *Acacia pteraneura* and *Eremophila pantonii* isolated clumps of shrubs over, *Maireana glomerifolia*, *Ptilotus polakii* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* sparse shrubland on orange sandy loam on low rises with quartz stone scatter. • VT05 – 0.92 hectares (2.02%) - *Eucalyptus victrix* isolated clumps of trees over, *Acacia tetragonophylla*, *Sida* sp. and *Eremophila longifolia* sparse shrubland over, *Enteropogon ramosus* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* grassland on orange clay within minor drainage lines. • Cleared – 5.42 hectares (11.84%).
Vegetation condition	Vegetation survey (GHD, 2023) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in the Eremaean Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991) and adapted by EPA (2016) condition scale, described as: • 0.86 hectares (1.87%) as Excellent • 37.89 hectares (82.74%) as Very Good • 1.62 hectares (3.55%) as Good • 5.42 hectares (11.84%) as Cleared The main disturbance factors in the proposed clearing area comprise of weed invasion and grazing and vehicle tracks.
Climate and landform	Climate: Mean maximum temperature ranges from 37.8 °C (January) to 18.4 °C (July) Mean minimum temperature ranges from 23.5°C (January) to 7.2°C (July)

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Rainfall: Mean annual rainfall in the area as 232.5 mm (BoM, 2024).
Median annual rainfall is 216.8 mm (BoM, 2024).
The permit area is located within two land systems: the Austin system (273Au) and the Sherwood system (273Sh) (GoWA, 2023).
Land systems mapped for Cue permit area
<table>
<tr><th>Land System</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Austin System (273Au)</td><td>Saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and snakewood.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sherwood system (273Sh)</td><td>Breakaways, kaolinized foot slopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>The soil is mapped as Sherwood system (Breakaways, kaolinised foot slopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands) and Austin System (Saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and snakewood).

Low risk of Acid sulphate Soil (ASS) and the no contaminated sites are intersecting the PA area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The mapped soils are not susceptible to land degradation and low land degradation risk due to salinity and erosion (GIS Database)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies</td><td>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands transect the permit area. There are several mapped non-perennial watercourses on the north, south, east and west sides of the proposed site; however, they do not transect the proposed area to be cleared (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hydrogeography</td><td>The application area is located within the proclaimed East Murchison Groundwater area, and Meekatharra subarea under the RIWI Act. Groundwater salinity:1000-3000 TDS/Mg/L</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>The desktop assessment determined that there are below Priority species which were considered likely to occur within the permit area, these include:
- One taxon listed (Threatened - BC Act and Critically Endangered - EPBC Act)
o (Eremophila rostrata subsp. Rostrata)
- One Priority 1 taxa
o (Angianthus uniflorus)
- Twelve Priority 4 taxa
o (Dodonaea amplisemina; Goodenia berringbinensis and Grevillea inconspicua)

TEC communities - Austin System – P3, but not intersecting however, within the permit area Taxon & western Herbarium specimen database (WAHERB). The closest taxon within the PA is Eremophila rostrata subsp. rostrata. at a distance of 0.09kms.
Three fauna habitat types were identified in the PA (GHD, 2023)
- Saline stony/rocky plains and low rises: Isolated trees and clumps of Mulga (Acacia species) over a sparse low chenopod shrubland and scattered grasses on stony/rocky sandy clay loam open plains, broad drainage areas and low</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	quartz rises. Based on aerial imagery, it is expected that the unsurveyed area of the PA will be saline stony/rocky plans and low rises habitat (22.58 ha). - Rocky granite hills: Low rocky hills and granite outcrops supporting a sparse to open Mulga woodland over a sparse understorey of scattered low shrubs and forbs (4.33 ha). - Minor Drainage line: Minor drainage lined with Eucalyptus victrix isolated trees over a mixed shrubland and grassland on sandy clay (1.59 ha).
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Communities were recorded within the PA however, one Priority Ecological Community identified within the PA was the Austin Land System (Priority 3) Ecological Community.
Fauna	A fauna survey was undertaken, and no threatened fauna listed under the EPBC or BC Act were recorded during the survey (GHD, 2023). The desktop assessment identified one fauna species, the Malleefowl, with the closest records located just over 0.4 kilometres away (GIS Database). However, no evidence of this fauna species was found within the permit area area.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 313	68,843.52	65,261.44	94.80	1.79	0

