Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	107231/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Barto Gold Mining Pty Ltd
Application received:	13 August 2024
Application area:	250 Hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Gold Extraction and Processing
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 77/74, 77/75, 77/1054, 77/137, 77/431, 77/597 and 77/640 General Purpose Licences 77/74, 77/75
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Yilgarn
Colloquial name:	Yilgarn Star Deposit

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Barto Gold Mining Pty Ltd (Barto Gold) proposes to clear up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 835.82 hectares for the purpose of extending an open pit and mining related infrastructure. The project is located approximately 45 kilometres south-east of Southern Cross, within the Shire of Yilgarn.

The application is to allow for the extention of the Yilgarn Star pit, associated Waste Rock Dump (WRD), and infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	4 June 2026
Decision area:	250 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was made in accordance with section 51E of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and was received by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety ((now known as the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE)) on 13 August 2024. 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 A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate the replacement of drainage culverts along a haul road.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora; *Acacia asepala* (Priority 2) and *Lepidosprma* sp. Parker Range (Priority 1); and
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) Tree-stem trapdoor spider (*Aganippe castellum*), central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*), and red-tailed phascogale, (*Phascogale calura*).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- Undertake an inspection of areas to be cleared ahead of clearing activities to ensure that no active Malleefowl mounds are present;
- A Chuditch management condition;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat

ahead of the clearing activity; and

1.5. Site map

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

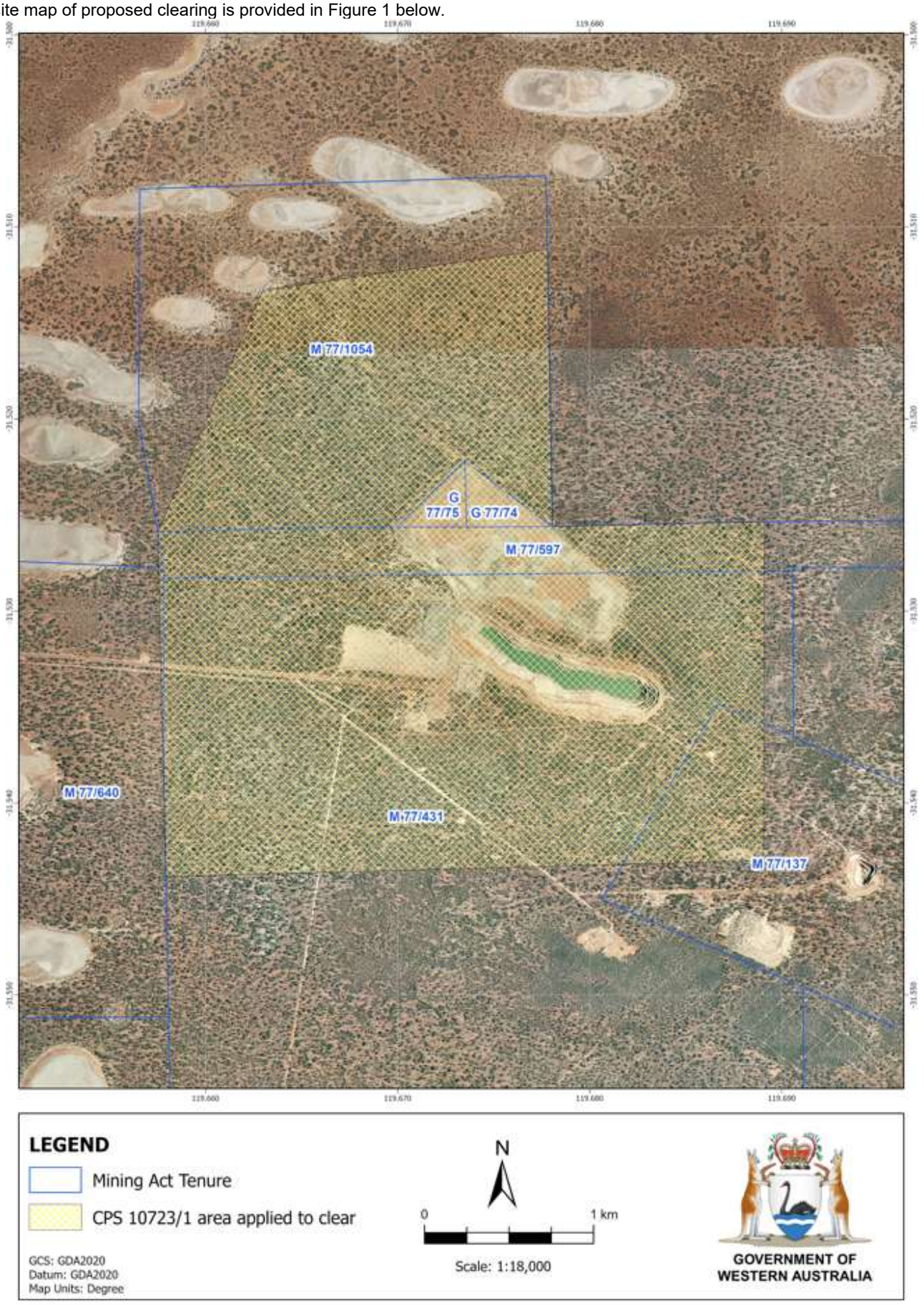

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treatys) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

