

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Permit number:</b>         | 10692/1   |
| <b>Permit type:</b>           | Purpose Permit  |
| <b>Applicant name:</b>        | Regis Resources Limited   |
| <b>Application received:</b>  | 22 July 2024  |
| <b>Application area:</b>      | 950 hectares  |
| <b>Purpose of clearing:</b>   | Mineral production and associated activities  |
| <b>Method of clearing:</b>    | Mechanical Removal  |
| <b>Tenure:</b>                | Mining Leases 38/237, 38/250, 38/283, 38/292, 38/302, 38/303, 38/316, 38/317, 38/319, 38/343, 38/344, 38/352, 38/354, 38/407, 38/498, 38/499, 38/500, 38/589, 38/600, 38/601, 38/802, 38/837, 38/939, 38/940, 38/943, 38/1091, 38/1092, 38/1247, 38/1249, 38/1250, 38/1251, 38/1257, 38/1258, 38/1259, 38/1260, 38/1261, 38/1262, 38/1263, 38/1264, 38/1265, 38/1269, 38/1270, 38/1277<br>Miscellaneous Licences 38/133, 38/156, 38/182, 38/201, 38/204, 38/216, 38/226, 38/239, 38/315, 38/316, 38/317, 38/318, 38/319, 38/348, 38/365, 38/383 |
| <b>Location (LGA area/s):</b> | Shire of Laverton   |
| <b>Colloquial name:</b>       | Duketon Gold Project  |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regis Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 950 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 17,780 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 70 kilometres north of Laverton, within the Shire of Laverton.

The application is to allow for the expansion of the current mining footprint to develop new projects and construct a haul corridor and supporting infrastructure. This new permit will replace the existing clearing permit (CPS 9614/3). The new application includes new areas to be included and has excised some areas from the existing permit boundary see Figure 1 on section 1.5.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

|                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Decision:</b>      | Grant                             |
| <b>Decision date:</b> | 10 October 2024                   |
| <b>Decision area:</b> | 950 hectares of native vegetation |

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the information of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the majority of the application area is to replace the existing clearing permit CPS 9614/3.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

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

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 can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- commence mineral production and associated activities no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- avoid clearing riparian vegetation where possible and maintain water flows where watercourses are impacted.

### 1.5. Site map

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

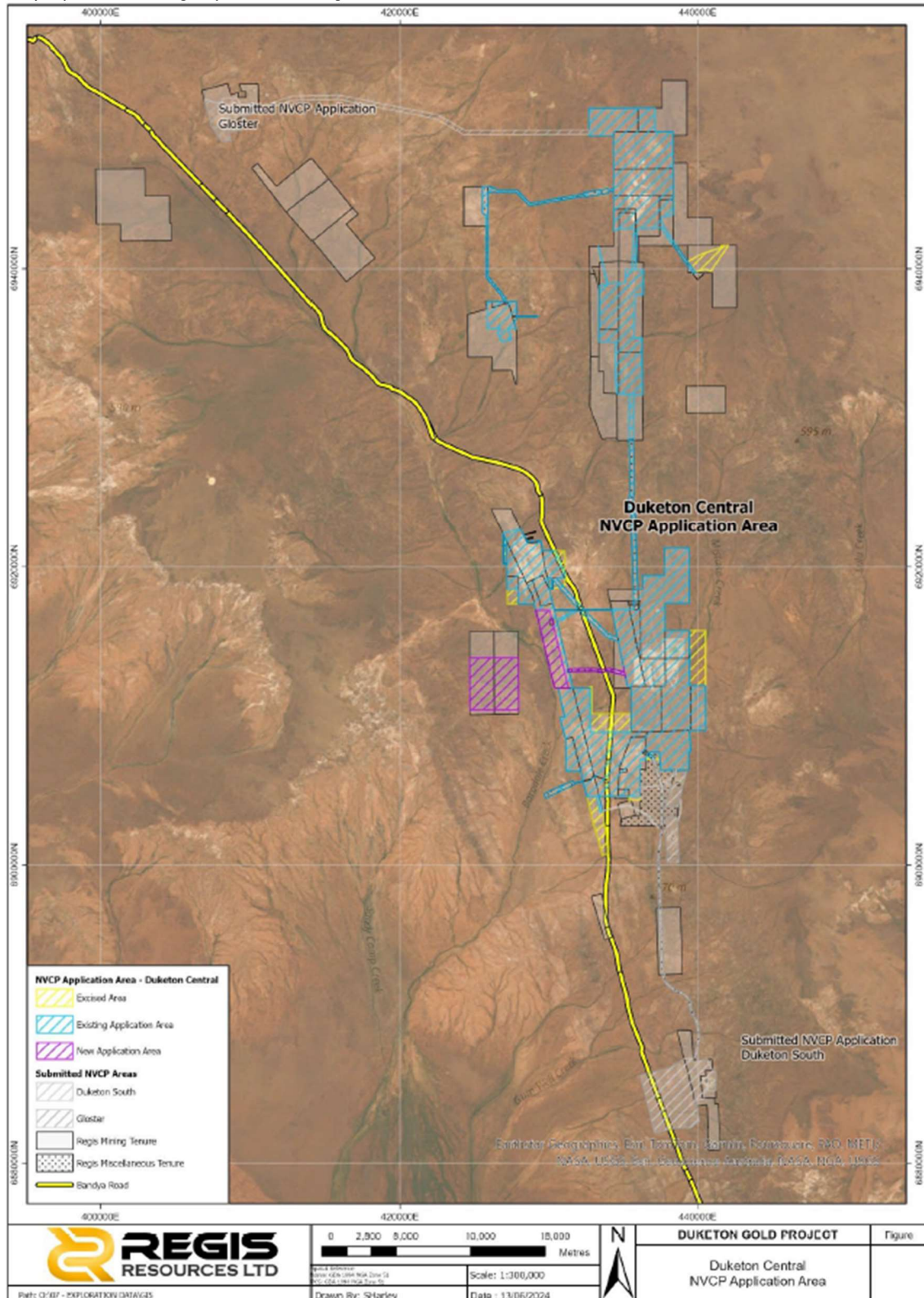


Figure 1. Map of the application area.

## 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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM 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, 2020)

## 3. Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

To minimise impacts to the Priority flora species in the application area, the planned design of the road has veered around the two main clusters of *Eremophila pungens*. Whilst it is unlikely that all individuals will be avoided, a clear intent has been made to avoid where possible and minimise impact where necessary.

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 are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene and staged clearing management conditions.