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

A.3. Flora analysis table

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)	Number of known records in local area (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Angianthus uniflorus	P1	Y	Y	N	<20	3	Y
Dodonaea amplisemina	P4	Y	Y	Y	0.2	1	Y
Eremophila rostrata subsp. *rostrata*	T	Y	Y	Y	0.1	20	Y
Goodenia berringbinensis	4	Y	Y	Y	<20	2	Y
Grevillea inconspicua	4	Y	Y	Y	0.2	21	Y
Ptilotus sp. Cue (P. Armstrong PA 16/362)	P1	N	Y	N	>1	-	Y
Maireana prosthecochaeta	P3	N	Y	N	0.2	-	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

A.4. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Amytornis textilis textilis (western grasswren)	P4	Y	>2	3	N
Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl)	VU	N	<1	1	Y
Lerista eupoda (West Coast mulga slider)	P1	Y	>11	9	Y
Macrotis lagotis (bilby, dalgyte, ninu)	VU	Y	>2	3	N
Thinornis cucullatus (hooded plover, hooded dotterel)	P4	N	<20	2	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

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."* Assessment: The PA is located in the Eastern Murchison sub-region of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for the Australia (IBRA). The area proposed to be cleared does not contain any threatened flora or fauna does not contain breeding habitat or critical habitat for conservation significant Clearing of the PEC for the Project will be avoided where possible, however up to 22.7 hectares may be cleared, representing 0.10% of the PEC. This is not considered to be a significant impact as the PEC is highly represented outside the PA and surrounding vegetation typically has similar or better condition vegetation (GHD, 2023).	At variance	Yes 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."* Assessment: No threatened fauna was recorded within the PA. The area proposed to be cleared may contain significant habitat but was not found to be critical habitat to any of conservation significant species (GIS Database).	May be at variance	Yes *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."* Assessment: The area proposed for clearing potentially contains suitable habitat for Threatened flora species (*Eremophila rostrata* subsp. rostrata), with the closest located approximately 90 metres from the PA.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain any known recorded Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) (GIS Database). The flora and vegetation survey of the PA did not identify any TECs.	Not at variance	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."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance	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."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of adjacent or nearby conservation areas.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given that no major or ephemeral watercourses or wetlands recorded within 20 kilometres of the PA. However, there are several mapped non-perennial minor watercourses located 5-6km away from the application area (GIS Database).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to water erosion. Considering the location of the PA and the nature of the clearing, the applicant has indicated that rehabilitation will be undertaken post construction to stabilise areas that are temporarily cleared, particularly where there are slopes and exposed soil that increase the risk of erosion. The proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. The PA intersects the Austin and Sherwood Land Systems. The Austin Land System is described as 'saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and snakewood'.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The PA also intersects the Sherwood Land System is described as 'breakaways, kaolinized foot slopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands'.		
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."* Assessment Given no major water courses and wetlands are recorded within or nearby the PA, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality. The Public Drinking Water Sources Areas - Cue Water Reserve Priority 1 Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) is located approximately 5.3 kilometres east of the PA and Cue Water Reserve Priority 3 PDWSA is located 7.5 kilometres northeast of the PA (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	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."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not suggest that the proposed clearing is likely to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding. Therefore, the clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	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.