During a site inspection carried out in May 2026, Barto Gold demonstrated a GIS mapping tracking of clearance activities for exploration drilling. The system also included preclearing surveys, including the marking of conservation significant flora with flagging tape and avoiding where possible. The assessing officer discussed the possibility of using a similar system of preclearance survey for the current application, Barto gold agreed a preclearance survey condition to be implemented for the current application. 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 identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological Values, fauna, flora and vegetation. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values - Clearing Principle (a)

Assessment

Priority flora:

Flora surveys carried out by Stantec (2021) and Botanica (2025) recorded a total of 74 and 67 species respectively over the application area, of which 5 were introduced species. There were 41 conservation significant flora were recorded in the local area (20 kilometre radius) comprising 40 Priority species and one Threatened species (GIS Database). Of the conservation significant specie in the local area two transect the application area, *Acacia asepala* P2 and *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range P1.

Acacia asepala is a perennial shrub that grows to 1-1.5 meters tall. The species was recorded within the southeast corner of the application area, within Mining Lease (M) 77/137, from 19 locations. Subpopulations at each location ranged from 1 to 50 individuals (Stantec, 2021). A portion of the *Acacia asepala* population within M 77/137 transects an area of clearing proposed for the Mundy Hills Open Pit and abandonment bund. It is estimated that up to 40 percent of the recorded sub populations may be impacted by the proposed clearing. However, additional subpopulations of *Acacia asepala* are known to occur outside the application area (see Section F, Figure 3) (Stantec, 2021). Therefore, the local impact to this species are likely to be reduced. The subpopulations recorded in the application area and surroundings represent the northwest boundary of this species distribution, comprising eight additional populations distributed along 35 to 65 kilometre corridor ranging from Marvel Loch, 167 kilometres south to Frank Hann National Park (GIS Database).

Impacts to the subpopulation of *Acacia asepala* intersecting the proposed Mundy Hills Open Pit and abandonment bund may be reduced by implementing the system of flagging and mapping as discussed in Section 3.1 above. Although some subpopulations are likely to be impacted by the proposed clearing, this number can be reduced if operators are aware of population locations through the flagging of individual plants. Given there are a number of additional records for *Acacia asepala* in the local area and the species is wide ranging regionally, including a known population in a National Park (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to have a significant impact on local and regional populations of *Acacia asepala*.

Lepidosperma sp. Parker Range is a perennial dryland sedge that grows up to 40 centimetres in height. It was recorded at one location within the application area (see Section F Figure 4) (Stantec, 2021). This subpopulation was comprised of 12 plants and was located within M 77/431, south of the Yilgarn Pit, approximately 10 meters east of an area proposed to be cleared for a laydown area. The nearest record for this species is 14 kilometres to the southwest on Crown Land. There are four records in total, ranging from Mt Dimer, approximately 160 kilometres to the north of the application area, and Kambalda West, approximately 167 kilometres to the east. Although the *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range subpopulation recorded in the application does not intersect any areas currently proposed for clearing, its proximity to the proposed laydown area my result in roll-over clearing by mobile plant during construction or impacts from dust during operation. As the species is a relatively small herbaceous plant, it may be vulnerable to impacts from weed infestation. To ensure avoidance, *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range would benefit from the flagging and mapping of the population within the application area.

Priority ecological communities (PEC):

The plant assemblages of the Parker Range System PEC forms a mosaic of Eucalyptus open woodland and some tall shrub thicket communities, following a band of greenstone starting 15 kilometres south east of Marvel Loch and extending south approximately 30 kilometres to Cheritons Find. The system also includes the areas of the Toomey Hills to the east and Harris Find to the northeast (Gibson and Lyons, 1998). The Parker Range System PEC covers a total area of 94,714.83 hectares, of which 5,387.1 hectares occur within Jilbadji Nature Reserve (GIS Database). The Parker Range System is comprised of six distinct vegetation types (Gibson and Lyons, 1998). Within the application area, vegetation type EsuElEsMpSaEaAmAv (see Appendix E) was identified as analogous to Community Type 3 of the Parker Range System (see appendix A.1) (Stantec, 2021). This vegetation type covers 160.6 hectares of the application area (Stantec, 2021), intersecting M 77/1054, M 77/597, M 77/431 and M 77/137. Approved mining activities intersecting the Parker Range System PEC include waste rock landform, topsoil storage, laydown areas, the Mundy Hills Open Pit, abandonment bunds, and roads covering a total area of approximately 85 hectares. This is equivalent to 52 percent of the Parker Range System PEC within Barto Gold tenements. However, based on Stantec (2021) vegetation mapping, the area identified as the Parker Range System represents 0.16 percent of the total 94,714.83 hectares of PEC. It is not likely that the proposed clearing will significantly impact the values and conservation status of this PEC.

