



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	10694/2
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Regis Resources Limited
<b>Application received:</b>	4 March 2026
<b>Application area:</b>	759 hectares
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral production
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical removal
<b>Tenure:</b>	Mining Leases 38/114, 38/160, 38/262, 38/341, 38/630, 38/1297 and 38/1304 Miscellaneous Licences 38/20, 38/202, 38/203, 38/206, 38/234, 38/364 and 38/365
<b>Location (LGA area):</b>	Shire of Laverton
<b>Colloquial name:</b>	Duketon Gold Project – Southern Tenements

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regis Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 759 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 3,257 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (Regis, 2025b; 2026b). The project is located approximately 49 kilometres north of Laverton, within the Shire of Laverton (GIS Database).

Clearing permit CPS 10694/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 17 October 2024 and was valid from 9 November 2024 to 8 November 2029 (DEMIRS, 2024a; 2024c). The permit authorised the clearing of up to 612 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 2,629 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (DEMIRS, 2024a; 2024c).

On 4 March 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 10694/1 to increase the permit boundary by approximately 628 hectares, to include the entirety of Mining Lease 38/262 (Palliard's Find) and increase the amount of clearing authorised to 759 hectares, to enable mining on this tenement (Regis, 2025b; 2026b). Only a corridor of Mining Lease 38/262 was included within the CPS 10694/1 permit boundary, to allow for the Ben Hur Haul Road (Regis, 2025b; 2026b).

Based on the most recent annual clearing report (reporting period 9 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, received 31 July 2025), a total of 120.04 hectares of native vegetation have been cleared under CPS 10694/1 (Regis, 2025a). None of this clearing was conducted on Mining Lease 38/262 (Regis, 2025a).

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

<b>Decision:</b>	Grant
<b>Decision date:</b>	2 April 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	759 hectares of native vegetation

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a fauna survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), 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;

- the clearing of priority flora being *Eremophila pungens* (Priority 4), *Calytrix praecipua* (Priority 3) and *Lysiandra baeckeoides* (Priority 3);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable breeding habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*);
- the increased risk of terrestrial fauna injury or mortality from mechanical clearing;
- 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 (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.

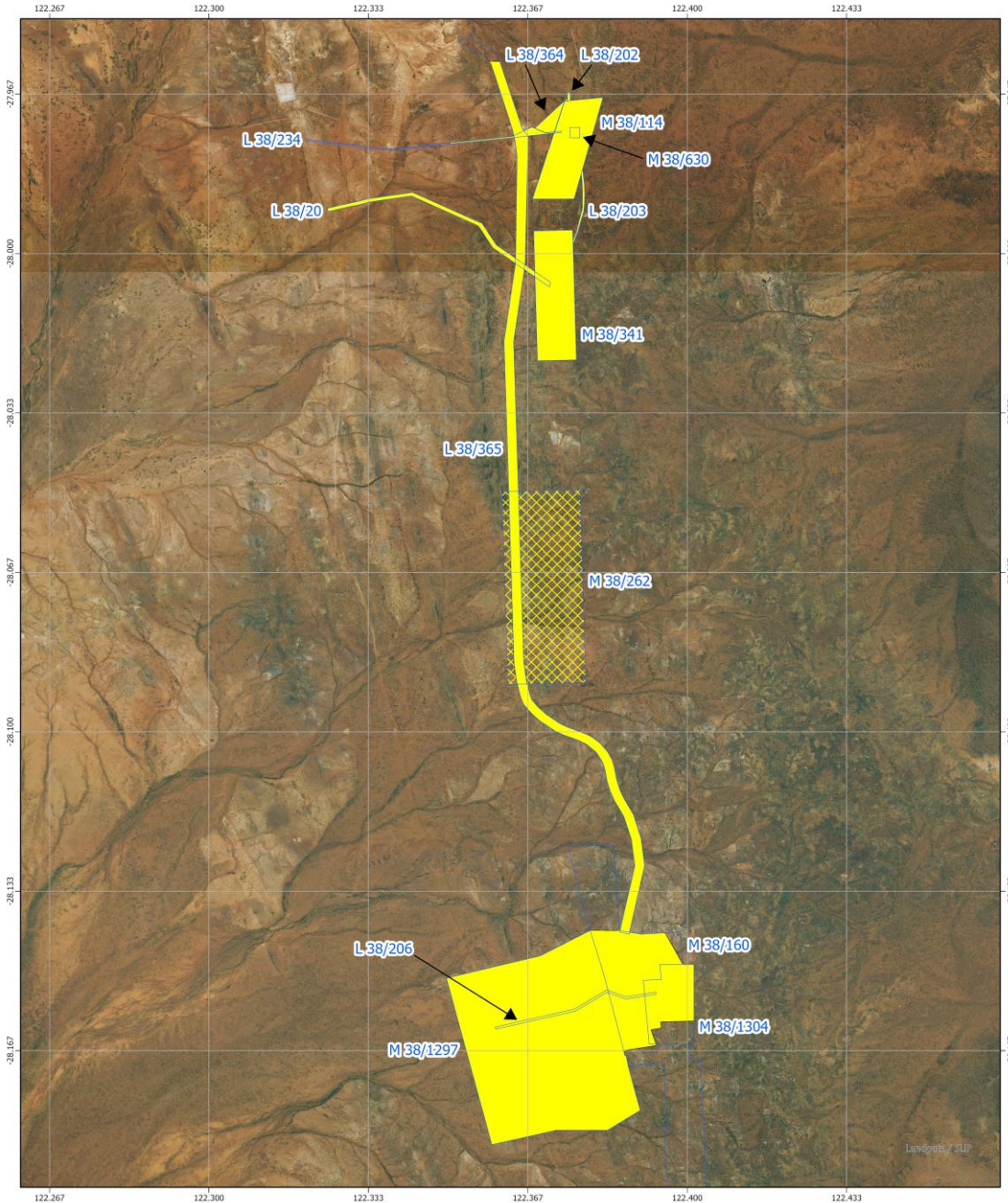
The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests; and
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- 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.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 10694/1, except in the case of principle (b). The changes to the status of southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) since the original assessment is considered under principle (b) in this assessment. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed amendment to authorise the clearing of an additional 147 hectares within an increased permit boundary is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