Condition	Description
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. Biological survey information excerpts

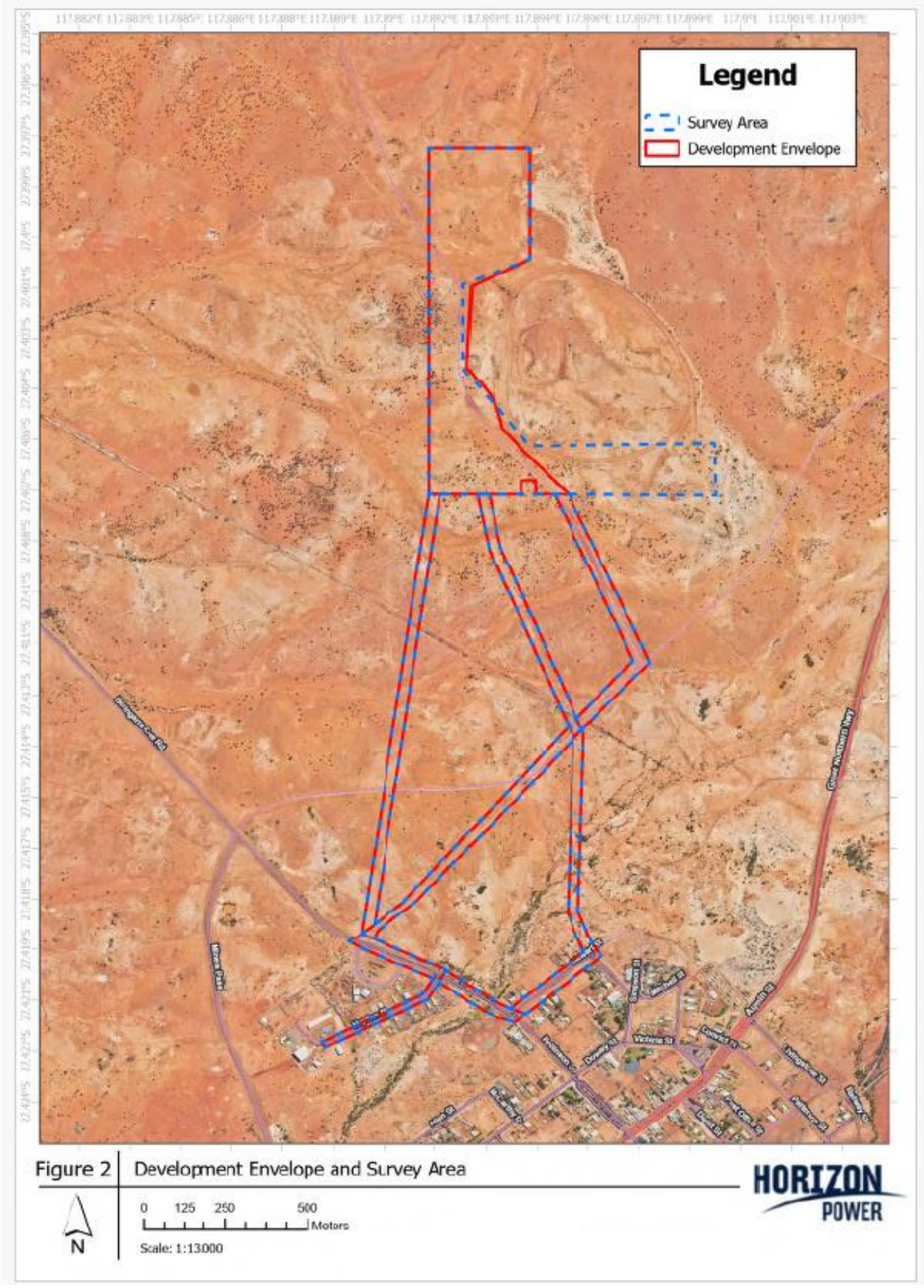

Figure 3 Permit Area (GHD, 2024)

