GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10815/1
Permit Holder:	Shell Energy Operations Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 25 April 2025 to 25 April 2030

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of the construction of a wind farm and a transmission line.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 3 on Deposited Plan 67820, Kondinin
Lot 15100 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 16619 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 16620 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 16621 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 21301 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 21728 on Deposited Plan 146996, Kondinin
Lot 22503 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 23407 on Deposited Plan 147049, Kondinin
Lot 23404 on Deposited Plan 147133, Kondinin
Lot 23412 on Deposited Plan 147029, Kondinin
Lot 23430 on Deposited Plan 147204, Kondinin
Lot 23753 on Deposited Plan 147837, Kondinin
Lot 25704 on Deposited Plan 151492, Kondinin
Lot 25744 on Deposited Plan 155096, Kondinin
Lot 26226 on Deposited Plan 225574, Kondinin
Lot 200 on Deposited Plan 300389, Kondinin
Lot 40 on Deposited Plan 300369, Kondinin
Lot 41 on Deposited Plan 300369, Kondinin
Lot 202 on Deposited Plan 65471, Kondinin
Road Reserve – PIN 11636171, Kondinin
Road Reserve – PIN 11650523, Kondinin
Road Reserve – PIN 11651457, Kondinin
Road Reserve – PIN 1260601, Kondinin

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 4.33 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 to of Schedule 1.

4. Application

This permit allows the permit holder to authorise persons, including employees, contractors and agents of the permit holder, to clear native vegetation for the purposes of this permit subject to compliance with the conditions of this permit and approval from the permit holder.

5. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 25 April 2030

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

7. Weed management

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

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

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

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

8. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner in the direction of adjacent vegetation to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

9. Fauna management – fauna specialist

a) In relation to the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 to 16 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a fauna specialist to inspect that area immediately prior to, and for the duration of clearing activities, for the presence of *threatened fauna*.

(b) Clearing activities must cease in any area where fauna referred to in condition 9(a) are identified until either:
  (i) the *threatened fauna*(s) individual has moved on from that area to adjoining suitable habitat; or
  (ii) the *threatened fauna*(s) individual has been removed by a fauna specialist.

(c) Any *threatened fauna* (s) individual removed in accordance with condition 9(b)(ii) must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to a suitable habitat nearby or as otherwise approved by the CEO.

(d) Where fauna is identified under condition 9(a), the permit holder must within 14 calendar days provide the following records to the CEO:

  (i) the species and number of individuals identified;
  (ii) the date each individual was identified;
  (iii) the location where each individual was identified recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  (iv) the number of individuals removed and relocated;
  (v) the relevant qualifications of the *fauna specialist* undertaking removal and relocation;
  (vi) the date each individual was removed;
  (vii) the method of removal;
  (viii) the date each individual was relocated;\
  (ix) the location where each individual was relocated to, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and
  (x) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, an individual.

10. Threatened ecological community and Priority flora management

The permit holder must ensure that the boundaries of the area to be *cleared* are identified and demarcated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA20), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

11. Records that must be kept

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

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred,

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 7.
2.	In relation to fauna management pursuant to condition 9	(a) actions taken to in accordance with condition 8; (b) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with condition 9 of this permit; and (c) a copy of the *fauna specialist*'s report.
3.	In relation to TEC and flora management pursuant to condition 10	(a) actions taken to avoid impacts to the TEC and flora in accordance with condition 10 of this permit.

12. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 11 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
botanist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of two (2) years work experience in Western Australian flora identification and undertaking flora surveys native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid flora licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector*

Term	Definition
	Management Act 1994 (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
priority flora	means those florataxa describes as priority fauna, classes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the *Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority Fauna List for Western Australia* (as amended);
Threatened fauna	means native animals listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

B. Walker.

Belinda Walker
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GREEN ENERGY

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

1 April 2025

Schedule 1

The boundary of the areas authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below.