## **1.5. Site map**

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



**Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow shaded area indicates the area within which clearing was authorised under CPS 10694/1. The yellow cross-hatched area indicates the additional area applied to clear within, under CPS 10694/2.**

**2. Legislative context**

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

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (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:

CPS 10694/2

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act)*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA) (CALM Act)*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*
- *Mining Act 1978 (WA)*
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act)*

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

### 3. Detailed assessment of application

#### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant submitted the following management controls, to assist in the applicant meeting the below environmental objectives (Regis, 2025b):

##### **Management controls:**

- Regis Resources Limited (Regis) will manage clearing using an internal clearing permit system. This system includes checking the proposed activities against the flora and fauna values, priority flora locations, Aboriginal heritage, and other relevant development footprints;
- site inductions cover the importance of minimising vegetation clearing and disturbance;
- site inductions will ensure personnel have an awareness of priority flora expected to occur within the project area;
- site inductions will outline fauna and habitat of conservation significance;
- areas to be cleared will be delineated on project drawings and defined in the field by survey using coloured flagging to indicate the extent of authorised clearing. The site representative, work area supervisor and equipment operator will walk the area to be cleared prior to the commencement of clearing. Conspicuous flagging will be used to identify clearing boundaries;
- personnel involved in clearing activities will be informed about avoidance areas (flora, fauna, heritage areas and other features) and the conditions that apply to each area. All employees will be competent in managing potential risks to these sensitive areas;
- topsoil will be stripped and stockpiled as part of clearing works;
- topsoil will be removed to a depth of 100 millimetres to 300 millimetres, depending on the nature of the material and existing materials balance;
- topsoil will be directly transferred to areas being rehabilitated where possible. Where this is not possible, topsoil will be stored in stockpiles for later use;
- topsoil with adverse soil properties will not be stockpiled for use in rehabilitation;
- topsoil stockpiles will be no higher than three metres and identified on a site plan;
- the Regis Survey Department will undertake monthly reconciliations of land cleared in the past month, a progressive total of land cleared, and locations of topsoil stockpiles, for record keeping and reporting purposes;
- vegetation clearing will be minimised, with preferential use of previously disturbed or degraded areas where possible;
- progressive rehabilitation will be undertaken as soon as practicable;
- priority flora locations near vegetation disturbance footprints are avoided from direct and inadvertent impacts wherever possible;
- dust suppression will be regularly undertaken on high traffic roads to minimise potential dust related impacts on adjacent vegetation;
- all ground engaging, earthmoving and tracked equipment will be cleaned prior to arrival on site to remove all earth, stones or vegetative material, and prior to entering a weed free area to prevent the introduction of weeds and plant pathogens;
- all other general equipment, including light vehicles, will be presented to site in a clean state, free from soil or vegetative material;
- any new weed infestations will be reported as an environmental incident;
- if substantial populations of weeds are identified, targeted weed spraying will be implemented;
- work areas will be inspected for weeds on an ongoing basis;
- no burning of vegetation spoil will occur;
- all disturbed areas no longer required will be landformed and have topsoil applied;
- disused compacted surfaces will be scarified;
- topsoil and vegetation will be respread over disused areas;
- large rocks and logs will be placed in rehabilitation areas to simulate fauna habitats;
- where appropriate, natural drainage patterns will be reinstated;
- where the establishment of supplementary vegetation cover is necessary, local seed and plants will be used in site rehabilitation;
- project design seeks to avoid interaction with drainage where possible. Where drainage interception is required, diversions, culverts, overflows and floodways will be designed to protect people and infrastructure from flooding risks. Design of creek crossings for infrastructure corridors have sought to minimise direct disturbance by crossing