Conservation significant fauna

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on *Acacia asepala*, can be managed by limiting the amount of individuals cleared. The species *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range can be managed by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds, and demarcation of the population to avoid clearing.

Conditions

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

- No more than 50 individuals of *Acacia asepala* to be cleared
- No clearing within 10 meters of *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range

3.2.2. Biological values - Clearing Principle (b)

There are five records of conservation significant fauna in the local area (GIS Database). comprising two Priority species, one Specially Protected - conservation dependent and two Threatened species (see appendix B.3). Of the conservation significant specie in the local area one record for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) transacted the application area. Field fauna surveys undertaken by Stantec (2021) in April and September 2020 included three motion sensing cameras placed in areas likely to support fauna of significance. Stantec (2021) did not detect any conservation significant fauna within the application area. However, two fauna habitat types identified within the application area; Eucalyptus Woodland and Eucalyptus Stoney Rise, were identified as important to a number of conservation significant species (Stantec, 2021).

Tree hollows present in the Eucalyptus Woodlands habitat may provide denning habitat for red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*), tree-stem trapdoor spider (*Aganippe castellum*), and central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*). Potential impacts to the above species as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a fauna management condition.

Large woody debris and logs present in the Eucalyptus Woodlands habitat may provide denning habitat for the Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*). The application area is considered to comprise both foraging and sheltering habitat for this species. Potential impacts to Chuditch as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a fauna management condition. This will may a pre-clearing inspection for dens and may require relocation of individuals occupying identified dens.

No evidence of Malleefowl was identified within the application area, however a high number of both active and inactive mounds have been recorded in the local area (Stantec, 2021). The application area contains suitable dense shrub cover and leaf litter on substrates, suitable for building mounds. Potential impacts to Malleefowl resulting from the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a fauna management condition.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in some loss of habitat for conservation significant fauna species. Individuals may be impacted by the proposed clearing however, the impact to fauna may be minimised by the implementation of conditions on the permit.

Conditions

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

- Directional clearing, which requires slow, progressive, one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to disperse ahead of the clearing activity should they occur on site at the time of clearing;
- a pre-clearance survey for Malleefowl mounds, where areas proposed to be cleared during the Malleefowl breeding season;
- a pre-clearance survey for Chuditch individuals and dens, and where individuals or dens have been identified, either relocated into adjacent suitable habitat, or replacement dens are installed in adjacent suitable habitat.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 22 November 2024 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There was one native title claim over the area under application WAD38/2022, (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993,* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*. There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining development and 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 approximately 46.5 kilometres southeast of Southern Cross and forms part of an expansive tract of native vegetation, within the Coolgardie IBRA region. Spatial data indicates the local area (20-kilometre radius from the application area) retains approximately 97.58 percent of the original native vegetation cover (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	The vegetation within the local area is relatively undisturbed, with little to no fragmentation. The application area does not function as an ecological linkage.
Conservation areas	Conservation areas and their distance from the application area is listed below: • Jilbadji Nature Reserve is located approximately 1.6 kilometres east area, • Yellowdine Nature Reserve is approximately 16 kilometres north.
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: Parker 1068 – Described as Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. *Eucalyptus loxophleba, E. salmonophloia*. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. E. *salubris, E. oleosa*. Riverine; rivergum *E. camaldulensis* (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Stantec (2021) during April 2020 (two days), October 2020 (two days) and March 2021 (two days). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Stantec, 2021): • ElEsuMpEaEsAv: *Eucalyptus longicornis* and *Eucalyptus salubris* woodland over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila scoparia* scattered shrubs over *Atriplex vesicaria* low open shrubland. • EsuElEsMpSaEaAmAv: *Eucalyptus salubris*, *Eucalyptus longicornis* and *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* and *Santalum acuminatum* tall open shrubland over *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Acacia merrallii* open shrubland over *Atriplex vesicaria* low open shrubland. • ElEcEyAmEiiAbEaDs: *Eucalyptus longicornis* woodland over *Eucalyptus corrugata* and *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis* low open woodland over *Acacia merrallii*, *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* and *Alyxia buxifolia* tall open shrubland over *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Dodonaea s*tenozyga open shrubland. • EcAaaEaMsAbAl: *Eucalyptus capillosa* open woodland over *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* tall open shrubland over *Melaleuca scalena* open shrubland over *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Acrotriche lancifolia* scattered low shrubs. Vegetation type EsuElEsMpSaEaAmAv was found analogous with the Community type 3 (Gibson. and Lyons. 1998). This vegetation type is described as: Community type 3 also occurred on the broad flats within the greenstone belt. It was usually dominated by *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *E. salubris.* Typical understorey species of this community include *Eremophila oppositifolia, Acacia concolorans, Dodonaea stenozyga* and *Scaevola spinescens.* It had a higher mean species richness (12.9) than type 2 (10.0) (Gibson and Lyons, 1998). A recognisance survey was also carried out by Botanica (2025) during October, identifying similar vegetation types.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Stantec, 2021) indicate, the vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from Excellent to (Keighery 1994) to Completely Degraded (Keighery 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Representative photos are available in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Southern Cross subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 399 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 360-400 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Land forms mapped (GIS Database) with the application area include: • Alluvial plains adjacent to salt lakes, supporting eucalypt (morrel) woodlands with saltbush understoreys • Ferruginous greenstone footslopes, rolling rises and colluvial slopes, supporting eucalypt woodlands with non-halophytic understoreys • Rounded low greenstone hills and rolling rises, supporting eucalypt woodlands with non-halophytic understoreys and allocasuarina thickets