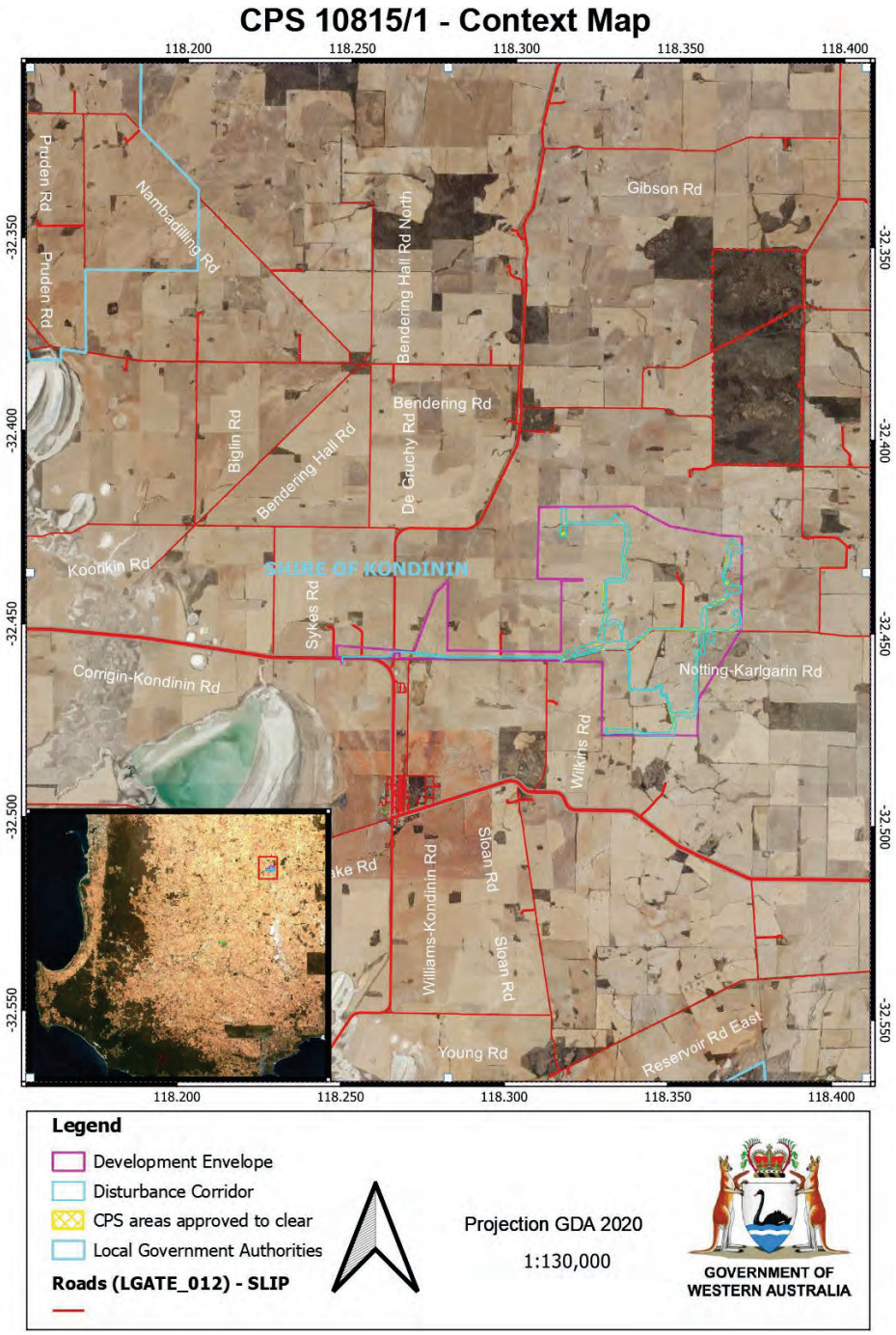

Figure 1. Context Map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

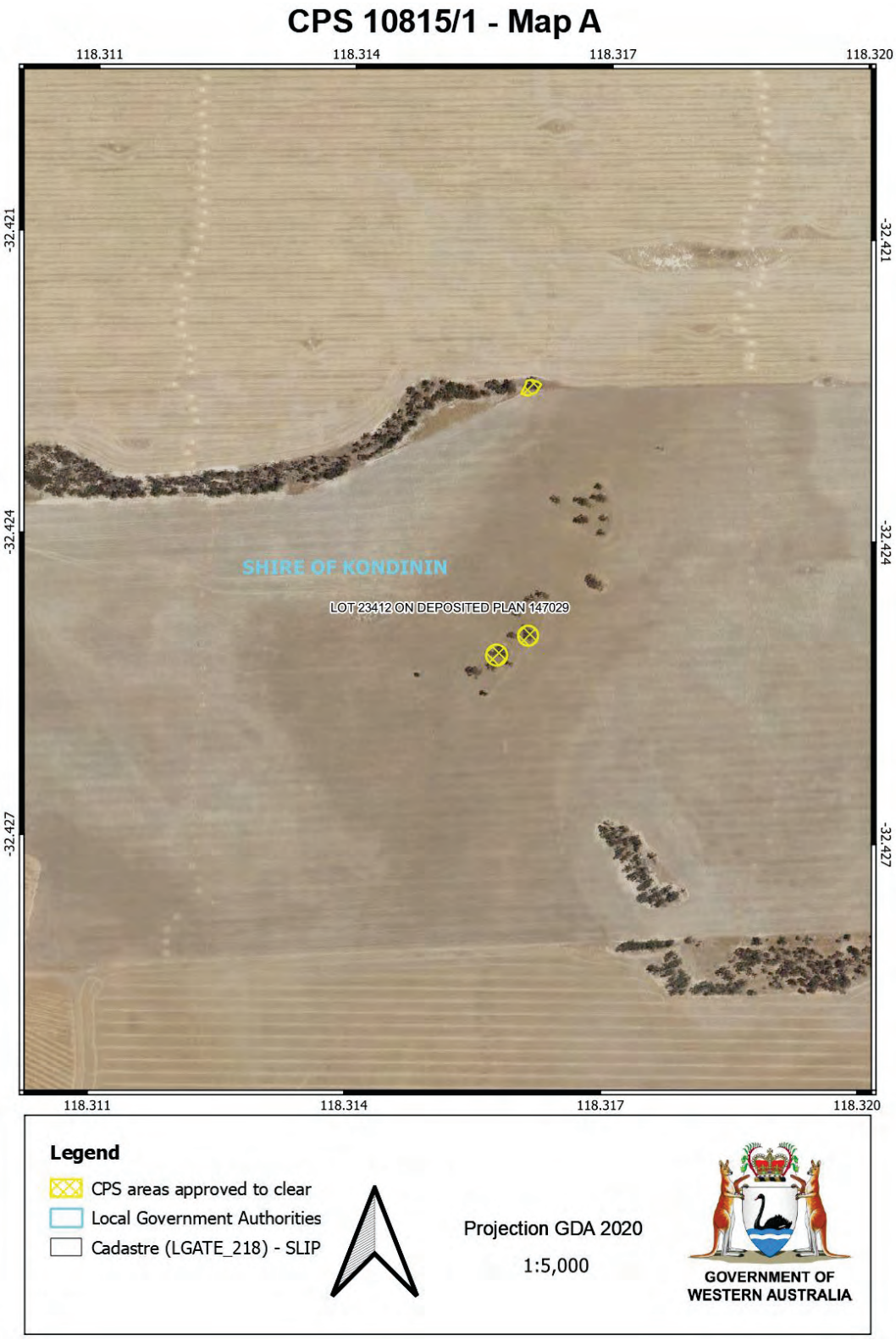

Figure 2. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 3. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 4. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 5. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 6. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 7. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 8. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 9. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 10. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