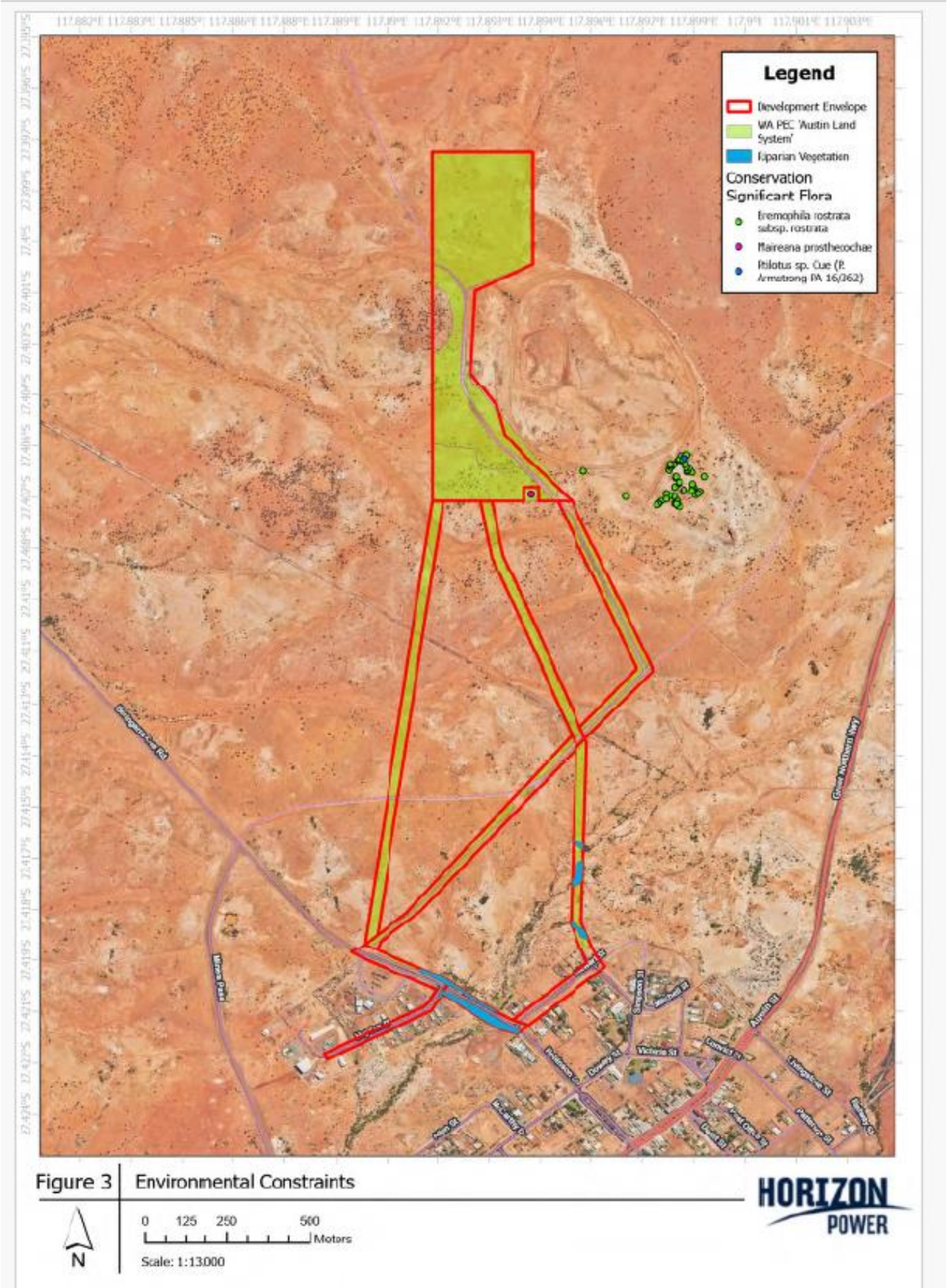

Figure 4 Environmental Constraints (GHD, 2024)