Characteristic	Details
Soil description	The soil is mapped as: • My44 atlas system: Red loamy earth • DD15 atlas system: Calcareous loamy earth • SV2 atlas system: Salt lake soil
Land degradation risk	The application area is located in a region of poor soil mapping, and no soil risk factors is available. Barto Gold caried out a soil study in 2025 (Barto Gold, 2025). The study found that soils within the application area had the characteristics of red sandy clay and not highly dispersive.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared. The nearest watercourse in the local area is a non-perennial minor channel three kilometres northeast east. A series of un-named nonperennial saline lakes runs north to south along the western permitter of the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within Goldfields Groundwater Area Management Plan under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act).
Flora	There are 41 conservation significant flora recorded in the local area are listed in section C.3.
Ecological communities	The application area transects the Priority Ecological community; Plant assemblages of the Parker Range System, listed as priority 3.
Fauna	There are five species of conservation significant fauna recorded in the local area (see section C4).

A.2 Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent Remaining %	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA Managed Lands
IBRA Subregion - Southern Cross	6,010,832.78	5,773,838.44	96.6	1,441,842.96	24.02
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. Parker 1068	268,900	142,088	52.84	16,761.06	6.24
Local Area					
20 kilometre radius	149830.66	140075.75	93.48	-	-

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3 Flora analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Acacia asepala	P2	Y	Y	Y	0	21	Y
Lepidosperma sp. Parker Range	P1	Y	Y	Y	0	1	N
Grevillea phillipsiana	P1	Y	Y	Y	2.17	1	N
Hakea pendens	P3	Y	Y	Y	2.17	31	N
Lepidium genistoides	P3	Y	Y	Y	3.8	2	N

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Acacia merrickiae	P4	Y	Y	Y	5.2	1	N
Microseris walteri	P3	N	N	N	5.4	2	N
Eucalyptus polita subsp. *polita*	P3	Y	Y	Y	6.6	9	N
Notisia intonsa	P3	Y	Y	Y	6.7	3	N
Eucalyptus calycogona subsp. *miraculum*	P1	Y	Y	Y	6.7	3	N
Eucalyptus urna subsp. *xesta*	P3	Y	Y	Y	6.7	3	N
Goodenia heatheriana	P1	Y	Y	Y	6.7	7	N
Millotia newbeyi	P1	Y	Y	Y	6.8	4	N
Eremophila inflata	P4	Y	Y	Y	7.6	5	N
Prostanthera nanophylla	P4	Y	Y	Y	7	1	N
Melichrus sp. Coolgardie	P1	Y	Y	Y	7.2	1	N
Microcorys sp. Forrestania	P4	Y	Y	Y	7.5	1	N
Acacia desertorum var. *nudipes*	P3	Y	Y	N	12	1	N
Chamelaucium sp. Parker Range	P1	N	Y	N	12.3	9	N/A
Lepidosperma sp. Parker Range	P1	Y	Y	N	12.8	1	N/A
Verticordia stenopetala	P3	Y	Y	Y	12.9	12	N
Rinzia torquata	P3	Y	Y	Y	13	2	N
Verticordia multiflora subsp. solox	P3	N	N	N	13	8	N/A
Balaustion grandibracteatum subsp. *grandibracteatum*	P3	Y	Y	Y	13.1	3	N
Acacia concolorans	P2	Y	Y	Y	13.2	13	N
Verticordia mitodes	P3	Y	Y	Y	13.2	3	N
Westringia acifolia	P1				13.3	13	
Leucopogon validus	P1	Y	Y	Y	13.5	6	N
Isopogon robustus	T	N	N	N	13.5	16	N/A
Hemigenia glaucissima	P1	Y	Y	Y	13.7	2	N
Lepidosperma sp. Mt Caudan	P1	N	N	N	14	5	N/A
Eutaxia lasiocalyx	P2	N	N	N	14.6	1	
Acacia crenulata	P3	Y	Y	Y	14.8	1	N
Balaustion grandibracteatum subsp. *junctura*	P2	N	N	N	15	1	N/A
Balaustion grandibracteatum subsp. *junctura*	P3	N	N	N	15	1	N/A
Cryptandra crispula	P3	N	N	N	15	2	N/A
Stenanthemum bremerense	P4	Y	Y	Y	15.7	1	N
Rinzia medifila	P1	Y	Y	Y	16.54	1	N
Eremophila caerulea subsp. *merrallii*	P4	Y	Y	Y	16.9	2	N
Grevillea prostrata	P4	Y	Y	Y	17.1	1	N
Melaleuca grieveana	P1	N	Y	N	17.2	2	N
Acacia desertorum var. *nudipes*	P3	Y	Y	N	17.8	1	N
Prostanthera nanophylla	P3	Y	Y	Y	18.8	1	N