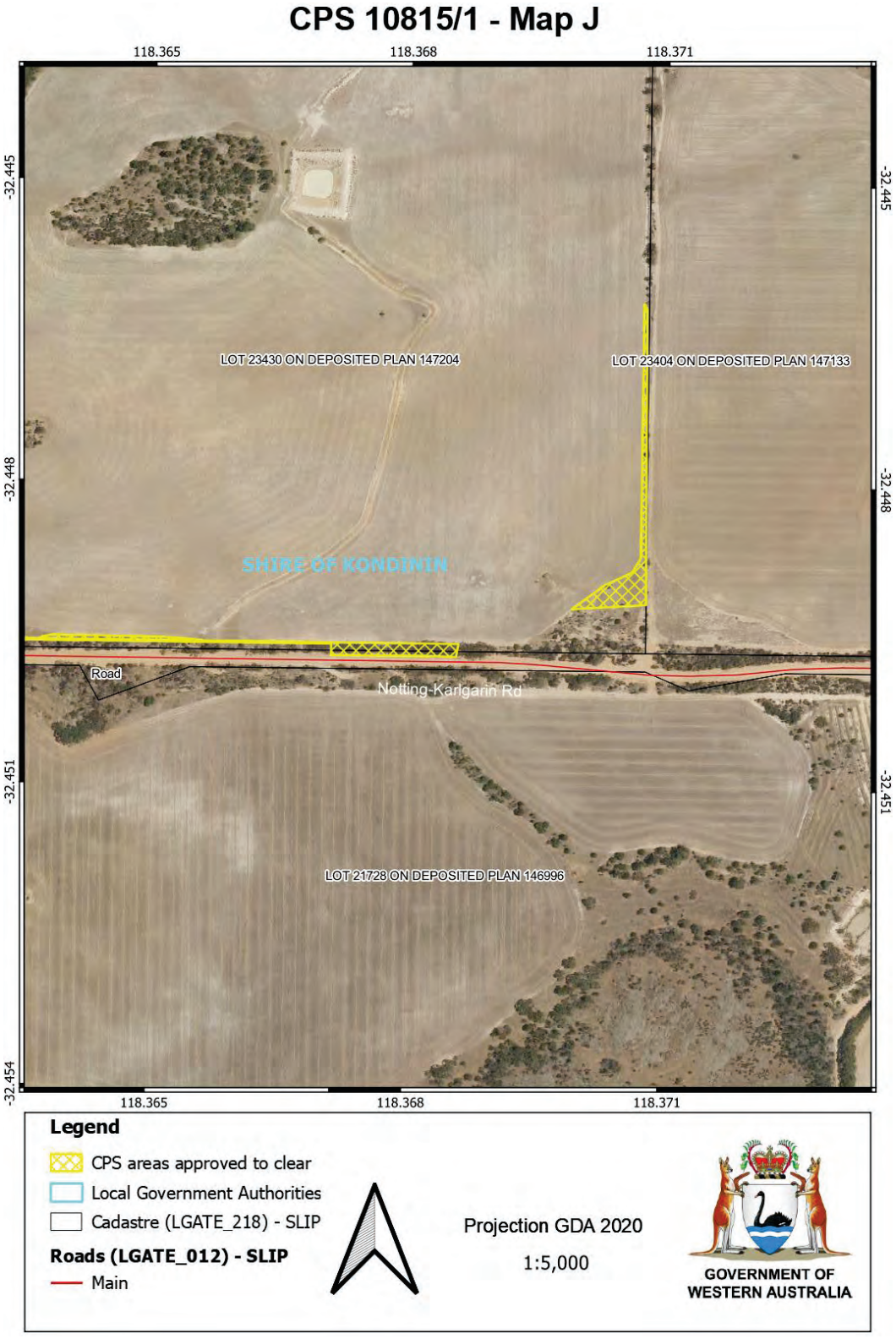

Figure 11. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 12. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 13. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 14. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 15. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 16. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10815/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Kondinin Energy Pty Limited
Application received:	23 October 2024
Application area:	4.33 hectares (ha) of native vegetation within a 288.13 ha disturbance corridor within a development envelope of 3,218.37 ha
Purpose of clearing:	Wind farm construction and transmission line
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 3 on Deposited Plan 67820 Lot 15100 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 16619 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 16620 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 16621 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 21301 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 21728 on Deposited Plan 146996 Lot 22503 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 23407 on Deposited Plan 147049 Lot 23404 on Deposited Plan 147133 Lot 23412 on Deposited Plan 147029 Lot 23430 on Deposited Plan 147204 Lot 23753 on Deposited Plan 147837 Lot 25704 on Deposited Plan 151492 Lot 25744 on Deposited Plan 155096 Lot 26226 on Deposited Plan 225574 Lot 200 on Deposited Plan 300389 Lot 40 on Deposited Plan 300369 Lot 41 on Deposited Plan 300369 Lot 202 on Deposited Plan 65471 Road Reserve – 11636171 Road Reserve – 11650523 Road Reserve – 11651457 Road Reserve - 1260601

Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Kondinin
Localities (suburb/s):	Kondinin

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The application is to mechanically clear patches of native vegetation of no more than 4.33 ha distributed over a 288.13 ha of Disturbance Corridor within a 3,218.37 ha of Development Envelope (DE). The proposed clearing is for the construction of the Kondinin Wind farm, comprising of 21 wind turbines of 6.2 MW, a substation, access roads, and overhead and underground electrical transmission lines. The Kondinin Wind farm is the first stage of the larger project, the Kondinin Wind and Solar farm. The proposed clearing will occur, which consists primarily of cleared agricultural land. (see Figure 1, Section 1.5).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	1 April 2025
Decision area:	4.33 ha of native vegetation within a 288.13 ha footprint (development area or DE) as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). DWER advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received. The application area was revised during the assessment stage and re-advertised for an additional seven days. No submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix Appendix E.1),, the findings of a flora and vegetation surveys and fauna surveys (see Appendix A) the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the purpose for the application is to install power transmission lines, and that the clearing footprint will be limited to 150 hectares.

Specifically, the Delegated Officer considered the following.

- The proposed clearing will not have a direct impact on the conservation of any Threatened fauna species. However, conservation significant fauna individuals may be present at the time of clearing for foraging. Inadvertent impact to any individual present can be avoided and mitigated by having a fauna spotter present at the time of clearing. Clearing in slow, one directional manner can further mitigate potential impact to any fauna individual present. These are required as a condition of the permit.
- No threatened flora species occur within the clearing area. Three priority flora species are recorded within the larger Development Envelope but clearing area is devoid of the conservation significant flora. The proposed clearing, therefore, will not have direct impact on the conservation significant flora species. Indirect impact to conservation significant flora individuals occurring nearby within the corridor can be mitigated by demarcating the clearing area to avoid inadvertent clearing of the individuals.
- The proposed clearing will not remove any areas mapped as the Eucalypt Woodlands of Western Australian Wheatbelt Region (Wheatbelt Woodlands) Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). Indirect impacts on the TEC nearby can be managed by the demarcation of the clearing areas and weed and land management conditions.
- Clearing may introduce and spread weeds to nearby vegetation including the TEC that eventually would reduce their quality and habitat values. Weeds control and management is required as a condition of the Permit to manage this potential impact.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's reports and minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to any long-term adverse impacts on the environmental values of the local area.

Potential impacts of clearing can be minimised and managed to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values by imposing management conditions to the Permit.

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;
- the presence of fauna spotter at the time of clearing to reallocate any individual present;
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat;
- demarcation of clearing area to avoid inadvertent clearing of adjacent vegetation including any threatened ecological community.