#### 3.2.1. Biological values / Significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas / Land and water resources

##### Assessment

The application area is located within the East Murchison subregion of the Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia bioregion (GIS Database). The East Murchison subregion is characterised by internal drainage, extensive areas of elevated red desert sandplains with minimal dune development, salt lake systems associated with the occluded paleodrainage system, broad plains of red-brown soils and breakaway complexes, as well as red sandplains (CALM, 2002). Vegetation is dominated by Mulga woodlands which are often rich in ephemerals; hummock grasslands, saltbush shrublands and *Halosarcia tecticornia* shrublands (CALM, 2002).

Level 2 flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd over the majority of the application area (Mattiske, 2016; 2017a; 2017b; 2023; Regis, 2024). No Threatened flora species were recorded within the application area, although five Priority flora species were identified within the broader survey area (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2024). Of the five Priority flora species, only one was recorded in the application area (*Eremophila pungens*). Given the large distribution of *E. pungens* and its protection in two nature reserves, there are minimal risks to this taxon associated with the proposed development of the prospective Rosemont to Garden Well haul road (Regis, 2024). This does not represent an extension to the current known populations of the priority flora, with populations being recorded in previous surveys within the Duketon Gold Project (Mattiske, 2016). Based on available survey data and records, large scale impacts to flora species of conservation significance (including Priority flora species) are considered unlikely, therefore it is not anticipated that the proposed clearing will adversely impact on Priority flora species at a population or species level.

The fauna habitats present within the application area are common and widespread in the landscape and bioregion, with vast tracts of similar habitat in adjacent areas (Regis, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023a; 2023b). The vegetation within the application area is not considered to be providing, or contributing to, important ecological linkages or fauna movement corridors (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023a; 2023b; GIS Database).

Fauna surveys conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023a; 2023b) did not record any conservation significant fauna in the application area. The conservation significant fauna with the greatest likelihood occurring are avifauna including peregrine

falcon, southern whiteface, fork-tailed swift and princess parrot (Regis, 2024). These aerial species are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Numerous non-perennial watercourses have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database) and a number of the vegetation communities identified within the application area are considered to be growing in association with minor drainage lines (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2024). Potential impacts to vegetation growing in association with a watercourse or wetland as a result of the proposed clearing may also be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.

Twelve land systems have been mapped within the application area (see Appendix A.1). Several of these land systems are susceptible to erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994). Potential land degradation as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the continued implementation of a staged clearing condition.

#### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may have on surface water flow, and there is potential for localised impacts associated with weeds and erosion if areas are cleared of vegetation. Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.

#### Conditions

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

- A hygiene condition to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- A staged clearing condition to ensure that only areas that are needed are cleared at any one time.
- A watercourse management condition to minimise impacts to surface water flow.

### **3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The clearing permit application was advertised on 13 August 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 are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2024). The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are 26 registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2024). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

**End**



## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

| Characteristic                                       | Details   |                        |  |                        |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|--|---|------------------------|--|------------------------|--------|--|-------|----|---|------|----|--|------|----|--|------|----|---|-------|----|--|------|----|--|------|--|-------|----|--|------|----|--|----|----|--|------|
| Local context  | The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the active Duketon Gold Project and the landscape of the Murchison Bioregion (GIS Database).  |                        |  |                        |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
| Ecological linkage                                   | According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).   |                        |  |                        |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
| Conservation areas                                   | The nearest conservation area is De La Poer Range Nature Reserve located approximately 20 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database).   |                        |  |                        |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
| Vegetation description                               | <p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub (GIS Database).</p> <p>In 2023, Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd conducted a database review to standardise vegetation recording and mapping across the Duketon Gold Project. The following vegetation communities are present within the application area (Mattiske, 2023):</p> <p><b>Vegetation communities of the previously approved application area (Duketon Gold Project)</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Group</th> <th>Area %</th> <th>Vegetation Description</th> <th>Area %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="6">Undulating Mulga Flats with &gt;20% vegetation coverage</td> <td rowspan="6">26.1%</td> <td>A1</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Acacia burkittii, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Sida ectogama, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A2</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila margarethae, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low sparse shrubland of Dianella revoluta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eragrostis setifolia on</td> <td>2.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A3</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over Acacia tetragonophylla, Psydrax suaveolens, and Eremophila latrobei, over Eragrostis eriopoda, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eriachne mucronata undulating red clay flats</td> <td>4.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A4</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae and Grevillea berryana, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia ramulosa, Eremophila latrobei, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low-sparse shrubland of Eremophila forresii, Ptilotus obovatus, and Eragrostis</td> <td>10.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A5</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, and Acacia quadrimarginea, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Eremophila galeata, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and</td> <td>5.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A6</td> <td>Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia burkittii, and Eremophila oldfieldii, over low-sparse shrubland of Aristida contorta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Ptilotus obovatus on undula</td> <td>1.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Undulating Mulga Flats with &lt;20% vegetation coverage</td> <td rowspan="3">21.6%</td> <td>A7</td> <td>Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over low-sparse tussock grassland of Eragrostis eriopoda, Eriachne mucronate, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating red clay flats</td> <td>0.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A8</td> <td>Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Aristida contorta on undulating red clay flats</td> <td>3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A9</td> <td>Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia quadrimarginea, and Acacia tetragonophylla, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Dianella revoluta, and Eragrostis setifolia on undulating red clay flats</td> <td>4.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Group                  | Area %   | Vegetation Description | Area % | Undulating Mulga Flats with >20% vegetation coverage | 26.1% | A1 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Acacia burkittii, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Sida ectogama, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating | 1.4% | A2 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila margarethae, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low sparse shrubland of Dianella revoluta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eragrostis setifolia on | 2.6% | A3 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over Acacia tetragonophylla, Psydrax suaveolens, and Eremophila latrobei, over Eragrostis eriopoda, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eriachne mucronata undulating red clay flats | 4.2% | A4 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae and Grevillea berryana, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia ramulosa, Eremophila latrobei, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low-sparse shrubland of Eremophila forresii, Ptilotus obovatus, and Eragrostis | 10.5% | A5 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, and Acacia quadrimarginea, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Eremophila galeata, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and | 5.9% | A6 | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia burkittii, and Eremophila oldfieldii, over low-sparse shrubland of Aristida contorta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Ptilotus obovatus on undula | 1.4% | Undulating Mulga Flats with <20% vegetation coverage | 21.6% | A7 | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over low-sparse tussock grassland of Eragrostis eriopoda, Eriachne mucronate, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating red clay flats | 0.2% | A8 | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Aristida contorta on undulating red clay flats | 3% | A9 | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia quadrimarginea, and Acacia tetragonophylla, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Dianella revoluta, and Eragrostis setifolia on undulating red clay flats | 4.1% |
| Group  | Area %  | Vegetation Description | Area %   |                        |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
| Undulating Mulga Flats with >20% vegetation coverage | 26.1%   | A1                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Acacia burkittii, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Sida ectogama, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating  | 1.4%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A2                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Eremophila margarethae, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low sparse shrubland of Dianella revoluta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eragrostis setifolia on | 2.6%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A3                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over Acacia tetragonophylla, Psydrax suaveolens, and Eremophila latrobei, over Eragrostis eriopoda, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Eriachne mucronata undulating red clay flats                             | 4.2%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A4                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae and Grevillea berryana, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia ramulosa, Eremophila latrobei, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low-sparse shrubland of Eremophila forresii, Ptilotus obovatus, and Eragrostis  | 10.5%                  |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A5                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, and Acacia quadrimarginea, over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Eremophila galeata, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and | 5.9%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A6                     | Tall open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae over mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia burkittii, and Eremophila oldfieldii, over low-sparse shrubland of Aristida contorta, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Ptilotus obovatus on undula | 1.4%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
| Undulating Mulga Flats with <20% vegetation coverage | 21.6%   | A7                     | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over low-sparse tussock grassland of Eragrostis eriopoda, Eriachne mucronate, and Solanum lasiophyllum on undulating red clay flats   | 0.2%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A8                     | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Aristida contorta on undulating red clay flats                             | 3%                     |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |
|  |   | A9                     | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia quadrimarginea, and Acacia tetragonophylla, over low-sparse shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Dianella revoluta, and Eragrostis setifolia on undulating red clay flats                           | 4.1%                   |        |  |       |    |   |      |    |  |      |    |  |      |    |   |       |    |  |      |    |  |      |  |       |    |  |      |    |  |    |    |  |      |