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

A.4 Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*)	T-VU	Y	Y	0	8	
malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	T-VU	Y	Y	0	25	Y
Tree-stem trapdoor spider (*Aganippe castellum*)	P4	Y	Y	8.5	1	Y
central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*)	P3	N	N	13.9	1	Y
red-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale calura*)	*	Y	Y	16.3	1	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority * Specially Protected - conservation dependent

A.5 Ecological community analysis table

Community name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Plant assemblages of the Parker Range System	P3	Yes	yes	Yes	0	160.6 ha* Mapped within the Application area	Y

*Based on mapping from (Stantec, 2021)

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains locally significant flora. A portion of the application area is mapped as the 'Plant assemblages of the Parker Range System (Priority 3) priority ecological community (PEC).	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain foraging, and, breeding, habitat for conservation significant fauna.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment:	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.		
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a Threatened Ecological Community (Stantec, 2021).	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped native vegetation in the local area, is not considered a highly cleared area as is above 30 percent cover. This is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance	*No*
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of Jilbadji Nature approximately 1.6 kilometres east of the application area.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.	Not at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The surveyed soils are not susceptible to wind or water erosion, nutrient export, salinity. Noting the location of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given no watercourses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not 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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

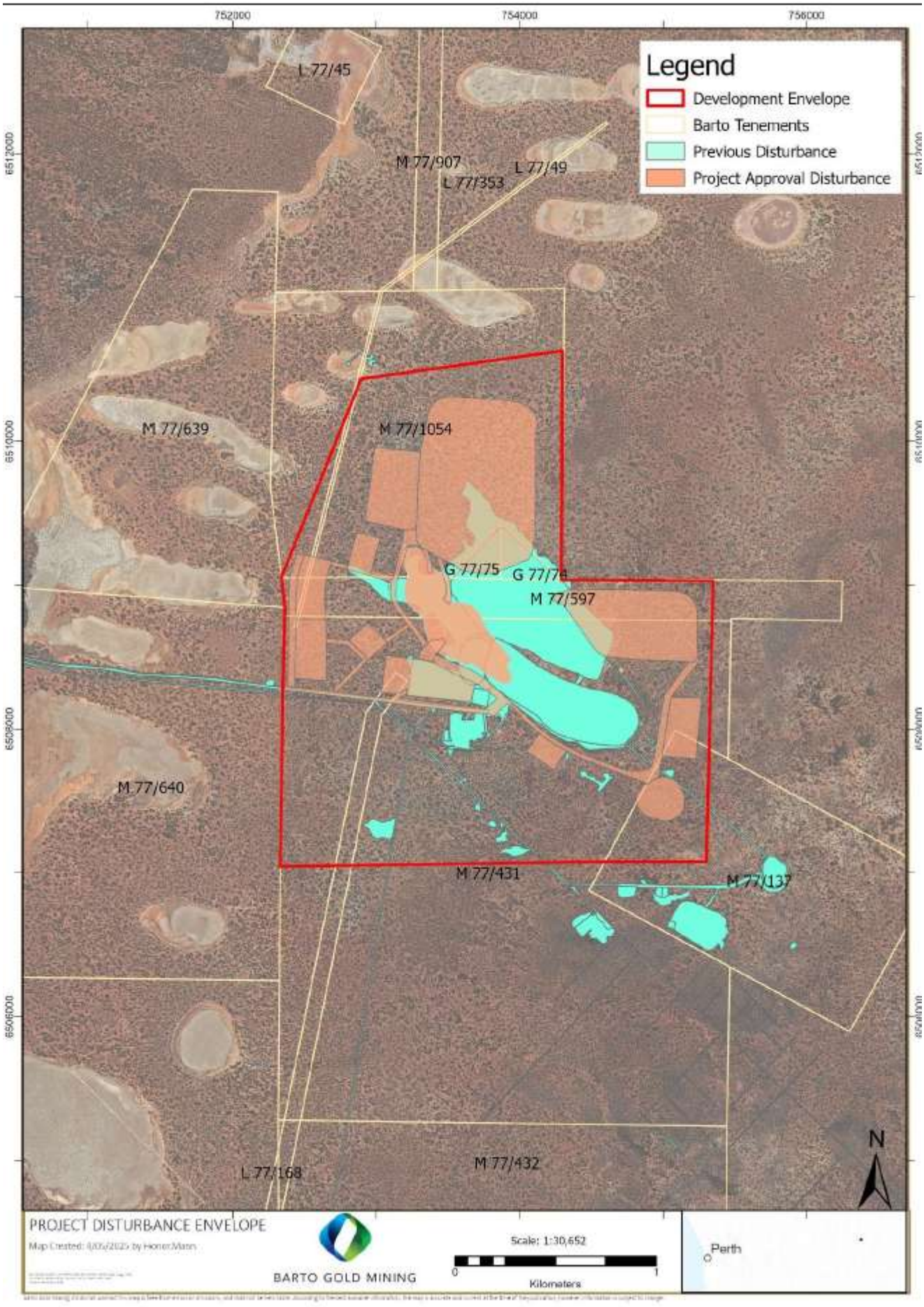

Figure 2 the application and areas of prosed clearing, Labelled as Project approved disturbance in the legend. (from Barto Gold 2026)

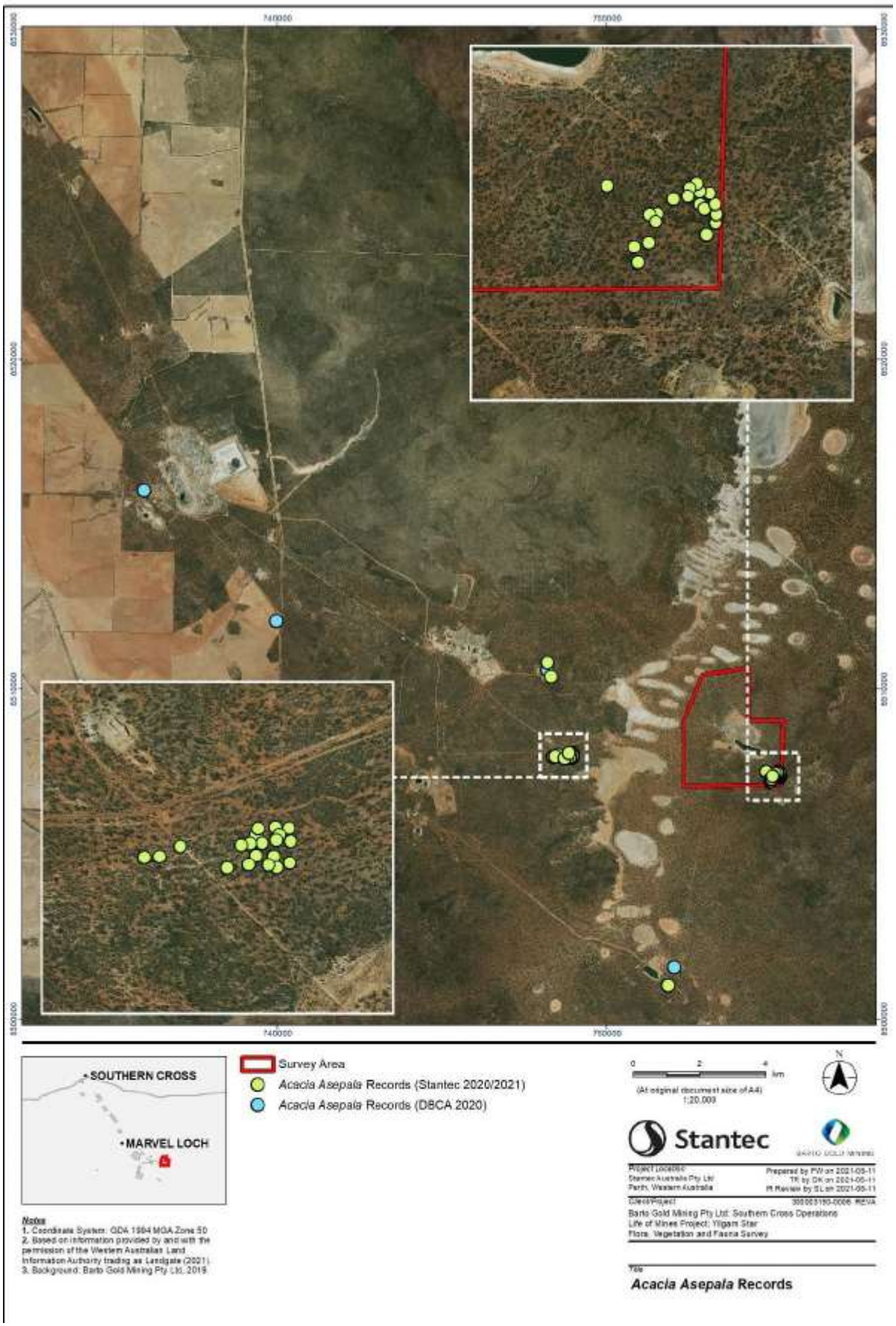

Figure 3. The distribution of *Acacia asepala* within the application area and surround area (from Stantec 2021)