1.5. Site maps

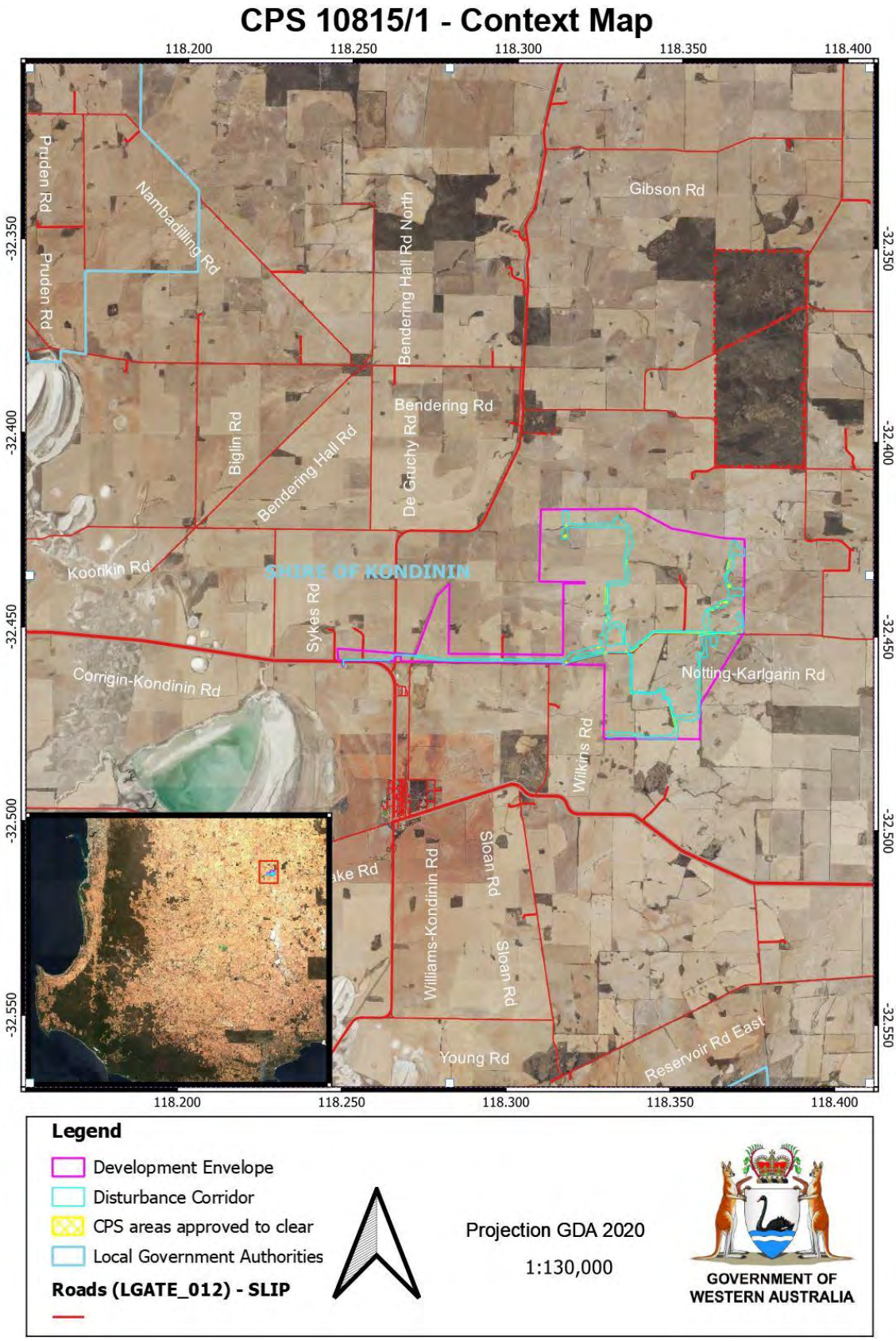

Figure 1 Context Map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

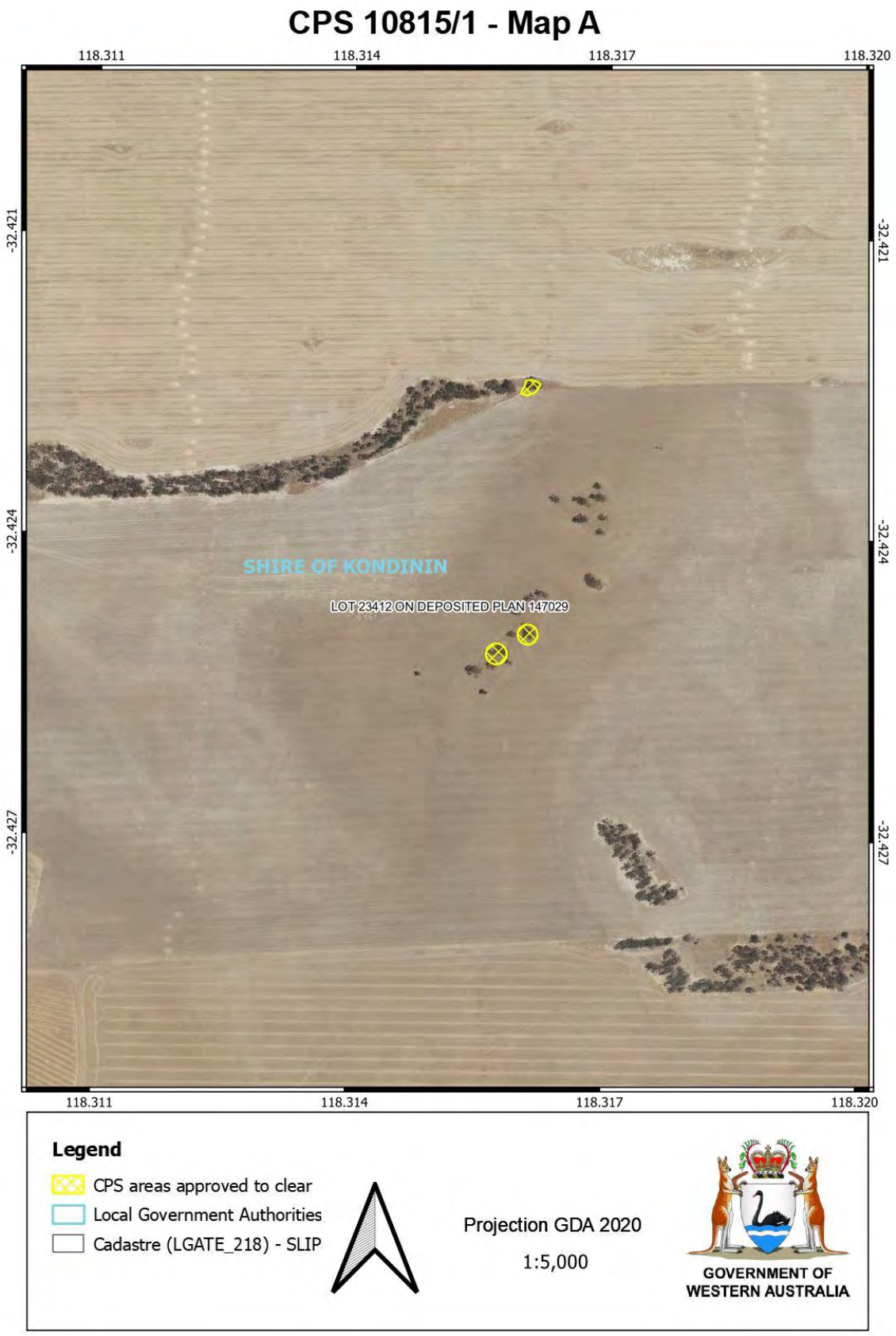

Figure 2 Map A, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 3 Map B, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 4 Map C, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

CPS 10815/1 - Map D

Figure 5 Map D, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 6 Map E, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 7 Map F, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 8 Map G, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 9 Map H, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 10 Map I, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

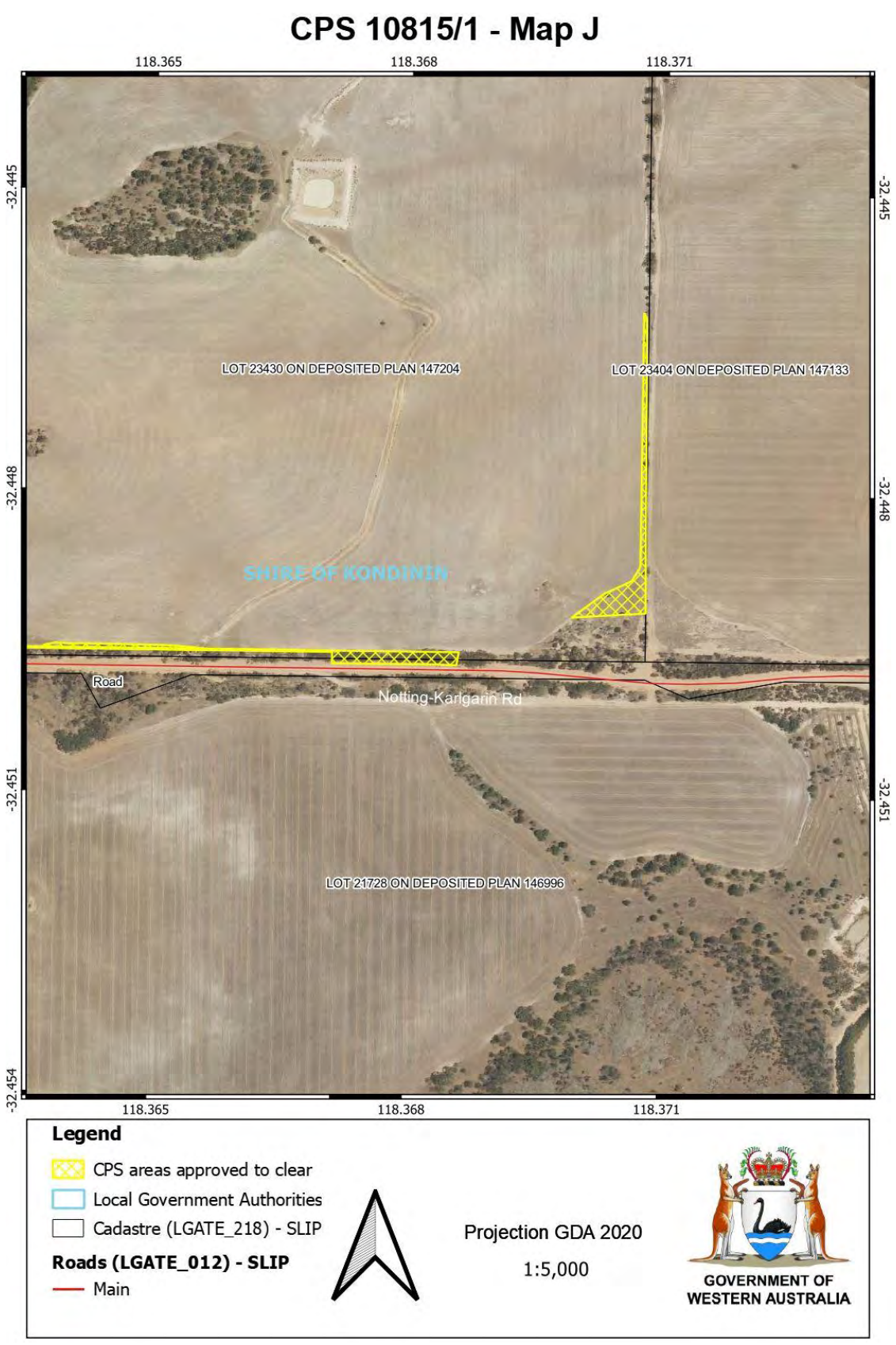

Figure 11 Map J, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 12 Map K, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 13 Map L, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 14 Map M, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 15 Map N, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 16 Map O, map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared 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)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)
- *Land Administration Act 1997* (WA)
- *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth)