| Characteristic | Details   |       |     |   |       |
|----------------|---|-------|-----|---|-------|
|                |   |       | A10 | Mid-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Eremophila galeata, over Eremophila latrobei, Ptilotus obovatus, and Eragrostis eriopoda on red clay flats   | 14.4% |
|                | Chenopod Shrublands   | 11.4% | C1  | Mid-isolated shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Maireana triptera, Tecticornia pergranulata, and Maireana villosa on orange-red sandy clay flats  | 0.8%  |
|                |   |       | C2  | Mid-isolated shrubland of Hakea preissii, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Cratystylis subspinescens, Frankenia fecunda, and Maireana pyramidata on orange-red sandy clay flats  | 5.9%  |
|                |   |       | C3  | Mid-sparse shrubland of Hakea preissii, Senna artemisioides, and Acacia tetragonophylla, over low-sparse shrubland of Cratystylis subspinescens, Sclerolaena cuneata, and Ptilotus obovatus on orange-red sandy clay flats                                | 0.6%  |
|                |   |       | C4  | Mid-sparse shrubland of Hakea preissii and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Maireana carnosa, Maireana pyramidata, and Eragrostis dieslsii on orange-red sandy clay flats   | 2.2%  |
|                |   |       | C5  | Mid-isolated shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Maireana pyramidata, Maireana triptera, and Ptilotus obovatus on orange-red sandy clay flats   | 1.8%  |
|                | Drainage Lines  | 9.2%  | D1  | Tall-open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-open shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia craspedocarpa, and Psydrax suaveolens, over low-open shrubland of Dianella revoluta, Ptilotus obovatus, and Cheilanthes sieberi on red clay   | 5.7%  |
|                |   |       | D2  | Tall-open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-open shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Acacia craspedocarpa, and Senna artemisioides, over low-open shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus, Solanum lasiophyllum, and Cheilanthes sieberi on red c  | 1.3%  |
|                |   |       | D3  | Tall-open shrubland of Pittosporum angustifolium and Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-open shrubland of Acacia burkittii, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Frankenia fecunda, Scaevola spinesce  | 1.9%  |
|                |   |       | D4  | Mid-open shrubland of Acacia burkittii, Acacia tetragonophylla, and Senna artemisioides, over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of Maireana pyramidata, Tecticornia pergranulata, and Solanum lasiophyllum on orange-red sandy clay soils in minor drainage l | 0.1%  |
|                |   |       | D5  | Tall-open shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, over mid-open shrubland of Acacia tetragonophylla, Senna artemisioides, and Acacia craspedocarpa, over low- sparse chenopod shrubland of Rhagodia Eremaea, Maireana villosa, and Ptilotus obovatus on   | 0.2%  |
|                | Ridgelines  | 0.5%  | R1  | Tall-sparse shrubland of Acacia section Juliflorae, Acacia quadrimarginea, and Grevillea berryana, over mid-sparse shrubland of Eremophila punctata, Eremophila latrobei, and Senna artemisioides, over low-isolated tussock grassland on skeletal red c  | 0.5%  |
|                | <b>Cleared Land</b><br>Due to pastoral tracks, cattle grazing and mining activities (disturbed under approved clearing permits) |       |     |   | 31.2% |
|                | <b>Vegetation associations in the Maverick-McKenzies-Kintyre survey area</b>  |       |     |   |       |



| Characteristic | Details                     |  |             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
|                | Vegetation Association Code | Description  | Mapped Area |
|                | A5                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> ) tall-open shrubland over mid- sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Hakea preissii</i> , and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>Sida ectogama</i> , and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling                 | 59.3        |
|                | A8                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia minyura</i> ), <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , and <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> mid-sparse shrubland over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Sida ectogama</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling   | 39.0        |
|                | A10                         | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia minyura</i> <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> mid-sparse shrubland over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Sida fibulifera</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling  | 9.4         |
|                | C1                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia minyura</i> and <i>Acacia mulganeura</i> ) mid-sparse shrubland over low- sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Tecticornia pergranulata</i> , <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , and <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i> on undulating red-orange, sandy clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling  | 23.7        |
|                | C2                          | <i>Hakea preissii</i> and <i>Eremophila platycalyx</i> mid-sparse shrubland over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i> , and <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> on undulating red-orange, sandy-clay flats with quartz pebbling   | 162.7       |
|                | C5                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> ), <i>Eremophila youngii</i> , and <i>Hakea preissii</i> mid-sparse shrubland over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i> , and <i>Maireana triptera</i> on undulating red-orange, sandy-clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling  | 29.9        |
|                | D1                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> ), and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> tall- open shrubland over mid-open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> over low-open shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> , and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on red clay soils in minor drainage lines | 11.5        |
|                | D3                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> ) tall-open shrubland over mid- sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia burkittii</i> , <i>Eremophila youngii</i> , and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> over low- sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i> , and <i>Frankenia fecunda</i> on red-orange, sandy-clay soils in minor drainage lines           | 145.4       |
|                | R1                          | <i>Acacia</i> section Juliflorae ( <i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> ) and <i>Acacia oswaldii</i> tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Senna artemisioides</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on skeletal red clay soil on ironstone ridgelines   | 4.1         |