perpendicular to ephemeral drainage lines. Indirect impacts are minimised by allowing for low flow culverts and floodways to avoid restricting flow;

- the establishment and construction of drainage structures will be monitored to ensure compliance with the design specifications;
- diversions, culverts, overflows and floodways will be incorporated into road design to maintain close-to-natural drainage patterns;
- culverts will be designed and constructed to minimise the extent of upstream ponding and the need for outlet drains;
- culverts will be sized to accommodate seasonal flows;
- pipelines will be buried when crossing drainage features;
- habitats with greater conservation value will be planned for avoidance where possible;
- road kills, including those resulting from travel to and from project areas, will be removed from the road and reported as an environmental incident;
- all fauna deaths and feral animal sightings will be reported to the site environmental representative;
- no pets or other animals will be brought onto the site;
- firearms will be prohibited on site; and
- all trenches will be fitted with ramps (as appropriate), and will be filled or closed when no longer required, to avoid entrapment of fauna.

#### **Environmental objectives:**

- Avoid clearing of native vegetation wherever possible;
- limit clearing of native vegetation to approved areas;
- limit disturbance of native vegetation to those areas necessary;
- mitigate impacts to native vegetation;
- undertake activities in a manner to minimise adverse impacts to vegetation;
- strip and stockpile topsoil for use in rehabilitation;
- rehabilitate disturbance areas as soon as practicable;
- prevent and minimise the introduction and spread of weeds within the project area;
- meet legislative requirements with respect to the rehabilitation of relevant project sites and to liaise closely with Government bodies to ensure compliance;
- maintain positive topsoil balances when planning topsoil stripping for new disturbance;
- encourage re-establishment of self-sustaining ecosystems compatible with surrounding undisturbed areas;
- avoid impacts to the quality of surface water wherever possible;
- minimise unavoidable impacts on the quality of surface water;
- avoid unnecessary disturbance to natural surface water drainage;
- minimise impacts to native fauna species during disturbance activities;
- ensure conservation significant fauna are not adversely affected by the project; and
- minimise the spread of pest species.

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**

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 10694/1, except in the case of principle (b). The changes to the status of southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) since the original assessment is considered under principle (b) in this assessment.

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

##### Assessment

##### **Flora**

*Eremophila pungens*, Priority 4, inhabits sandy loam or clayey sand over laterite, on plains ridges, or breakaways (WAH, 1998-). *Eremophila pungens* has been recorded in five locations within the application area, and 146 locations over the entire Duketon Project area (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2026a). The survey submitted in support of this amendment application area identified additional records of this species, with an additional three locations recorded within the application area since the assessment of CPS 10694/1 (DEMIRS, 2024b; Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2026a). *Eremophila pungens* is known from 46 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records within the Murchison, Great Victoria Desert and Gascoyne bioregions. As *Eremophila pungens* is well represented at regional and local scale, and within the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of this species (WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

*Calytrix praecipua*, Priority 3, inhabits skeletal sandy soils over granite, or laterite on breakaways and outcrops (WAH, 1998-). *Calytrix praecipua* has been recorded in one location within the application area, and two locations over the entire Duketon Project area (Regis, 2026a). The survey submitted in support of this amendment application area did not identify any additional records of *Calytrix praecipua* within the application area (Mattiske, 2023). Therefore, the assessment has not changed from the assessment of CPS 10694/1, and the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of *Calytrix praecipua* (DEMIRS, 2024b).