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)
- *Environmental Offsets Guidelines* (August 2014)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant submitted that the project design and siting was informed by efforts to minimise impact to the environment. This includes siting the infrastructure and adjusting the alignment of the transmission line to avoid the following environmental values:

- larger trees, including potential breeding/nesting trees with diameter at breast height (DBH) over 30cm
- areas with ‘good’ or ‘better’ quality vegetation, including TEC’s
- population of Priority flora where possible
- hollow bearing trees during the breeding season for black cockatoos (*Carnaby’s cockatoo*)

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

- demarcating clearing areas prior to the commencement of project activities and prior to the commencement of native vegetation clearing
- implementing a site Ground Disturbance Procedure
- inducting of all contractors and personnel
- pruning trees where possible.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna and flora). 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 (Fauna) - Clearing Principles (b)

Assessment

Several conservation significant fauna have been recorded within the local area. In determining the likelihood of conservation significant fauna occurring within the application area, consideration was given to preferred habitat types, number of species' records within the local area, proximity of records to the application area, and the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area. A basic fauna survey was conducted within the application area between 26 and 28 September 2024 by Ecoscape Australia. Previously, a four-day fauna survey was undertaken for the site by SW Environmental in 2017. The results from these fauna surveys, desktop assessments, interpretation of vegetation types, and available databases were used to assess the likelihood of occurrence for conservation significant fauna. Based on these factors and our desktop assessment of the local area (10 kilometre radius), the application area is likely to provide suitable habitat for the following species (See Appendix A.4 for fauna analysis table):

- *Phascogale calura* (Red-tailed Phascogale) (VU)
- *Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (VU)
- *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon) (OS)
- *Platycercus icterotis* (Western Rosella) (P4)
- *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo) (EN)

Further assessment was made on the potential impacts to the above species, as follow.

Red-tailed Phascogale

The Red-tailed Phascogale is a small (38-68 g) arboreal dasyurid, named because of rust red colour of its upper tail (Van Dyck & Strahan 2008). This species was formerly widespread in woodland habitats in inland south and central Australia but is now mainly restricted to remnant woodlands of mature Wandoo (Eucalyptus wandoo) or Rock Oak (Allocasuarina huegeliana) in the south of the Western Australian wheatbelt (Menkhorst & Knight 2004). Highest densities occur where the habitat is long unburnt and is comprised of dense *A. huegeliana* interspersed with hollow-forming senescent E. wandoo, which provide nesting sites (Kitchener 1981; Short, Hide & Stone 2011).

Ten records of the species occur within the LA (10km); however, these are over 25 years old.

Although no individuals have been identified within the proposed clearing area and DE, some suitable habitat exists within the DE but is unlikely to be significant to the species. Ecoscape Australia (2023) described a lack of suitable habitat within the DE and determined the species was not likely to occur within the DE and the application area. The species, however, may utilise the vegetation within the application area for transit or foraging. Due to the relatively small nature of the clearing activities, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on the species. In addition, the proposed clearing is not likely to affect the dispersal of the species or fragment any existing habitat. The presence of a fauna spotter prior to and during clearing can further mitigate any potential impact on foraging individuals if they are present at clearing. Impacts of any individual present at clearing can be minimised by removing and reallocating them prior to clearing and conducting clearing in a slow and one directional manner.

Malleefowl

Malleefowl are predominantly found in semi-arid to arid zones, in shrubland and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats (Benshemesh, 2007) such as Broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) (Woinarski, 1989) and Scrub Pine (*Callitris verrucosa*) (DPAW, 2016). In Western Australia, they are also found in shrublands dominated by *Acacia* sp. and occasionally in Eucalypt woodlands dominated by Wandoo, *Corymbia calophylla* and *Eucalyptus astrigens* (Benshemesh, 2007). The National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl notes that habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and predation are major threats to the species (Benshemesh, 2007). The Eucalypt woodlands within the application area represent potential foraging/breeding habitat for the species.

There are 21 records of this species within the local area (GIS Database) but none was recorded within the application area. No evidence of the species was found during the surveys although suitable habitat for the species is present within the DE (Ecoscape Australia, 2023). As the DE is highly fragmented and disturbed, with small patches of remnant vegetation, it is unlikely that the habitat present would support Malleefowl. The species is therefore unlikely to be present within the DE and is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is a widespread species occurring in woodlands, grasslands and coastal cliffs, usually in proximity to watercourses/bodies (Marchant & Higgins, 1993). This species prefers to use granite outcrops and coastal cliffs as nesting habitat but can breed in tree hollows and other bird nests as well (Palmer, 2002). It may use the habitat present within the application area for foraging, but this is likely to be transient in nature. Two records exist for this species in the local area which are less than five kilometres removed from the application area. The proposed clearing activities are unlikely to have a significant impact on the species.

Western Rosella

The Western Rosella only occurs in the south-west of Western Australia and is Western Australia's only rosella species. The subspecies, *Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*, occurs in the drier inland areas (Mawson and Long, 1995). This species feeds both in trees and on the ground and is sometimes seen eating spilt grain along roadsides. One recent exists within 15 kilometres of the DE (<25 years). However, it is likely that if the species is present in the area, it would only use the remnant patches of native vegetation within the DE as a movement corridor. The species may occur in the application area but is unlikely that the proposed clearing activities will have a significant impact on the species.

Carnaby's Cockatoo (EN)

According to available mapping, the application area is located within the known distribution for Carnaby's cockatoos, The species' requirements in general can be categorised as breeding habitat, foraging habitat and night roosting habitat. Within the DE, potential breeding habitat might be available and no observations/records for the species occur within the local area.

Suitable breeding habitat for black cockatoos includes trees which either have a suitable nest hollow or are of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow (DCCEEW, 2022). This species generally occurs in woodland or forest and nests in hollows in live or dead trees of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum), *Eucalyptus wandoo* (wandoo), *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (tuart), *Eucalyptus marginata* (jarrah), *Eucalyptus rudis* (flooded gum), *Eucalyptus loxophleba* (York gum), *Eucalyptus accedens* (powderbark), *Eucalyptus diversicolor* (karri) and *Corymbia calophylla* (marri) (DCCEEW, 2022). Habitat trees considered potentially suitable for black cockatoo breeding have a DBH greater than 500 millimetres (for salmon gum and wandoo, suitable DBH is 300 millimetres) (DCCEEW, 2022). Several larger trees with large hollows were present within the DE, but none occurred within the application area. In addition, no records of the species exist for the local area and the foraging habitat within the DE is limited except for potentially within the reserves. Considering the above, impact of clearing on the Threatened black cockatoo species is unlikely significant.

Conclusion

Given the above, the application area provides little to no habitat for the conservation significant fauna. The extent of the impact to these species' habitat resulting from the proposed clearing is therefore not likely to be of significant impact to any of the species' population. The use of a fauna specialist and undertaking clearing in slow and progressive manners towards adjacent native vegetation will minimise impacts to any fauna present in the application area.