#### **Vegetation associations in the King John application area**

| Vegetation Association Code | Description   | Mapped Area |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| A22                         | Tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> sect Juliflorae ( <i>A. aneura</i> , <i>A. Aptaneura</i> , and <i>A. craspedocarpa</i> ) over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>A tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>xartemisioides</i> and <i>Sydrax suaveolens</i> over isolated ferns of <i>Chelanthos sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> on sandy red clay loam in minor drainage lines.   | 64.3ha      |
| A23                         | Tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> sect Juliflorae ( <i>A. aneura</i> , <i>A. aptaneura</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> ) over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>A tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> and <i>Psyrax suaveolens</i> over isolated ferns of <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> on flats or slopes of red clay with ironstone gravel.   | 869.9ha     |
| CH2                         | Low-sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Sclerolaena cuneata</i> , <i>Maireana villosa</i> , and <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> on clay flats with large quartz and ironstone pebbles  | 243.0ha     |
| CH3                         | Mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila platycalyx</i> subsp. <i>platycalyx</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>xartemisioides</i> over low-isolated chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Maireana villosa</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on clay flats with quartz and ironstone pebbles.  | 33.7ha      |
| R1                          | Tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> sect Juliflorae ( <i>A. aptaneura</i> , <i>A. caesaneura</i> , <i>A. incurvaneura</i> ) and <i>Grevillea berryana</i> , over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp <i>latrobei</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> , over isolated tussock grassland <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> , <i>Digitaria brownii</i> , and <i>Ptilotus shwartzii</i> on skeletal clays on ironstone outcrops. | 24.9ha      |

#### **Vegetation associations in the King John Haulage Network (L 38/383) application area**

| Vegetation Association Code | Description   | Mapped Area |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| A22                         | Tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> sect Juliflorae ( <i>A. aneura</i> , <i>A. Aptaneura</i> , and <i>A. craspedocarpa</i> ) over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>A tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>xartemisioides</i> and <i>Sydrax suaveolens</i> over isolated ferns of <i>Chelanthos sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> on sandy red clay loam in minor drainage lines. | 11.9ha      |
| A23                         | Tall open shrubland of <i>Acacia</i> sect Juliflorae ( <i>A. aneura</i> , <i>A. aptaneura</i> and <i>A. caesaneura</i> ) over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>A tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila margarethae</i> and <i>Psyrax suaveolens</i> over isolated ferns of <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> subsp. <i>sieberi</i> on flats or slopes of red clay with ironstone gravel.                         | 35.3ha      |
| CH3                         | Mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila platycalyx</i> subsp. <i>platycalyx</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>xartemisioides</i> over low-isolated chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> , <i>Maireana villosa</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on clay flats with quartz and ironstone pebbles.  | 27.9ha      |

Vegetation mapping of the new application areas is available in Appendix D.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Vegetation condition | The vegetation survey (Regis, 2024) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Good to Excellent (Trudgen, 1991) condition.<br><br>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. |
|----------------------|--|

| Characteristic         | Details   |
|------------------------|---|
| Climate                | The application area is located in an arid zone of Western Australia with a mean annual rainfall (Laverton station) of 234.4 millimetres (BoM, 2024).   |
| Soil description       | The soils mapped within the application area are mapped as soil unites BE8 and Fa7. These soil units are described by Northcote et al. (1960-68) as:<br><b>BE8:</b> Partially dissected pediments extending out from areas of unit Fa7; there may be a surface cover of gravels. Earthy loams are dominant; with red-brown hardpan at shallow depth are also present.<br><b>Fa7:</b> Greenstone hills and low ranges with some slate and basalt: dominant soils are shallow stony earthy loams on the steep slopes while red-brown hardpan occurs on the stony pediments.   |
| Land systems           | The application area intersects 12 land systems (DPIRD, 2024). These land systems are described by DPIRD (2024) and Pringle et al. (1994) as:<br><b>Ararak land system:</b> Broad plains with mantles of ironstone gravel supporting mulga shrublands with wanderrie grasses. As a result of low slopes, protective soil mantles and very diffuse sheet flow, this land system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion.<br><b>Bevon land system:</b> Irregular low ironstone hills with stony lower slopes supporting mulga shrublands. Minor areas with texture contrast soils on breakaway footslopes and narrow drainage tracts are susceptible to soil erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.<br><b>Brooking land system:</b> Prominent ridges of banded iron formation supporting mulga shrublands and occasional minor halophytic communities. Stone mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion. Disturbance or removal of stone mantles may initiate soil erosion.<br><b>Cunyu land system:</b> Calcrete platforms, intervening drainage floors and channels and minor alluvial plains, supporting acacia shrublands, occasional casuarina woodlands and minor halophytic shrublands. Alluvial plains and drainage lines are mildly susceptible to water erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.<br><b>Felix land system:</b> Gently undulating plains with quartz mantles, supporting acacia-eremophila shrublands locally with wanderrie grasses. Stone mantles provide effective protection of the soil against erosion.<br><b>Hootanui land system:</b> Breakaways, hills and ridges with saline gravelly and stony lower plains supporting scattered halophytic low shrublands. Narrow drainage tracts and breakaway footslopes are susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed.<br><b>Jundee land system:</b> Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy banks supporting weakly groved mulga shrublands. Impedance to natural sheet flows can initiate soil erosion. Gravel mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion.<br><b>Nubev land system:</b> Gently undulating stony plains, minor limonitic low rises and drainage floors supporting mulga and halophytic shrublands. Drainage zones are moderately susceptible to soil erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed. Disturbance of the protective stone mantle on saline stony plains is also likely to initiate water erosion.<br><b>Steer land system:</b> Gravelly alluvial plains supporting chenopod shrublands. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion, partly as a consequence of protective stone and gravel soil mantles. Unprotected areas on alluvial plains and, more particularly, on drainage floors, are susceptible to water erosion.<br><b>Teutonic land system:</b> Hills and stony plains on acid volcanic rocks supporting acacia shrublands. This land system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion, partly as a consequence of extensive stone mantles.<br><b>Tiger land system:</b> Gravelly hardpan plains and sandy banks with mulga shrublands and wanderrie grasses. This land system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion.<br><b>Violet land system:</b> 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. Abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion over most of this land system, except where the soil surface has been disturbed, for example by the construction of tracks and gridlines. In such circumstances, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion. Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion. |
| Waterbodies            | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).   |
| Hydrogeography         | The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area, legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity ranges from 500-3000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered to be marginal to brackish (GIS Database).   |
| Flora                  | Five Priority flora species have been recorded in the survey area, only one was located in the application area. No Threatened flora species were recorded in the application area (Regis, 2024; GIS Database).   |
| Ecological communities | The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is 33.3 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).   |
| Fauna                  | Regis has commissioned several fauna surveys and assessments which are applicable to this application. The table below identifies conservation significant species assessed to have some potential both across  |



