

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10693/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Regis Resources Ltd
Application received:	22 July 2024
Application area:	250 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 38/1268 Miscellaneous Licence 38/242 Miscellaneous Licence 38/257
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Laverton
Colloquial name:	Duketon Gold Project - Gloster

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regis Resources Ltd proposes to clear up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,268 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production. The project is located approximately 115 kilometres north of Laverton, within the Shire of Laverton.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	22 October 2024
Decision area:	250 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 D), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

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 wind 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 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.

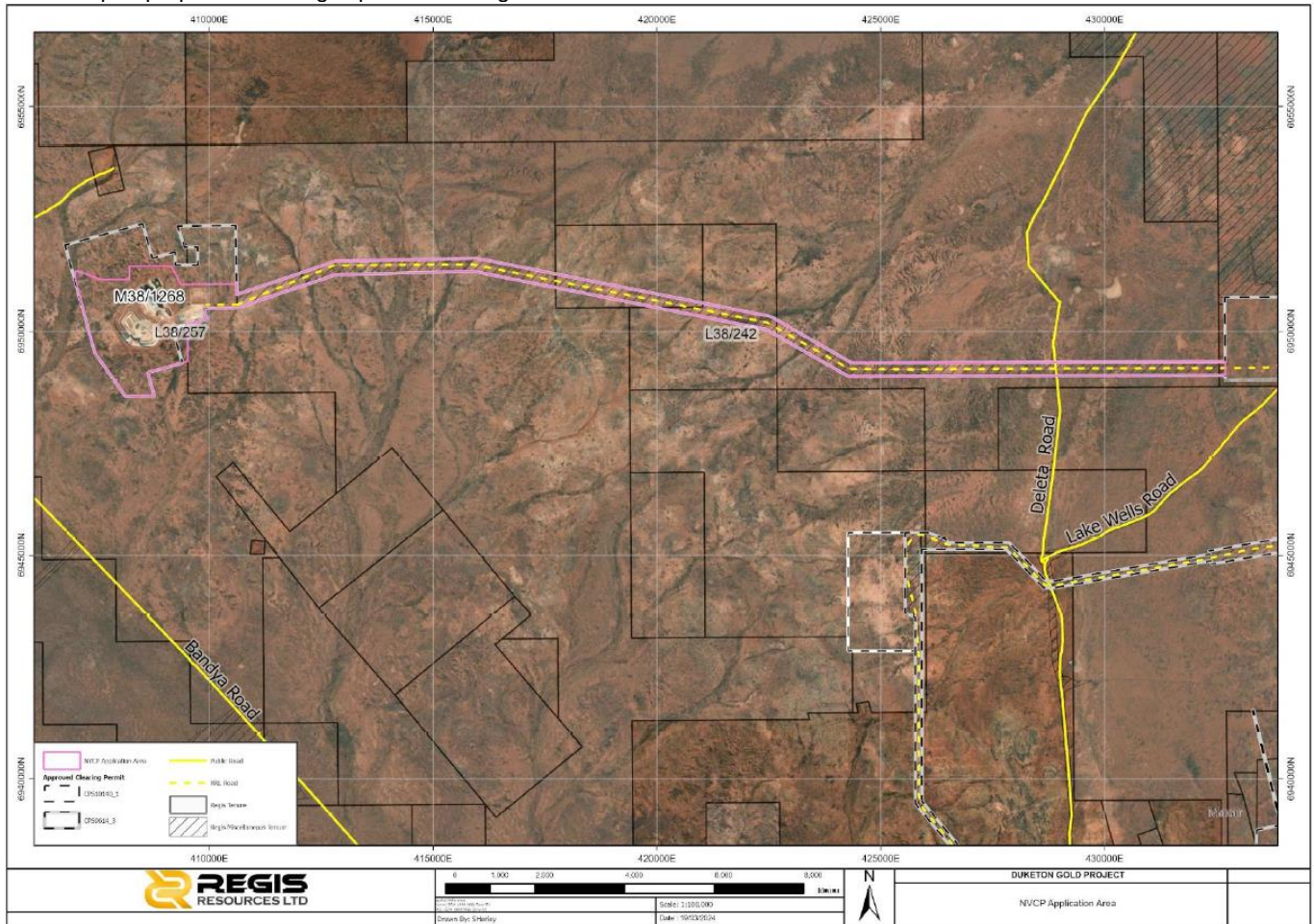


Figure 1. Map of the application area (pink line).