Conditions

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

- Undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.
- Engage a fauna specialist for the duration of clearing activities.

3.2.2. Biological values- Biodiversity - Flora - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

According to available databases a total of 19 conservation significant flora species have been recorded within the local area (10 kilometre radius) (GIS Database). Of the conservation significant flora species recorded in both the local area and the survey areas (Ecoscape Australia, 2024; SW Environmental, 2017), the application area is likely to provide suitable and potentially significant habitat for the following species:

The following conservation significant flora species were recorded from larger Development Envelope (DE) during the survey.

• *Eucalyptus erythronema* subsp*. inornata* (P3)
• *Eucalyptus ornata* (P3)
• *Grevillea asteriscosa* (P4)

Eucalyptus ornata is a small tree/mallet which grows up to approximately 6-10 metres in height. It is found in the Wheatbelt and Mallee region, including in the eastern Wheatbelt in Kondinin. It produces white flowers in spring and summer and is commonly found on gently undulating landscapes comprising rises and ridges in laterite and brown sandy loam topsoils (WA Herbarium, 1998). It has been recorded 12 times within the local area and 16 times in the DE (Ecoscape Australia 2024, SW Environmental 2017).

Grevillea asteriscosa is a hummock grass that grows up to approximately 0.4 metres in height. It is found in the Wheatbelt and Mallee region, including in the eastern Wheatbelt in Kondinin. It is commonly found on stony plains and low stony ridges associated with ironstone, basalt and quartz (WA Herbarium, 1998). It has been recorded 14 times within the local area and 121 times in the DE (Ecoscape Australia 2024, SW Environmental 2017).

Eucalyptus erythronema subsp*. inornata* is an erect mallee that grows up to six metres in height. It is found in the Wheatbelt from Wyalkatchem south to Pingaring and east to Bullfinch and occurs in Kondinin. It occurs on slightly rising ground on a variety of well-drained soil types in sandy loam soils (WA Herbarium, 1998). It has not been recorded within the local area; hut has been recorded 28 times adjacent to the DE (Ecoscape Australia 2024, SW Environmental 2017).

Noting the absence of the above species from the proposed clearing area, direct impact to these species is therefore unlikely. Given the types of vegetation and soil present, the area proposed to be cleared, and the larger DE may provide suitable habitat for the species that the occurrence of these species cannot be ruled out. Inadvertent removal of any individual that may be present at the time of clearing, however, is considered unlikely to significantly impact on the species at the population level. Demarcation of the area can further mitigate the potential impact to any individuals nearby.

Clearing may introduce and spread weeds to available habitat nearby and reduce its quality unless a stringent weed management and control is practised.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by avoiding and minimising disturbance, demarcating the clearing area and by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

Conditions

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

- demarcation of the clearing areas
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds to adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

3.2.3. Biological values (TEC) - Clearing Principles (d)

Assessment

The desktop assessment identified seven areas of Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (P3 PEC, TEC) within the DE, but none occurred within the disturbance corridor or the application area. These areas consist of three road reserves and four remnant patches located on farmland, although upon inspection, the four farm remnants were determined not be representative of the Wheatbelts Woodland TEC by Ecoscape Australia (2023).

A small area of Wheatbelts Woodland TEC (0.25ha) occurs within the application area, however, the proponent has indicated that this area will not be cleared but is subject to maintenance for the construction of a Western Power Transmission line. Demarcation of clearing area can minimise the risk of inadvertent clearing of this TEC patch. Although direct impact to the TEC is unlikely, the proposed clearing and associated activities may introduce and spread weeds that would reduce the quality and habitat values of adjacent vegetation including the TEC nearby. This potential indirect impact can be managed by the application of stringent weed and die back management.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on TEC within the application area will be minimal and can be managed by demarcating the clearing area, avoiding and minimising disturbance, and by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

Conditions

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

- demarcation of the clearing area
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds to adjacent vegetation

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The application was advertised on the Department's website for 21 days and no submissions were received. The application was then readvertised for seven days when a small area needed to be included without changing the actual native vegetation clearing footprint.

The Delegated Officer noted that the application area is zoned 'Rural/Local Road' under the Shire of Kondinin's Local Planning Scheme. The Shire of Kondinin was informed about the application but did not provide any comment on the proposed clearing.

Although no Aboriginal Heritage sites were recorded win the application area, it is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process and that native title holders are notified and invited to comment on the application, in accordance with the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) (the NT Act) and section 51E(4) of the EP Act.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of fragmented patches of native vegetation within an extensive agricultural land use of Western Australia. The Project is situated within the Shire of Kondinin, approximately 273 km east of Perth, in the Avon Wheatbelt Bioregion, Western Australia. The proposed clearing is located on solely freehold land. Land uses in the region comprise pastoral grazing, cropping, and mining activities. Available databases indicate the local area (10 kilometre radius) retains approximately 12 per cent of its original native vegetation cover (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	There are no mapped ecological linkages within the application area and the combined local area (10 kilometre radius) (GIS Database). Nor does the application area intersect with any TEC/PEC (except for one small area of TEC along the Notting Kalgarin Rd), conservation land or important wetland, which could impact the linkage between important patches of remnant vegetation/fauna habitat. The disturbance corridor does run along some TEC's (Eucalypt woodland of the Wheatbelt) and a few of these occur within the DE.
Conservation areas	There are no mapped conservation areas within the application area. Within the combined local area (10 km) there are six conservation areas (nature reserves) with the closest being Bendering Nature Reserve two kilometres to the north and Kondinin Lake Nature reserve two kilometres to the southwest.
Vegetation description	The flora and vegetation survey of Ecoscape Australia (2024) described the following vegetation types for the Permit Area: • AcMfTOS: *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Melaleuca fulgens* tall open shrubland over *Vulpia myuros* forma *myuros*, *Austrostipa elegantissima* and **Hypochaeris glabra* low grassland/tussock grassland/forbland (1.12 hectares) • EcEfEtMMW: *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus flocktoniae* subsp. *flocktoniae* and *Eucalyptus tenera* mid mallee woodland over *Melaleuca adnata*, *Melaleuca marginata* and *Melaleuca acuminata* mid open shrubland over *Phebalium multiflorum* subsp. *baccharoides*, *Olearia muelleri* and *Rytidosperma acerosum* low open shrubland/tussock grassland (3.05 hectares) These vegetation types are mostly consistent with the mapped pre-european vegetation types (GIS Database): • Beard Vegetation Association (BVA) 960, which is described as Mallee: Eucalypt shrubland *Eucalyptus eremophila*, *E. redunca*, *E*. spp. (3.80 hectares) • Beard Vegetation Association 1023, which is described as Woodland other: Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. *Eucalyptus loxophleba*, *E. salmonophloia*. (0.17 hectares) The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 13.78 per cent for BVA 960 and 10.79 per cent for BVA 1023 (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	The flora and vegetation survey of Ecoscape Australia (2024) indicates that the existing vegetation within the proposed clearing area ranges from Excellent to Completely degraded (Keighery, 1994). • Excellent (1.91 hectares, 45.80%) • Very good (0.74 hectares, 17.75%) • Degraded (1.25 hectares, 29.98%) • Completely degraded (0.27 hectares, 6.47%)