| Characteristic       | Details  |   |   |  |   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
|----------------------|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|------------|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------|--|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|---|----------------------|--------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                      | <p>the Duketon Gold Project and in the new areas being considered under this application. (Terrestrial Ecosystems 2023a, 2023b).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Conservation Significance</th> <th>Duketon Gold Project surrounding area</th> <th>Central Duketon Application Area</th> <th>King John and King John Haulage Network (L38/383) Application Area</th> <th>Maverick-McKenzies-Kintyre Application Area</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Malleefowl</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable<br/>EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>Malleefowl tracks were recorded in the Terminator project area, the first record since surveys commenced (2008). Believed to be a vagrant from outside of the DGP. Abundance very low and no mounds have been recorded.</td> <td>Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~20 km to the west</td> <td>Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest</td> <td>Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Princess Parrot</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable<br/>EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>May infrequently be seen in the region.</td> <td>May occasionally to infrequently be seen</td> <td>May infrequently be seen</td> <td>May occasionally be seen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fork-tailed Swift</td> <td>BC Act Migratory<br/>EPBC Migratory</td> <td>May very infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this aerial species.</td> <td>May infrequently be seen flying</td> <td>May very infrequently be seen flying</td> <td>May infrequently be seen flying</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peregrine Falcon</td> <td>BC Act Other Specially Protected</td> <td>May infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.</td> <td>May infrequently be seen flying</td> <td>May infrequently be seen</td> <td>May occasionally be seen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Whiteface</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable<br/>EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>Potentially present. Has been recorded further north of the DGP</td> <td>Low probability. Recorded ~10 km to the north</td> <td>Not commented on but likely to be potentially present in the project area but it will readily move.</td> <td>Potentially in the project area but it will readily move.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long-tailed Dunnart</td> <td>DBCAs – Priority 4</td> <td>Single Long-tailed Dunnart was recorded in Thompson Bore. There is no 'recognised' suitable habitat in this project area, so it is likely to be a vagrant.</td> <td>Low possibility of being present in rocky areas.</td> <td>No recognised suitable habitat presents in the survey area. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest</td> <td>Very low probability of being present. The rocky outcropping present appears too small to support Long-tailed Dunnarts.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brush-tailed Mulgara</td> <td>DBCAs – Priority 4</td> <td>Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat (mature spinifex dominated habitat).</td> <td>Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat.</td> <td>Highly unlikely to be present</td> <td>Highly unlikely to be present</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Species   | Conservation Significance   | Duketon Gold Project surrounding area  | Central Duketon Application Area  | King John and King John Haulage Network (L38/383) Application Area | Maverick-McKenzies-Kintyre Application Area | Malleefowl | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable | Malleefowl tracks were recorded in the Terminator project area, the first record since surveys commenced (2008). Believed to be a vagrant from outside of the DGP. Abundance very low and no mounds have been recorded. | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~20 km to the west | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest | Princess Parrot | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable | May infrequently be seen in the region. | May occasionally to infrequently be seen | May infrequently be seen | May occasionally be seen | Fork-tailed Swift | BC Act Migratory<br>EPBC Migratory | May very infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this aerial species. | May infrequently be seen flying | May very infrequently be seen flying | May infrequently be seen flying | Peregrine Falcon | BC Act Other Specially Protected | May infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species. | May infrequently be seen flying | May infrequently be seen | May occasionally be seen | Southern Whiteface | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable | Potentially present. Has been recorded further north of the DGP | Low probability. Recorded ~10 km to the north | Not commented on but likely to be potentially present in the project area but it will readily move. | Potentially in the project area but it will readily move. | Long-tailed Dunnart | DBCAs – Priority 4 | Single Long-tailed Dunnart was recorded in Thompson Bore. There is no 'recognised' suitable habitat in this project area, so it is likely to be a vagrant. | Low possibility of being present in rocky areas. | No recognised suitable habitat presents in the survey area. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest | Very low probability of being present. The rocky outcropping present appears too small to support Long-tailed Dunnarts. | Brush-tailed Mulgara | DBCAs – Priority 4 | Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat (mature spinifex dominated habitat). | Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat. | Highly unlikely to be present | Highly unlikely to be present |
| Species              | Conservation Significance  | Duketon Gold Project surrounding area   | Central Duketon Application Area  | King John and King John Haulage Network (L38/383) Application Area   | Maverick-McKenzies-Kintyre Application Area   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Malleefowl           | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable   | Malleefowl tracks were recorded in the Terminator project area, the first record since surveys commenced (2008). Believed to be a vagrant from outside of the DGP. Abundance very low and no mounds have been recorded. | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~20 km to the west | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest                                       | Very low probability. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest                                    |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Princess Parrot      | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable   | May infrequently be seen in the region.   | May occasionally to infrequently be seen  | May infrequently be seen   | May occasionally be seen  |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Fork-tailed Swift    | BC Act Migratory<br>EPBC Migratory   | May very infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this aerial species.  | May infrequently be seen flying   | May very infrequently be seen flying   | May infrequently be seen flying   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Peregrine Falcon     | BC Act Other Specially Protected   | May infrequently be seen. Clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.  | May infrequently be seen flying   | May infrequently be seen   | May occasionally be seen  |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Southern Whiteface   | BC Act Vulnerable<br>EPBC Act Vulnerable   | Potentially present. Has been recorded further north of the DGP   | Low probability. Recorded ~10 km to the north                                   | Not commented on but likely to be potentially present in the project area but it will readily move.                        | Potentially in the project area but it will readily move.   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Long-tailed Dunnart  | DBCAs – Priority 4   | Single Long-tailed Dunnart was recorded in Thompson Bore. There is no 'recognised' suitable habitat in this project area, so it is likely to be a vagrant.  | Low possibility of being present in rocky areas.                                | No recognised suitable habitat presents in the survey area. Tracks for a single individual located ~50 km to the northwest | Very low probability of being present. The rocky outcropping present appears too small to support Long-tailed Dunnarts. |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Brush-tailed Mulgara | DBCAs – Priority 4   | Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat (mature spinifex dominated habitat).  | Highly unlikely due to a lack of suitable habitat.                              | Highly unlikely to be present  | Highly unlikely to be present   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |
| Fauna habitat        | <p>Across the Duketon Gold Project, the landscape is dominated by Mulga/Acacia woodlands and Chenopod scrublands as the primary fauna habitat. Other habitat types across the Duketon Gold Project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disturbed areas around mine pits</li> <li>• Rehabilitated waste dumps</li> <li>• Rocky outcrops.</li> <li>• Mulga woodlands over spinifex – at the northern extremity of the application area.</li> </ul>   |   |   |  |   |  |   |            |  |   |   |  |  |                 |  |   |  |                          |                          |                   |                                    |  |                                 |                                      |                                 |                  |                                  |  |                                 |                          |                          |                    |  |   |   |   |   |                     |                    |  |  |  |   |                      |                    |  |  |                               |                               |