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Vegetation type	Vegetation Type Description	Extent (ha) and proportion of individual survey area (%)	Sampling sites	Photograph
VT02	*Acacia grasbyi* and *Acacia aptaneura* isolated clumps of shrubs over *Maireana georgei, Maireana glomerifolia, Sclerolaena eriacantha* and *Ptilotus obovatus* sparse chenopod and mixed shrubland over *Aristida holathera* var. *holathera* and *Enneapogon polyphyllus* isolated clumps of grasses on orange, sandy-loam on flat plains with sparse quartz pebble scatter. Representative of the PEC Austin Land System (Priority 3)	27.20 ha (59.41%) (Cue)	CUE01, CUE03, CUE04	

VT03	*Acacia incurvaneura* open woodland over *Eremophila latrobei* subsp. *latrobei* and *Psydrax suaveolens* sparse shrubland over, *Tripogonella loliiformis*, *Cheilanthes sieberi* susp. *sieberi* and *Erodium* sp. isolated clumps of forbs on orange sandy clay loam on rocky sandstone hills.	0.86 ha (1.87%) (Cue)	CUE02	

VT04	*Acacia kalgoorliensis, Acacia pteraneura* and *Eremophila pantonii* isolated clumps of shrubs over, *Maireana glomerifolia, Ptilotus polakii* and *Sclerolaena eriacantha* sparse shrubland on orange sandy loam on low rises with quartz stone scatter. Representative of the PEC Austin Land System (Priority 3)	11.39 ha (24.88%) (Cue)	CUE05, CUE06, CUE08	
VT05	*Eucalyptus victrix* isolated clumps of trees over, *Acacia tetragonophylla, Sida* sp. and *Eremophila longifolia* sparse shrubland over, *Enteropogon ramosus* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* grassland on orange clay within minor drainage lines. Representative of the PEC Austin Land System (Priority 3)	0.92 ha (2.02%) (Cue)	CUE07R	

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

E.2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2024) *Climate statistics for Australian locations*. From: Climate statistics for Australian locations *(www.bom.gov.au).*

Cogger, H. (2014). Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia. CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Australia. Cowan, M. (2001). Subregion description and biodiversity values, Coolgardie 3 subregion (COO3 – Eastern Goldfields subregion). *A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions in 2002*. WA Department of Conservation and Land Management.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2009). *Approved Conservation Advice for Eremophila rostrata (Beaked Eremophila).* Available from: https://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/65124-conservation-advice.pdf.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2024(. *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Protected Matters Search Tool Results.* Available from: http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/pmst/index.html

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2013). *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. Available from: https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2019). *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits*. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.PDF

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016). *Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment*. Available from: https://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) (2016). *Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys.* Available from: https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/Tech%20guidance-%20Terrestrial%20Fauna%20Surveys-Dec-2016.pdf

GHD (2023). *Midwest and Remote Towns Biological Assessment*, unpublished report, prepared for Horizon Power.

GHD (2024). *Midwest Towns Renewable Infrastructure Project – Native Vegetation Clearing Permit.* Cue, supporting document, prepared for Horizon Power.

Government of Western Australia (2019). *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

Government of Western Australia (GoWA) (2023), *Data WA.* Available at: *https://data.wa.gov.au/*

Morcombe, M. (2004). *Field Guide to Australian Birds*. Steve Parish Publishing Archer Field Queensland Australia.

Nevill, S. (2013). *Birds of Western Australia*. Simon Nevill Publications.

Pizzey, G. & Knight, F. (2012). *The field guide to the birds of Australia*. Harper Collins, Sydney, NSW

Species Profile and Threats Database (SPRAT) (2024- search species names- https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl, (accessed 10 September 2024)

TSSC (Threatened Species Scientific Committee) (2006). *Advice to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage on Amendments to the List of Threatened Species under the EPBC Act*.

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.

Van Dyck, S. & Strahan, R. (2008). *The Mammals of Australia* (3rd ed.). Reed New Holland, Sydney.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAH) (1998-). *FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 10 September 2024)