Characteristic	Details
	The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The annual average temperatures for the application area range from 13.4° to 36.6°, with a mean annual temperature of 23.8°. The average annual rainfall received over the application area from 1913 to 2024 is 317 millimetres (taken from Corrigin (105036) and Hartwood (10603) (BOM 2024). The application area is situated at an elevation of approximately between 320 to 380 meters above sea level.
Soil description	The soil is mapped as subsystems of the Corrigin System (259Co): • 259Co_1 (Corrigin 1 Subsystem) - Subdued, moderately indurated lateritic crests and ridges, shallow gravel and loamy gravel. Extensive colluvial backslopes with duplex sandy gravel, loamy gravel, reticulite deep sandy duplex, yellow sandy earths. Heath vegetation. • 259Co_2a (Corrigin 2a Phase) - Smoothly undulating slopes blanketed by aeolian deposits over various substrates. Soils are mainly calcareous and clayey. Morrel vegetation. • 281Co_3d (Corrigin 3 dolerite Phase) - Red and brown clays and loams, usually calcareous, associated with dolerite dykes and vegetated by York Gum/Jam woodlands. • 259Co_3g (Corrigin 3 granite Phase) - Coarse gritty sands and sandy duplexes associated with rock outcrops and vegetated by York Gum/Jam and Wandoo woodlands, with areas of Allocasuarina woodland. • 259Co_3r (Corrigin 3 rock Phase) - Rock outcrops and skeletal soils in irregularly undulating rises and low hills of the Corrigin Hills. • 259Co_3u (Corrigin 3 undifferentiated Phase) - Colluvial and residual mantle, gently undulating slopes, with acid to neutral duplexes under mallee on upper to mid slopes and Mallee, Gimlet and Salmon Gum vegetation on neutral to alkaline duplexes and clays in lower positions.
Land degradation risk	No land degradation risks were identified through the desktop research component. The application area does not lie within an area with high risk of land and/or soil degradation except for some parts that have a 50-70% susceptibility of subsurface acidification. The clearing activities ae, however, of a small scale and fragmented across the disturbance footprint and are therefore not likely to create any appreciable land degradation. Land degradation risks are summarised in Table A.5.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no waterbodies occur within the application area, except for of old minor drainage lines. Within the DE seven Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems occur but none of these intersect with the application area. No wetlands or watercourses lie within or transect the area proposed to be cleared.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Kondinin Ravensthorpe Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RiWI Act). The groundwater salinity level is mapped as 14000-35000 milligrams per litre.
Flora	Two significant flora species were recorded in the application area during the flora and vegetation surveys of Ecoscape Australia (2024) and SW Environmental (2017). 2024). • *Eucalyptus ornata* (P3) • *Grevillea asteriscosa* (P4) Within the local area, the desktop assessment identified 104 records of priority flora across 19 species. No rare (Threatened) flora nor P1 or P2 flora species were recorded by Ecoscape (2023) or SW Environmental (2017) during the flora and vegetation survey. Both Ecoscape and SW Environmental did record three Priority species during their surveys *Eucalyptus ornata* (P3), *Grevillea astericosa* (P4) and

Characteristic	Details
	Eucalyptus erythronema subsp. *inornata* (P3), although the latter was recorded outside the survey area rather than within it. Based on the flora surveys and desktop assessment, the application area is likely to provide suitable and potentially significant habitat for 19 conservation significant flora species (See Section 3.2.2): Priority species recorded within the local area with the potential of occurring within the application area are further considered in Appendix A.3.
Ecological communities	There are 273 areas that comprise either Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) or Priority Ecological Communities (PEC) recorded within the local area. The desktop assessment identified seven areas of Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (P3 PEC, TEC) within the DE, but none occurred within the disturbance corridor or the application area. These areas consist of three road reserves and four remnant patches located on farmland, although upon inspection, the four farm remnants were determined not be representative of the Wheatbelts Woodland TEC by Ecoscape Australia (2023). A small area of Wheatbelts Woodland TEC (0.25ha) occurs within the application area, however, the proponent has indicated that this area will not be cleared but is subject to maintenance for the construction of a transmission line instead.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified 11 conservation significant fauna (Table A4) in the local area. No conservation significant species were recorded within the application area during the fauna surveys of SW Environmental (2017) and Ecoscape Australia (2023). Based on the surveys and the desktop assessment, five species were considered to possibly occur within the application area and six other species 'unlikely to occur (migratory waterbirds). No conservation significant species were observed during the fauna surveys, but fauna habitat that could support the species with a possibility of occurring was recorded.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Mallee	7,395,894.36	4,180,937.68	56.53	1,289,384.08	18.03
Vegetation complex					
Beard vegetation association 1023	1,601,605.76	172,875.16	10.79	18,926.07	1.35
Beard vegetation association 960	220,441.13	30,376.26	13.78	10,947.24	5
Local area					
10km radius	65,839.53	7,858.86	12	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

A.3. Flora analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Acacia arcuatilis	P2	Y	N	N	<6	3	Y
Acacia deflexa	P3	Y	Y	Y	<3	19	Y
Acacia inophloia	P3	Y	Y	Y	<3	16	Y
Acacia sclerophylla var. *teretiuscula*	P1	Y	N	N	<6	1	Y
Anticoryne melanosperma	P3	Y	Y	N	<3	1	Y
Banksia rufa subsp. *obliquiloba*	P3	Y	N	N	<6	4	Y
Boronia capitata subsp. *capitata*	T	Y	Y	Y	<4	1	Y
Calytrix nematoclada	P3	N	Y	N	<3	2	Y
Chamelaucium sp. *Parker Range (B.H. Smith 1255)*	P1	Y	Y	N	<4	1	Y
Darwinia divisa	P1	Y	Y	N	<5	9	Y
Eremophila veneta	P4	Y	Y	Y	<4	8	Y
Eucalyptus dissimulata subsp. *dissimulata*	P4	Y	Y	N	<6	1	Y
Eucalyptus ornata	P3	N	Y	Y	0	12	Y
Eucalyptus spathulata subsp. salina	P3	Y	N	N	<8	2	Y
Grevillea asteriscosa	P4	Y	Y	Y	0	14	Y
Hibbertia sp. *Bendering (J.W. Horn 4101)*	P1	Y	Y	Y	<4	1	Y
Symonanthus bancroftii	T	Y	Y	N	<3	3	Y
Thomasia tenuivestita	P3	Y	Y	N	<3	3	Y
Xanthoparmelia subbarbatica	P1	Y	Y	Y	<3	2	Y

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	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]
(*Falco peregrinus*) Peregrine Falcon	OS	Y	Y	<5	2	Y
(*Stercorarius longicaudus*) Long-tailed Jaeger	MI	N	N	<6	1	Y
(*Actitis hypoleucos*) Common Sandpiper	MI	N	N	<6	1	Y
(*Calidris ruficollis*) Red-necked Stint	MI	N	N	<6	1	Y
(*Calidris ferruginea*) Curlew Sandpiper	MI	N	N	<6	1	Y
(*Tringa nebularia*) Common Greenshank	MI	N	N	<6	1	Y
(*Leipoa ocellata*) Malleefowl	VU	Y	Y	0	21	Y
(*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*) Western Rosella	P4	Y	Y	± 15	0	Y

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]
(*Zanda latirostris*) Carnaby's Cockatoo	EN	Y	Y	± 30	0	Y
(*Notamacropus irma*) Western Brush Wallaby	VU	Y	Y	<5	3	Y
(*Phascogale calura*) Red-tailed Phascogale	VU	N	Y	<4	10	Y

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

A.5. Land degradation risk table

Risk categories	*259Co_1 (Corrigin 1 Subsystem)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Risk categories	*259Co_2a (Corrigin 2a Phase)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Risk categories	*281Co_3d (Corrigin 3 dolerite Phase)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Risk categories	*259Co_3g (Corrigin 3 granite Phase)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Risk categories	*259Co_3r (Corrigin 3 rock Phase)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