## A.2. Flora analysis table

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

| Species name                               | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Number of known records (Western Australian Herbarium) | Number of locations (survey) | Number of locations (application area) | Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A] |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| <i>Calytrix praecipua</i>                  | P3                  | Y                                | 28   | 2                            | 0                                      | Y   |
| <i>Einadia nutans</i> subsp. <i>nutans</i> | P3                  | Y                                | 1  | 2                            | 0                                      | Y   |
| <i>Eremophila pungens</i>                  | P4                  | Y                                | 45   | 165                          | 19                                     | Y   |
| <i>Frankenia georgei</i>                   | P1                  | Y                                | 6  | 7                            | 0                                      | Y   |
| <i>Lysiandra baeckeoides</i>               | P3                  | Y                                | 31   | 6                            | 0                                      | Y   |

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority (Regis, 2024; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-)

## Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

| Assessment against the clearing principles   | Variance level               | Is further consideration required?       |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Environmental value: biological values</b>  |                              |  |
| <p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u><br/>No vegetation communities mapped within the Duketon tenements are spatially restricted. While some vegetation units occupy a small area within Regis Resources'</p> | Not likely to be at variance | Yes<br><br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i> |

| Assessment against the clearing principles   | Variance level               | Is further consideration required?       |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| Duketon tenements, similar vegetation assemblages are known to be regionally abundant (Regis, 2024).   |                              |  |
| <p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Although the proposed clearing areas will comprise habitat that may be suitable for fauna indigenous to Western Australia, from a regional context, the vegetation associations within the project area are well represented within the broader region (Regis, 2024).</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | Yes<br><br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No Threatened flora species have been recorded at the Duketon Gold Project application area (Regis, 2024; GIS Database).</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | No                                       |
| <p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No Threatened Ecological Communities have been recorded at the Duketon Gold Project application area (Regis, 2024; GIS Database).</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | No                                       |
| <b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>  |                              |  |
| <p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent 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 39 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99 per cent of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p> | Not at variance              | No                                       |
| <p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas (GIS Database).</p>   | Not likely to be at variance | No                                       |
| <b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>   |                              |  |
| <p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are several water courses within the application area (GIS Database) and a number of the vegetation communities identified within the application area are considered to be growing in association with minor drainage lines (Regis, 2024).</p>   | At variance                  | Yes<br><br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to soil erosion, especially along drainage lines (Pringle et al., 2004). Noting the location of the application area and the amount of the proposed clearing, the proposed clearing is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>   | May be at variance           | Yes<br><br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i> |

| Assessment against the clearing principles   | Variance level               | Is further consideration required? |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Principle (i):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p> | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (j):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |

### Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

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

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



Appendix D. Survey maps

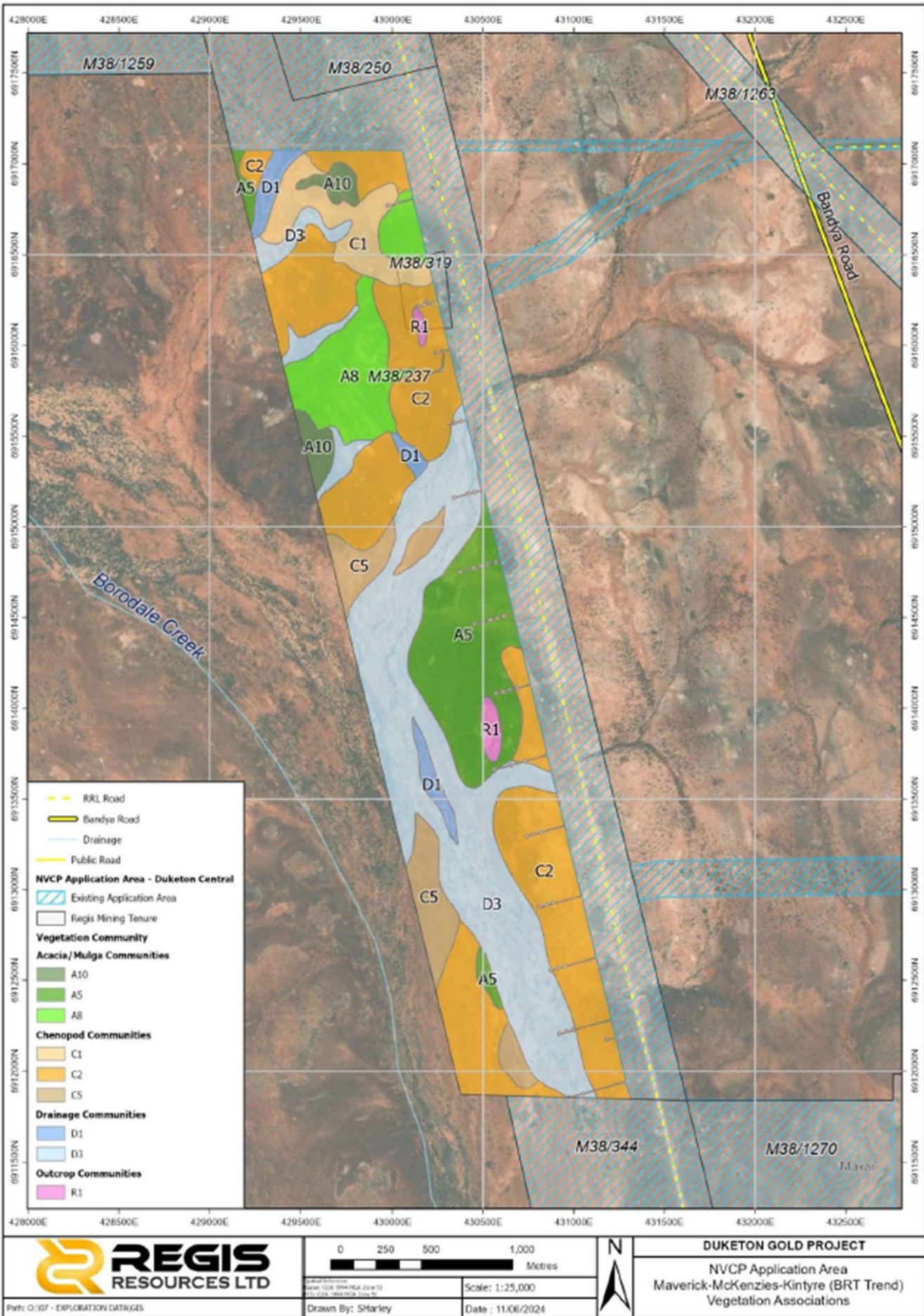


Figure 1. Vegetation Associations of the Maverick-McKenzies-Kintyre (BRT Trend) application area (Regis, 2024).



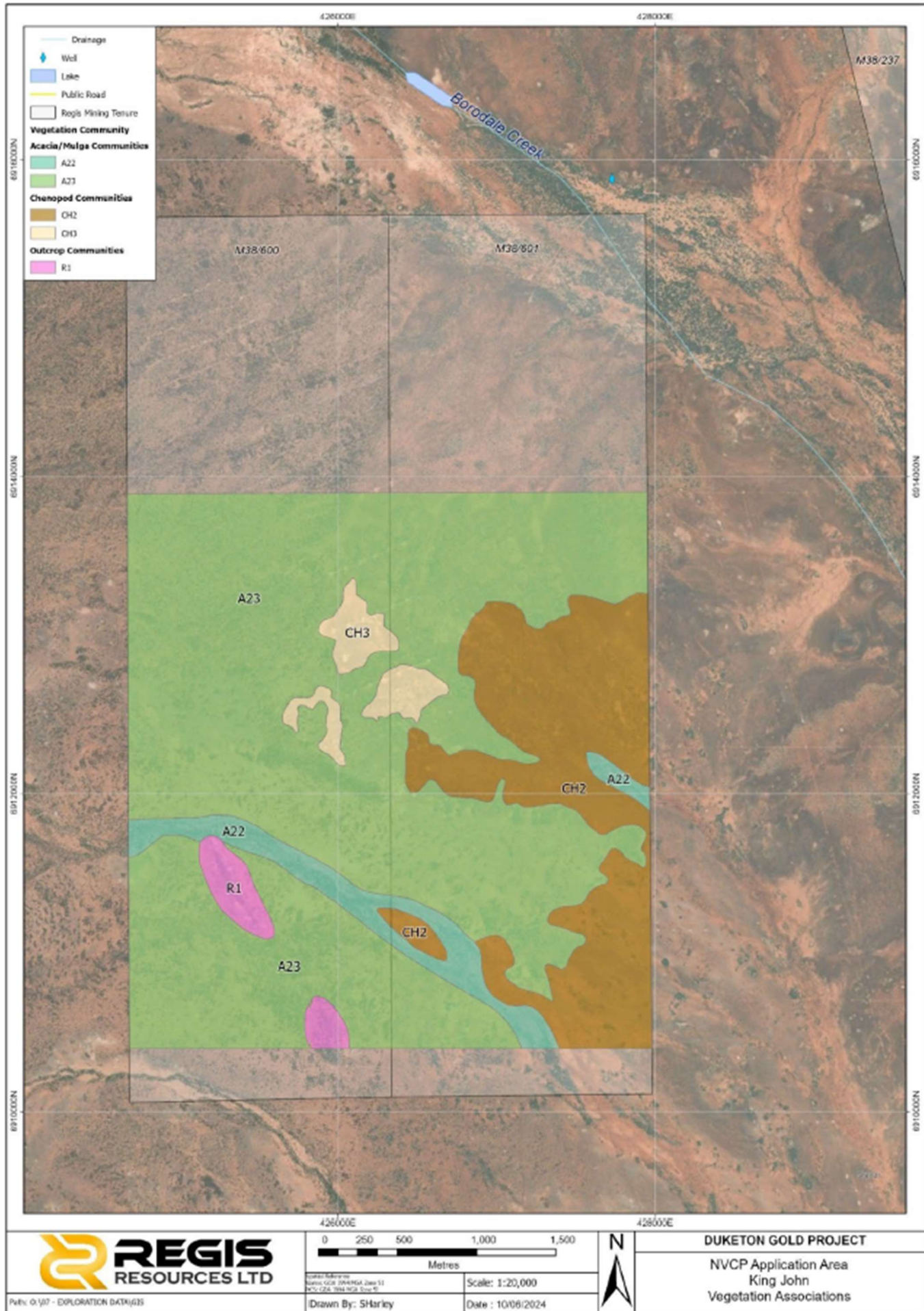


Figure 2. Vegetation Associations of the King John application area (Regis, 2024).