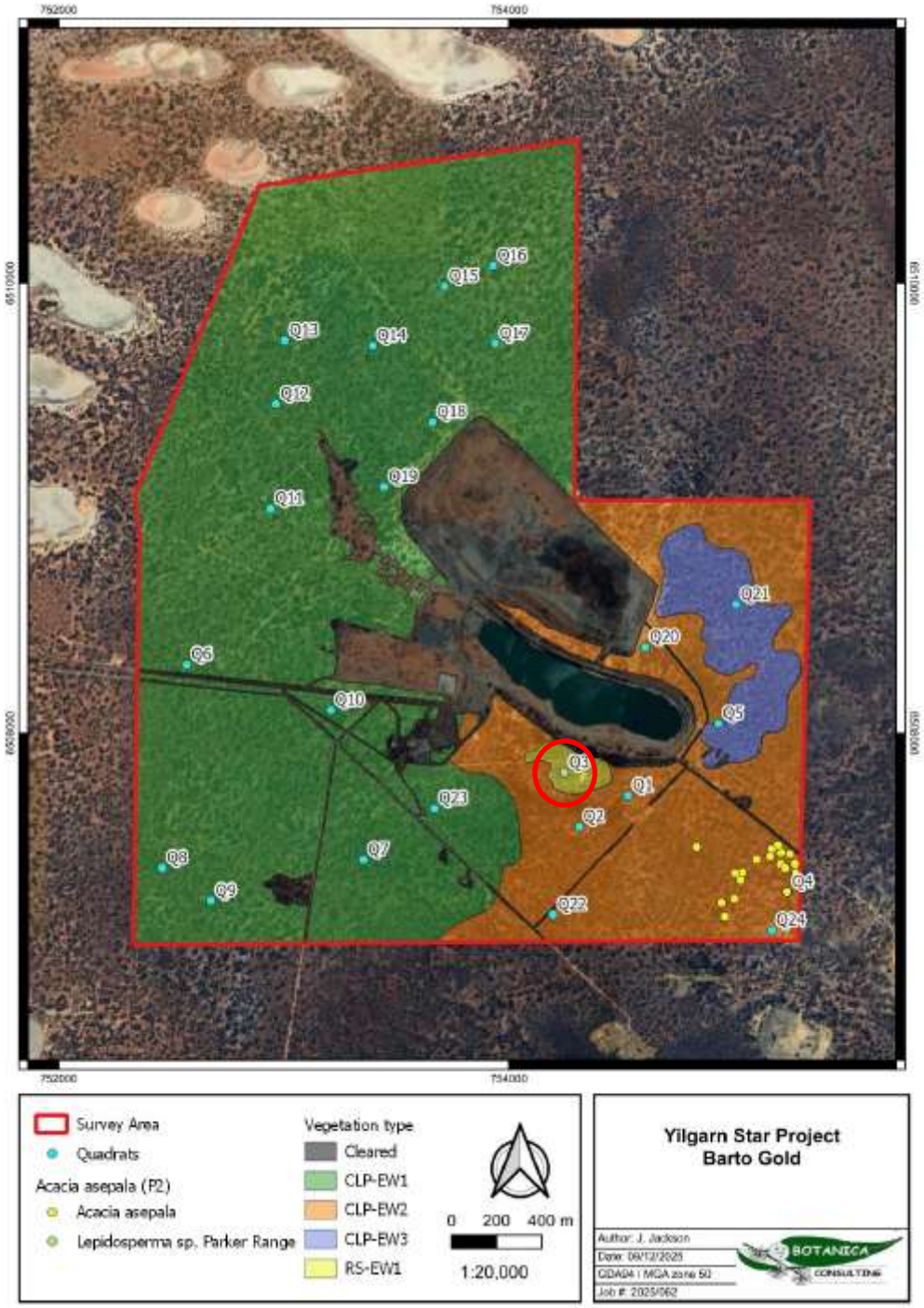

Figure 4. The distribution of *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range (circled in Red) within the application area (from Botanica 2025).