## 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 clearing, Regis Resources Ltd has undertaken the following actions (Regis, 2024a, 2024b):

- Waste dump expansion is being conducted over the existing waste dump, resulting in incremental disturbance;
- Vegetation clearing will be minimised, with preferential use of previously disturbed or degraded areas where possible;
- Strip and stockpile topsoil for use in rehabilitation;
- Rehabilitate disturbance areas as soon as practicable;

- Dust suppression will be regularly undertaken on high traffic roads to minimise potential dust related impacts on adjacent vegetation;
- Prevent and minimise the introduction and spread of weeds within the project area; and
- Avoid unnecessary disturbance to natural surface water drainage.

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

A level 2 flora survey was conducted by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd (2015) over the application area. No Threatened or Priority flora species or ecological communities were recorded in the application area (Mattiske, 2015; GIS Database). A level 1 fauna survey was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2015) over the application area. No Threatened or Priority fauna species were recorded in the application area (Mattiske, 2015; GIS Database).

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, 2015; GIS Database). 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.

Five land systems have been mapped within the application area (see Appendix A.1). Some 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; and
- 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 6 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 is no native title claim 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 four 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 23.8 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 association: 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Mattiske Consulting Pty Ltd during November, 2015. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Mattiske, 2015):</p> <p><b>Vegetation Associations in the Gloster Survey Area</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Vegetation Association Code</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Site or Haul Road</th> <th>Mapped Area (ha)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A8</td> <td>Low open woodland to open shrubland of <i>Acacia ayersiana</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> with <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> subsp. <i>filiformis</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Dianella revoluta</i> and <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i> on orange sandy-loams on flats.</td> <td>Site and Haul Road</td> <td>312.91</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A12</td> <td>Open shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia mulganeura</i> over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Eremophila oldfieldii</i> over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Hibiscus burtonii</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> over mixed grasses on flats to lower slopes with red gravelly clay soil and quartz pebbles.</td> <td>Site and Haul Road</td> <td>263.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A20</td> <td>Open to semi-closed shrubland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> and <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Baeckea</i> sp. <i>Melita</i> Station (H. 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Characteristic	Details			
		Sclerolaena cuneata on red-orange clay loam on flats and slopes (rarely) with quartz pebbles.		
	A27	Open scrub of Acacia sect. Juliflorae (A. ?aneura and A. incurvaneura) over open low shrubland of Solanum lasiophyllum and Maireana convexa over mixed grasses on red-orange clay loam on flats with quartz and iron pebbles.	Site and Haul Road	171.75
	C5	Low open Chenopod shrubland of Maireana pyramidata and Eriochiton sclerolaenoides with emergent Acacia sect. Juliflorae (A. ?aneura and A. pteraneura) and Acacia tetragonophylla over Frankenia setosa and Maireana georgei on red-orange clay-loams on flats with quartz and iron pebbles.	Site and Haul Road	80.80
	C6	Low open Chenopod shrubland of Maireana triptera, Sclerolaena eurotioides, Maireana trichoptera and Sclerolaena cuneata with emergent Acacia sect. Juliflorae (A. incurvaneura and A. craspedocarpa) over Ptilotus obovatus and Scrophulariaceae spp. on red-brown clay to clayloams on flats.	Site and Haul Road	30.02
	C7	Low open Chenopod shrubland of Sclerolaena eurotioides, Sclerolaena cuneata and Maireana appressa with emergent Acacia incurvaneura over Frankenia laxiflora and Atriplex ?nana over mixed grasses on orange clay-loams on slopes.	Site and Haul Road	3.65
	D1	Mulga low forest A over mixed open scrub to dwarf scrub over mixed open low grasses (OES 2007).	Haul road only	3.59
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (Mattiske, 2015) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Excellent to Completely Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>			
Climate and landform	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 soil mapped within the application area is mapped as soil unit BE8 (GIS Database). This soil unit is described as 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 (Northcote et al., 1960-68).			
Land degradation risk	<p>The application area intersects five land systems (DPIRD, 2024). These land systems are described by DPIRD (2024) and Pringle et al. (1994) as:</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><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.</p>			
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 500-3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered to be marginal to brackish (GIS Database).			
Flora	No Threatened or Priority flora have been recorded in the application area by the flora survey conducted by Mattiske (2015).			
Ecological communities	The application area does not for part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is 39.5 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).			