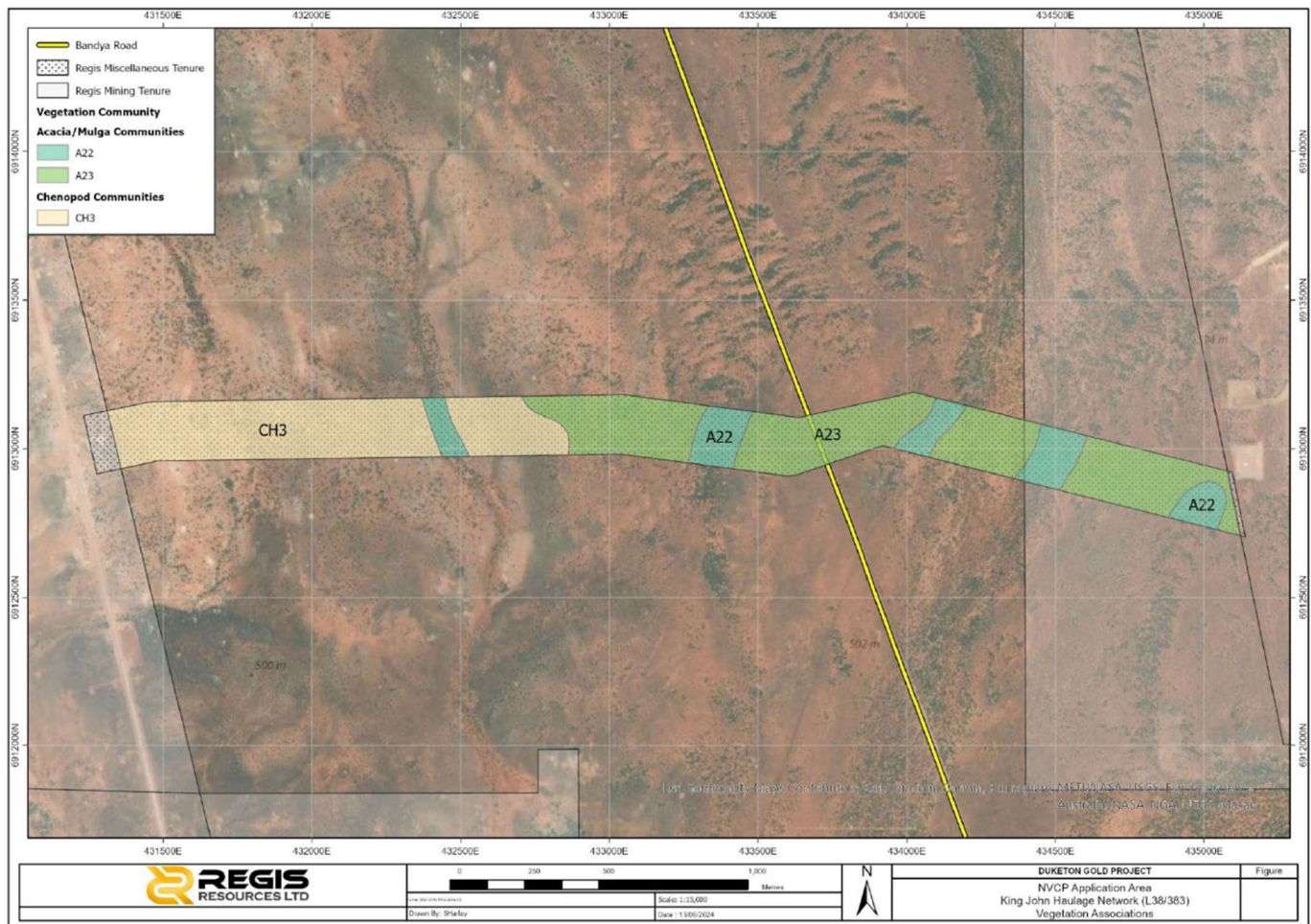


Figure 3. Vegetation Associations of the King John Haulage Network (L 38/383) (Regis, 2024).

## Appendix E. Sources of information

### E.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- 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 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) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Laverton Station. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 4 October 2024).

CALM (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographical Subregions. Department of Conservation and Land Management. CPS 10692/1

Management.

- 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](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) (2024) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS> (Accessed 7 October 2024).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2024) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 4 October 2024).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. [https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure\\_Native\\_vegetation\\_clearing\\_permits\\_v1.pdf](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. [http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies\\_and\\_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey\\_Dec13.pdf](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) (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](https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf)
- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Mattiske (2016) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Dogbolter and Coopers Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, March 2016.
- Mattiske (2017a) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Anchor Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, March 2017.
- Mattiske (2017b) Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Banyego Haul Road Project Area. Report prepared for Regis Resources Limited, by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd, July 2017.
- Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (Mattiske) (2023) Memorandum on Database and Merged Mapping.
- Northcote, K. H. with Beckmann G G, Bettenay E., Churchward H. M., van Dijk D. C., Dimmock G. M., Hubble G. D., Isbell R. F., McArthur W. M., Murtha G. G., Nicolls K. D., Paton T. R., Thompson C. H., Webb A. A. and Wright M. J. (1960-68) Atlas of Australian Soils, Sheets 1 to 10, with explanatory data. CSIRO and Melbourne University Press: Melbourne.
- Pringle, H J, Gilligan, S A, and van Vreeswyk, A M. (1994), *An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the north-eastern Goldfields, Western Australia*. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 87. [https://library.dpiird.wa.gov.au/tech\\_bull/5](https://library.dpiird.wa.gov.au/tech_bull/5)
- Regis Resources Ltd (Regis) (2024) New Purpose Permit Application Central Duketon - Duketon Gold Project
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023a) Basic and Detailed Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment – Northern Project Areas.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023b) Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment – Maverick and McKenzie Project Areas.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.
- Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. <https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/> (Accessed 7 October 2024).

## 4. Glossary

### Acronyms:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>BC Act</b>   | <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia                          |
| <b>BoM</b>      | Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government   |
| <b>DAA</b>      | Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)                         |
| <b>DAFWA</b>    | Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)                      |
| <b>DCCEEW</b>   | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government |
| <b>DBCA</b>     | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia            |
| <b>DEMIRS</b>   | Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety                            |
| <b>DER</b>      | Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)                     |
| <b>DMIRS</b>    | Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)    |
| <b>DMP</b>      | Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)                      |
| <b>DoEE</b>     | Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)                                  |
| <b>DoW</b>      | Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)                                      |
| <b>DPaW</b>     | Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)                         |
| <b>DPIRD</b>    | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia           |
| <b>DPLH</b>     | Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia                          |
| <b>DRF</b>      | Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)                                    |
| <b>DWER</b>     | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia                    |
| <b>EP Act</b>   | <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia                           |
| <b>EPA</b>      | Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia                                  |
| <b>EPBC Act</b> | <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)     |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>GIS</b>      | Geographical Information System   |
| <b>ha</b>       | Hectare (10,000 square metres)  |
| <b>IBRA</b>     | Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia   |
| <b>IUCN</b>     | International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union |
| <b>PEC</b>      | Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia  |
| <b>RIWI Act</b> | <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia  |
| <b>TEC</b>      | Threatened Ecological Community   |

## **Definitions:**

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

### **T Threatened species:**

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:**

### **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:**

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.

**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.