*Lysiandra baeckeoides*, Priority 3, inhabits skeletal loamy soils on lateritic hills or breakaways, and is associated with mulga woodland or shrubland (WAH, 1998-). *Lysiandra baeckeoides* has been recorded in one location within the application area, and six locations over the entire Duketon Project area (Regis, 2026a). The survey submitted in support of this amendment application area did not identify any additional records of *Lysiandra baeckeoides* within the application area (Mattiske, 2023).

Therefore, the assessment has not changed from the assessment of CPS 10694/1, and the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of *Lysiandra baeckeoides* (DEMIRS, 2024b).

### **Fauna**

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, occur within arid and semi-arid woodlands (CALM, n.d.b). The nearest malleefowl record is approximately five kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). As breeding habitat for malleefowl requires a sandy substrate and a dense shrub layer, malleefowl are unlikely to nest within the amendment area (DCCEEW, 2024). This is due to the amendment area consisting of clayey soils with pebbling, rocky outcropping and mostly open vegetation (Mattiske, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Malleefowl may pass through the application area during dispersal.

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), Vulnerable, occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (DBCA, 2025b; DCCEEW, 2023). These areas are usually dominated by *Acacias* or *Eucalypts* on ranges, foothills, lowlands and plains (DCCEEW, 2023). Since the assessment of CPS 10694/1, southern whiteface has increased in conservation significance, being first added to the Priority Fauna List as a Priority 4 species in March 2025, and now listed as Vulnerable since July 2025 (DBCA, 2025a; 2025b). The southern whiteface possibly occurs within the application area as suitable habitat occurs and it has been previously recorded in surveys near the project area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). The southern whiteface may nest in trees and bushes, which occur within the application area (DCCEEW, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). Habitat used for breeding is considered critical for southern whiteface conservation, and should not be cleared (DCCEEW, 2023).

### **Conclusion**

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in an increased risk of malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) injury or mortality due to mechanical clearing, and the loss of habitat that is suitable for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nesting.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

### **Conditions**

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests; and
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

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

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 10 March 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration 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, 2026). The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There is one registered Aboriginal Site of Significance (Place 38764) within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) and their habitats, which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*
- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

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

**End**

## Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 6 March 2026, the applicant provided consolidated spatial data for priority flora recorded in surveys of the Duketon Gold Project area (Regis, 2026a).	This information was considered in the assessment against principle (a).