Vegetation type code	Vegetation type description	Sample sites	Extent within Survey Area		Representative photograph
			Hectares (ha)	Proportion of Survey Area (%)	
ElEsuMpEaEsAv	*Eucalyptus longicornis* and *Eucalyptus salubris* woodland over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* and *Exocarpus aphyllus* tall open shrubland over *Eremophila scoparia* scattered shrubs over *Atriplex vesicaria* low open shrubland. **Associated species** *Acacia merrallii, Austrostipa elegantissima, Eremophila ionantha, Lycium australe, Olearia muelleri, Podolepis lessonii, Rhagodia drummondii, Roepera apiculate, Roepera glauca, Roepera ovata, Santalum acuminatum, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*	QLoM43 QLoM44 QLoM45 LoM01 LoM02 LoM28 LoM29	489.96	58.64	

EsuElEsMpSaEaAmAv	*Eucalyptus salubris, Eucalyptus longicornis* and *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* and *Santalum acuminatum* tall open shrubland over *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Acacia merrallii* open shrubland over *Atriplex vesicaria* low open shrubland. **Associated species** *Austrostipa elegantissima, Erymophyllum ramosum* subsp. *ramosum, Ptilotus exaltatus, Ptilotus holosericeus, Rhagodia drummondii, Sclerolaena diacantha, Sclerolaena drummondii, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Templetonia ceracea*	LoM04 LoM06 QYs02	160.06	19.16	
ElEcEyAmEiiAbEaDs	*Eucalyptus longicornis* woodland over *Eucalyptus corrugata* and *Eucalyptus yilgarnensis* low open woodland over *Acacia merrallii, Eremophila interstans* subsp. interstans and *Alyxia buxifolia* tall open shrubland over *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Dodonaea stenozyga* open shrubland. **Associated species** *Amyema miquelii, Eremophila interstans subsp. interstans, Olearia muelleri, Rhagodia drummondii, Scaevola spinescens, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia'*	LoM05 QYs03	34.16	4.09	
EcAaaEaMsAbAl	*Eucalyptus capillosa* open woodland over *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* tall open shrubland over *Melaleuca scalena* open shrubland over *Alyxia buxifolia* and *Acrotriche lancifolia* scattered low shrubs. **Associated species** *Acacia erinacea, Austrostipa elegantissima, Dodonaea microzyga var. acrolobata, Eremophila granitica, Eremophila oppositifolia subsp. angustifolia, Lepidosperma sanguinolentum, Microcybe multiflora* subsp. *multiflora*	rLoM01 QYs01	5.15	0.62	

Figure 5. Extracts from Stantec (2021) floristic survey: Vegetation types recorded in the application area.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Clearing Regulations – Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

E.2. References

Barto Gold Pty (2025) Mining proposal Yilgarn Star open pit extension project, Mining Proposal submitted in support of a mining proposal (Reg Id 500592)

Botanica (2025) Yilgarn Star Project Detailed / Vegetation Survey, Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. Prepared for Barto Gold Mining Pty Ltd, by Botanica consulting, December 2025

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

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

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/AHIS/index.html?viewer=AHIS (Accessed 15 May 2026).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. Available from: https://dwer.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Procedure_Native_vegetation_clearing_permits_v1.pdf

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

Gibson, N. and Lyons, M. N. (1998) Flora and Vegetation of the Eastern Goldfields Ranges: Part 3. Parker Range. Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia 81: 119-129.

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

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Stantec (2021) Lenneberg Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document. Prepared for Barto Gold Mining Pty Ltd, by Stantec Australia Pty Ltd, March 2021.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DAWE	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DAWE)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2019) 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 that subset of 'Specially Protected Fauna' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for Threatened Fauna.

Threatened flora is that subset of 'Rare Flora' listed under schedules 1 to 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for Threatened Flora.

The assessment of the conservation status of these species is based on their national extent and ranked according to their level of threat using IUCN Red List categories and criteria as detailed below.

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. Published under schedule 1 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for critically endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for critically endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 2 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for endangered fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for endangered flora.

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. Published under schedule 3 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for vulnerable fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for vulnerable flora.

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).

Published as presumed extinct under schedule 4 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018* for extinct fauna or the *Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018* for extinct flora.

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. If listing of a species as extinct in the wild occurs, then a schedule will be added to the applicable notice.

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).

Includes birds that are subject to an agreement between the government of Australia and the governments of Japan (JAMBA), China (CAMBA) and 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.

Published as migratory birds protected under an international agreement under schedule 5 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**
Fauna of special conservation need being species 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).

Published as conservation dependent fauna under schedule 6 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

OS **Other specially protected species**
Fauna 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).

Published as other specially protected fauna under schedule 7 of the *Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018*.

P **Priority species:**

Possibly threatened species that do not meet survey criteria, 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 priority for survey and evaluation of conservation status so that consideration can be given to their declaration as threatened fauna or flora.

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

Assessment of Priority codes 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**
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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under immediate threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly-known species**
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, e.g. 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 and appear to be under threat from known threatening processes. Such species are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly-known species**
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. Such species are in need of 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 Conservation Dependent.
(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

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.