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Fauna	<p>The table below identifies conservation significant species assessed to have some potential to occur in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species</th> <th>Conservation Significance</th> <th>Potential Impact on Species</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sandhill Dunnart</td> <td>BC Act Endangered EPBC Act Endangered</td> <td>Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northern Marsupial Mole</td> <td>Priority 4</td> <td>Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mulgara</td> <td>Priority 4</td> <td>Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malleefowl</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Great Desert Skink</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Princess Parrot</td> <td>Priority 4 EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td>May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Whiteface*</td> <td>BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable</td> <td><i>Potentially in the project area, but it will readily move, so any impacts are unlikely to be significant.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fork-tailed Swift</td> <td>BC Act Migratory EPBC Migratory</td> <td>May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peregrine Falcon</td> <td>BC Act Other Specially Protected</td> <td>May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Branchinella apophysata</i></td> <td>Priority 1</td> <td>Unlikely to be in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Species	Conservation Significance	Potential Impact on Species	Sandhill Dunnart	BC Act Endangered EPBC Act Endangered	Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.	Northern Marsupial Mole	Priority 4	Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.	Mulgara	Priority 4	Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.	Malleefowl	BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable	Unlikely to be in the project area so potential for impact on this species is low.	Great Desert Skink	BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable	May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species	Princess Parrot	Priority 4 EPBC Act Vulnerable	May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.	Southern Whiteface*	BC Act Vulnerable EPBC Act Vulnerable	<i>Potentially in the project area, but it will readily move, so any impacts are unlikely to be significant.</i>	Fork-tailed Swift	BC Act Migratory EPBC Migratory	May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.	Peregrine Falcon	BC Act Other Specially Protected	May infrequently be seen in the area; however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species.	<i>Branchinella apophysata</i>	Priority 1	Unlikely to be in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
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Fauna habitat	<p>The level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Gloster Project and Haul Road (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015) recorded four broad habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flat open Mulga woodlands over scattered shrubs on stony sandy-clay substrate;</li> <li>• Flat open Mulga woodland over scattered shrubs on a sandy clay substrate;</li> <li>• Floodways with few trees and shrubs on a red clay substrate; and</li> <li>• Highly disturbed areas.</li> </ul>																																	

## 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></p> <p>The application area does not have a high level of biodiversity and is well represented within the local and broader region (Regis, 2024a). No Priority flora species or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded in the application area (Mattiske, 2015; GIS Database). Although habitats may be present in the application area, they are unlikely to sustain populations of conservation significant fauna species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2015).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes  <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Fauna surveys conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2015) 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,</p>	Not likely to be at variance	<i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
southern whiteface, fork-tailed swift and princess parrot (Regis, 2024a). These aerial species are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.		
<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 in the application area (Mattiske, 2015; Regis, 2024a; 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 near the application area or within the Duketon Gold Project (Mattiske, 2015; Regis, 2024a; 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 association 18 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has 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 (Mattiske, 2015).</p>	At variance	Yes <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, the proposed clearing is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1</i>
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no 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

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<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. Sources of information

### D.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
- 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)

## D.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 15 October 2024).
- 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 Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dph.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 15 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 15 October 2024).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. [http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies\\_and\\_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey\\_Dec13.pdf](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 Consulting Pty Ltd (2015) Flora and Vegetation of the Gloster Project Area (Level 2 Survey).
- 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) (2024a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10693/1, received 22 July 2024.
- Regis Resources Ltd (Regis) (2024b) New Purpose Permit Application Duketon Gold Project – Gloster.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2015) Level 1 Fauna Risk Assessment for the Gloster Project Area and Haul Road.
- 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.

## 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.