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The amendment application area is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database).</p> <p>The amendment application area is located within the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion and closely borders the Shield subregion of the Great Victoria Desert bioregion (GIS Database).</p> <p>This clearing permit application, CPS 10694/2 (Duketon Gold Project – Southern Tenements), is adjacent to active Regis Resources Limited clearing permit, CPS 10692/2 (Duketon Gold Project) (DEMIRS, 2024b; DMPE, 2025; GIS Database).</p>
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the amendment 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 53 kilometres north-east of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the amendment area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association:</p> <p><b>18:</b> Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>) (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the amendment area by Matiske (2023) during August 2023. The following vegetation communities were recorded within the amendment area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open mulga shrubland communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A1</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) and <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> tall-open shrubland, over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Psyrdrax rigidula</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i>, and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Frankenia fecunda</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, and <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling;</li> <li>• <b>A3</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, and <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>) and <i>Acacia oswaldii</i> tall-open shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i>, and <i>Psyrdrax suaveolens</i> over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Sida ectogama</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling;</li> <li>• <b>A5</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) and <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> tall-open shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i>, and <i>Psyrdrax suaveolens</i> over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Sida ectogama</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sparse mulga shrubland communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A7</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Senna artemisioides</i>, <i>Psyrdrax suaveolens</i>, and <i>Eremophila galeata</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;</li> <li>• <b>A8</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Senna artemisioides</i>, and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Sida ectogama</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, and <i>Rhagodia eremaea</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling;</li> <li>• <b>A10</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i>) tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> and <i>Psyrdrax suaveolens</i> over low-sparse tussock grassland of <i>Eriachne mucronata</i>, <i>Eragrostis eriopoda</i>, and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> on undulating red clay flats with ironstone and quartz pebbling;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chenopod flat communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>C5</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Senna</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Characteristic	Details
	<p><i>artemisioides</i>, and <i>Eremophila platycalyx</i> over low-sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i>, <i>Sclerolaena eriacantha</i>, and <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> on undulating red-orange, sandy-clay flats with quartz pebbling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage line communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>D2</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, and <i>Acacia caesaneura</i>) and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> tall-open shrubland over mid-open shrubland of <i>Acacia burkittii</i>, <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> over low-open shrubland of <i>Sida ectogama</i>, <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i>, and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> on red clay soils in minor drainage lines;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ridgeline communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>R1</b> - <i>Acacia</i> section <i>Juliflorae</i> (<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>) tall-sparse shrubland over mid-sparse shrubland of <i>Senna artemisioides</i>, <i>Eremophila latrobei</i>, and <i>Psyrax suaveolens</i> over low-sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Eriachne mucronata</i>, and <i>Cheilanthes sieberi</i> on skeletal clay soils on ironstone ridgelines; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cleared land (Mattiske, 2023).</li> </ul>
Vegetation condition	<p>Vegetation surveys of the amendment area found the vegetation to be in very good, good, and completely degraded condition (Mattiske, 2023; Trudgen, 1991).</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.</p>
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 275.7 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).</p> <p>The amendment area is mapped at elevations of 480-540 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).</p>
Soil description and land degradation risk	<p>The amendment area intercepts five land systems (DPIRD, 2026). These land systems are described by DPIRD (2026) and Pringle et al. (1994) as:</p> <p><b>Bevon land system (279Bv):</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>Brooking land system (279Br):</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.</p> <p><b>Felix land system (279Fx):</b> Gently undulating plains with quartz mantles, supporting <i>Acacia-Eremophila</i> shrublands locally with wanderrie grasses. Stone mantles provide effective protection of the soil against erosion.</p> <p><b>Gransal land system (279Gr):</b> Stony plains and low rises on granite, supporting mainly halophytic shrublands. Breakaway footslopes and alluvial plains are respectively highly and moderately susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced. Disturbance of soil surface on these units and on saline stony plains is also likely to initiate soil erosion.</p> <p><b>Jundee land system (279Ju):</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.</p>
Waterbodies	<p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that six minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the amendment area, including Kirkpatrick Creek (GIS Database).</p>
Hydrogeography	<p>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Laverton Water Reserve and Catchment Area located approximately 25 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database).</p> <p>The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).</p>
Flora	<p>Three priority flora species have been recorded within the application area, being <i>Eremophila pungens</i> (Priority 4), <i>Calytrix praecipua</i> (Priority 3) and <i>Lysiandra baeckeoides</i> (Priority 3) (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2026a).</p>
Ecological communities	<p>No threatened or priority ecological communities (TECs or PECs) were recorded in the survey of the amendment area (Mattiske, 2023).</p>

Characteristic	Details
	The Laverton Downs calccrete groundwater assemblage type on Carey palaeodrainage on Laverton Downs Station (Priority 1) occurs approximately 20 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	<p>Eight conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database). The nearest record (malleefowl) was recorded approximately five kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>Southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) has not been recorded within 50 kilometres, but has been included in this assessment, as it is considered possibly occurring (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database; Appendix B.4).</p>
Fauna habitat	<p>A fauna habitat survey was conducted over the amendment area by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) during June 2023. The following fauna habitats were recorded within the amendment area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mulga woodland (including bare areas, areas with few trees, and ephemeral creek lines);</li> <li>rocky outcropping; and</li> <li>disturbed (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).</li> </ul> <p>Representative photographs of fauna habitats are provided in Appendix E.</p>

**B.2. Vegetation extent**

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99	293,505	1.04
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	1,317,179	6.62
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Murchison)					
18	12,403,172	12,403,172	~99	45,094	0.36

Government of Western Australia (2019)

**B.3. Flora analysis table**

The following priority flora species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2024; GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (Mattiske, 2023; Regis, 2024; 2025b; 2026a; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Total locations recorded (application area)	Total locations recorded (Duketon Gold Project)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Eremophila pungens</i>	P4	Y	0	5	146	Y	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Calytrix praecipua</i>	P3	Y	0	1	2	N	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Lysiandra baeckeoides</i>	P3	Y	0	1	6	Y	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Frankenia georgei</i>	P1	Y	<15	0	7	N	Possible
<i>Einadia nutans</i> subsp. <i>nutans</i>	P3	Y	<10	0	2	Y	Unlikely

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Total locations recorded (application area)	Total locations recorded (Duketon Gold Project)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Goodenia</i> sp. Wiluna	P3	Y	<25	0	0	N	Possible
<i>Thryptomene nealensis</i>	P3	Y	<30	0	0	N	Possible
<i>Philotheca tubiflora</i>	P1	Y	<30	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Lechenaultia aphylla</i>	P1	N	<30	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Austrostipa vickeryana</i>	P3	N	<35	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Conospermum toddii</i>	P4	N	<35	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Bossiaea eremaea</i>	P3	N	<50	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Vittadinia cervicularis</i> var. <i>oldfieldii</i>	P1	Y	<50	0	0	Y	Unlikely
<i>Mirbelia stipitata</i>	P3	N	<50	0	0	Y	Unlikely

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

#### B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (CALM, n.d.a; n.d.b; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; 2020; DBCA, 2025b; DCCEE, 2023; 2024; Javidkar et al., 2017; Matiske, 2023; Riley et al., 2021; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database).

Species name		Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common	Scientific	WA	EPBC			
Malleefowl	<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	VU	VU	Y	5.1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Southern whiteface	<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	VU	VU	Y	~186	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Sandhill dunnart	<i>Sminthopsis psammophila</i>	EN	EN	N	32.3	Unlikely
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	MI	MI	N	36.8	Unlikely
Poseidon slater	<i>Paraplatyarthus subterraneus</i>	P1	-	N	39.3	Unlikely
Glossy ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	MI	MI	N	47.6	Unlikely
Gull-billed tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	MI	MI	N	48.1	Unlikely
Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	MI	MI	N	48.1	Unlikely
Banded hare-wallaby	<i>Lagostrophus fasciatus fasciatus</i>	VU	VU	N	49.7	Unlikely

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

## Appendix C. 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> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The additional area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain locally or regionally significant assemblages of plants (Mattiske, 2023; GIS Database). Impacts to significant flora and fauna are further discussed in Section 3.2.1.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i></p>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The proposed clearing may result in the loss of southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) nesting habitat, which is considered critical for the conservation of this species (DCCEEW, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).</p>	<p>May be at variance (changed from CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i></p>
<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 have been recorded within the application area, or within 50 kilometres of the application area (DEMIRS, 2024c; Mattiske, 2023; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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 (TECs) have been recorded within the application area, or within 50 kilometres of the application area (DEMIRS, 2024c; Mattiske, 2023; GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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 local area has not been extensively cleared (GIS Database). The extent of the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2).</p>	<p>Not at variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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 nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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>Given six watercourses are recorded within the amendment application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact an environment associated with a watercourse (GIS Database).</p> <p>The existing vegetation management condition should be maintained on the amended permit (DEMIRS, 2024a).</p>	<p>At variance (as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Land systems mapped within the application area can be susceptible to water erosion, particularly on slopes, in drainage lines or when perennial shrub cover is reduced (DEMIRS, 2024c; DPIRD, 2026; Pringle et al., 1994). As the proposed amendment is to increase the area of clearing authorised, and to increase the boundary in which this clearing can occur, the proposed amendment may increase the risk of appreciable land degradation.</p> <p>The existing vegetation management and staged clearing conditions should be maintained on the amended permit to reduce risk of erosion (DEMIRS, 2024a).</p>	<p>May be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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 watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or groundwater quality.</p>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>
<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 watercourses 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>	<p>Not likely to be at variance</p> <p>(as per CPS 10694/1)</p>	<p>No</p>

**Appendix D. 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 E. Photographs of fauna habitats (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023)**

**Mulga woodlands**



**Rocky outcropping**



**Disturbed**



## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

### F.2. References

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## 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 (now DMPE)
<b>DER</b>	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
<b>DMIRS</b>	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMP</b>	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
<b>DMPE</b>	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
<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> (Commonwealth 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:**

#### Threatened species

**T** Listed by order of the Minister as Threatened in the category of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable under section 19(1), or is a rediscovered species to be regarded as threatened species under section 26(2) of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (BC Act).

**Threatened fauna** is the species of fauna that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

**Threatened flora** is the species of flora that are listed as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable threatened species.

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of

the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria](#), and is based on the national distribution of the species.

**CR Critically endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as critically endangered under section 19(1)(a) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 20 and the ministerial guidelines.

**EN Endangered species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as endangered under section 19(1)(b) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 21 and the ministerial guidelines.

**VU Vulnerable species**

Threatened species considered to be “*facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with criteria set out in the ministerial guidelines*”.

Listed as vulnerable under section 19(1)(c) of the BC Act in accordance with the criteria set out in section 22 and the ministerial guidelines.

**Extinct species**

Listed by order of the Minister as extinct under section 23(1) of the BC Act as extinct or extinct in the wild.

**EX Extinct species**

Species where “*there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 24 of the BC Act).

**EW Extinct in the wild species**

Species that “*is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; and it has not been recorded in its known habitat or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form*”, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 25 of the BC Act).

Currently there are no threatened fauna or threatened flora species listed as extinct in the wild.

**Specially protected species**

**SP Specially protected species**

Listed by order of the Minister as specially protected under section 13(1) of the BC Act. Meeting one or more of the following categories: species of special conservation interest; migratory species; cetaceans; species subject to international agreement; or species otherwise in need of special protection.

Species that are listed as threatened species (critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable) or extinct species under the BC Act cannot also be listed as specially protected species.

**MI Migratory species**

Fauna that periodically or occasionally visit Australia or an external Territory or the exclusive economic zone; or the species is subject of an international agreement that relates to the protection of migratory species and that binds the Commonwealth; and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 15 of the BC Act).

Migratory species include birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) or The Republic of Korea (ROKAMBA), and fauna subject to the *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals* (Bonn Convention), an environmental treaty under the United Nations Environment Program. Migratory species listed under the BC Act are a subset of the migratory animals, that are known to visit Western Australia, protected under the international agreements or treaties, excluding species that are listed as Threatened species.

**CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

Species of special conservation need that are dependent on ongoing conservation intervention to prevent it becoming eligible for listing as threatened, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 14 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species of special conservation interest.

**OS Other specially protected species**

Species otherwise in need of special protection to ensure their conservation, and listing is otherwise in accordance with the ministerial guidelines (section 18 of the BC Act).

Currently only fauna are listed as species otherwise in need of special protection.

**Priority species****P Priority species**

Priority is not a listing category under the BC Act. The Priority Flora and Fauna lists are maintained by the department and are published on the department's website.

All fauna and flora are protected in WA following the provisions in Part 10 of the BC Act. The protection applies even when a species is not listed as threatened or specially protected, and regardless of land tenure (State managed land (Crown land), private land, or Commonwealth land).

Species that may possibly be threatened species that do not meet the criteria for listing under the BC Act because of insufficient survey or are otherwise data deficient, are added to the Priority Fauna or Priority Flora Lists under Priorities 1, 2 or 3. These three categories are ranked in order of prioritisation for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to potential listing as threatened.

Species that are adequately known, meet criteria for near threatened, or are rare but not threatened, or that have been recently removed from the threatened species list or conservation dependent or other specially protected fauna lists for other than taxonomic reasons, are placed in Priority 4. These species require regular monitoring.

Assessment of priority status is based on the Western Australian distribution of the species, unless the distribution in WA is part of a contiguous population extending into adjacent States, as defined by the known spread of locations.

**P1 Priority One - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, none on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less) which are potentially at risk. All occurrences are either: very small; or on lands not managed for conservation, for example, agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, road and rail reserves, gravel reserves and active mineral leases; or otherwise under threat of habitat destruction or degradation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P2 Priority Two - Poorly-known species – known from few locations, some on conservation lands**

Species that are known from one or a few locations (generally five or less), some of which are on lands managed primarily for nature conservation, for example, national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves and other lands with secure tenure being managed for conservation.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from one or more locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements for threatened listing and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. These species are in urgent need of further survey.

**P3 Priority Three - Poorly-known species – known from several locations**

Species that are known from several locations and the species does not appear to be under imminent threat or from few but widespread locations with either large population size or significant remaining areas of apparently suitable habitat, much of it not under imminent threat.

Species may be included if they are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them. These species need further survey.

**P4 Priority Four - Rare, Near Threatened and other species in need of monitoring**

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

**Principles for clearing native vegetation:**

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.