Risk categories	*259Co_3u (Corrigin 3 undifferentiated Phase)*
Wind erosion	10-30% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard
Water erosion	>3-10% of the map unit has a very high to extreme hazard
Salinity	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate or high hazard or is presently saline
Subsurface Acidification	50-70% of the map unit has a high susceptibility
Flood risk	0% of the map unit has a moderate to high hazard
Water logging	10-30% of the map unit has a moderate to very high to risk
Phosphorus export risk	3-10% of the map unit has a high to extreme hazard

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 Disturbance corridor comprises 12 different native vegetation and a small area of planted vegetation. Of these only a small area of each vegetation type will be cleared, with the most biodiverse patch for the recorded shrubland having a species richness of only 16 species, and 20.5 species for mallee woodland. Clearing of these patches will therefore not impact on any overall diversity for the specific vegetation present, especially since all vegetation types recorded occur commonly in the wider area/region. The area proposed to be cleared, however, may contain suitable habitat for several priority flora species. Fauna species richness for the Disturbance corridor was recorded to be low as well. Due to the nature of the project, any clearing is limited and localised, and therefore the impacts on the environmental values of the application area can be adequately managed. Three priority flora species were recorded within the DE with one occurring within the application area (Grevillea Astericosa) and others potentially occurring within the application area, however, any impacts to these species are not likely to be significant as the proposed will only impact on a low number of these species. The proposed clearing is therefore unlikely to significantly impact the biodiversity of the area. However, given the occurrence of suitable habitat for priority flora, further discussion is provided.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes See section 3.2.2
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 application area comprises habitat for Malleefowl, Western Rosella, and the Peregrine Falcon. However, if present , these species would only use the remnant patches within the DE in a vagrant manner. In addition,	May be at variance	Yes See section 3.2.1

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
the habitat within the DE could provide secondary habitat (breeding/nesting) for Carnaby's Black cockatoo and Red-tailed Phascogale. Records of observations for the species mentioned here are old and no individuals of these species were observed during the fauna surveys. All conservation significant species that have the potential of occurring within the application area and the conditions to mitigate impacts on these species are further discussed in Section 3.2.1.		
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: No threatened species have been recorded in the application area and any potential populations of threatened species in the wider local area are therefore not likely to be impacted by the proposed. The proposed clearing is therefore unlikely to significantly impact the population of these species in the broader local area, however, locally populations should be avoided where possible.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes
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 vegetation present within the application area is not representative of any nearby TEC, except for a small area (0.25 ha) adjacent to Notting-Karlgarin Rd. The proponent has stated that this area will not be cleared, but rather undergo maintenance for the construction of the Western Power Transmission line.	May be at variance	Yes See Section 3.2.3
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 vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area and the application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an extensively cleared area. Fragmentation of the existing native vegetation in the area will be limited as the clearing areas are small and localised. The proposed clearing will result in the removal of 4.33 hectares of native vegetation (2.55% of the total remnant vegetation present within the DE).	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: Two major conservation areas occur north (Bendering Nature Reserve) and south (Kondinin Lake Nature Reserve) within approximately 2km of the DE. Two other reserves lie within the 10 kilometre radius of the LA, however, as all reserves are surrounded by cleared agricultural land, the minor clearing within the DE will not have a significant impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: The application area does not intersect with any watercourses or wetlands, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on any nearby watercourses or wetlands.	Not at variance	Yes

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are not susceptible to land degradation risks except for small areas with a 50-70% possibility of subsurface acidification. Considering the small scale of the clearing, 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: Due to the nature of the proposed development and the small extent of clearing, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. The proposed infrastructure and the associated clearing are unlikely to alter existing surface water flow, even during flood conditions.	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 scales below were used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. These have 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 and 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.)

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.

Condition	Description
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.

Appendix D. Biological survey information excerpts

Kondinin Wind Farm project (Talis Consultants supporting documentation, 2024)

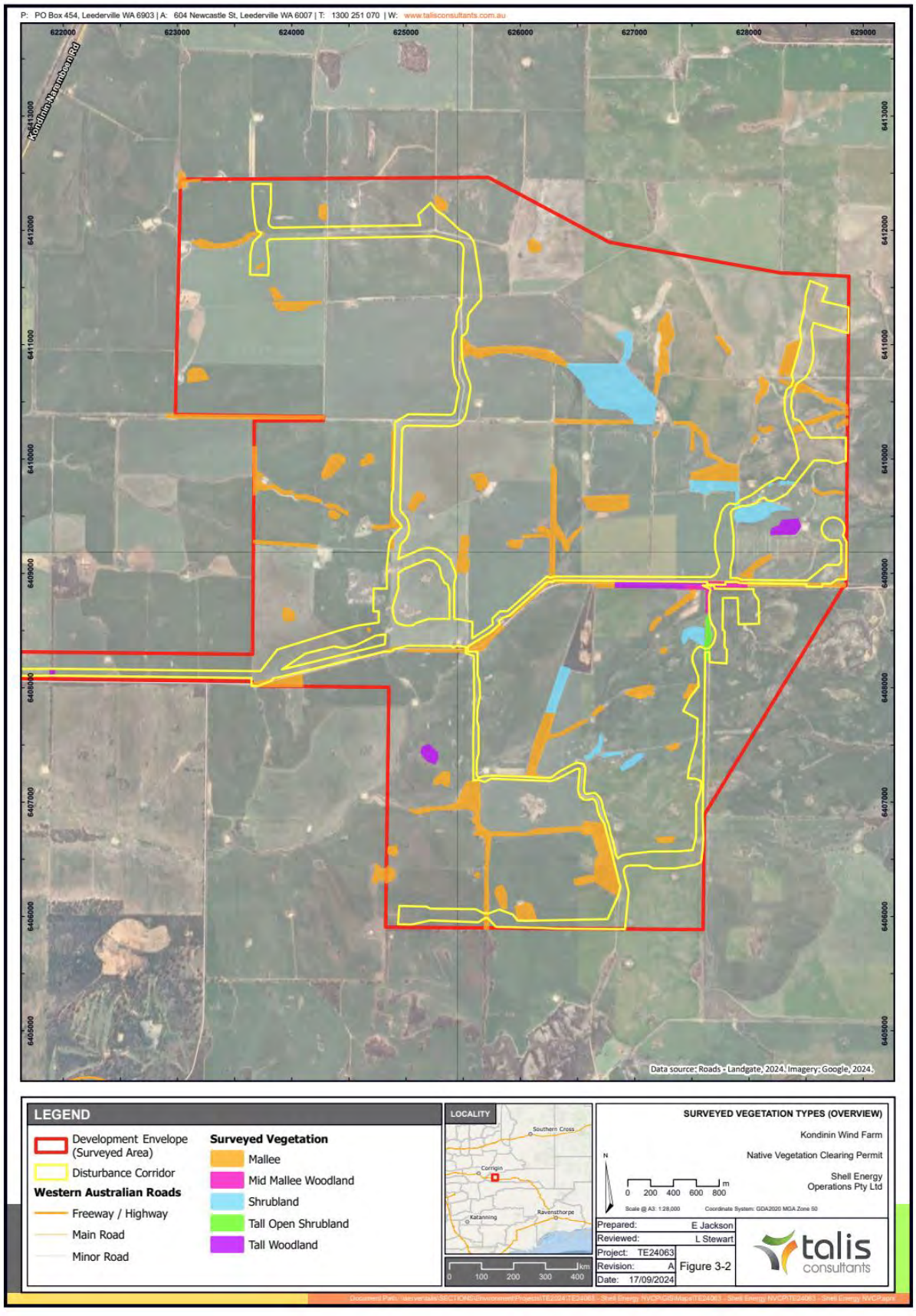

Figure 17. Vegetation type within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

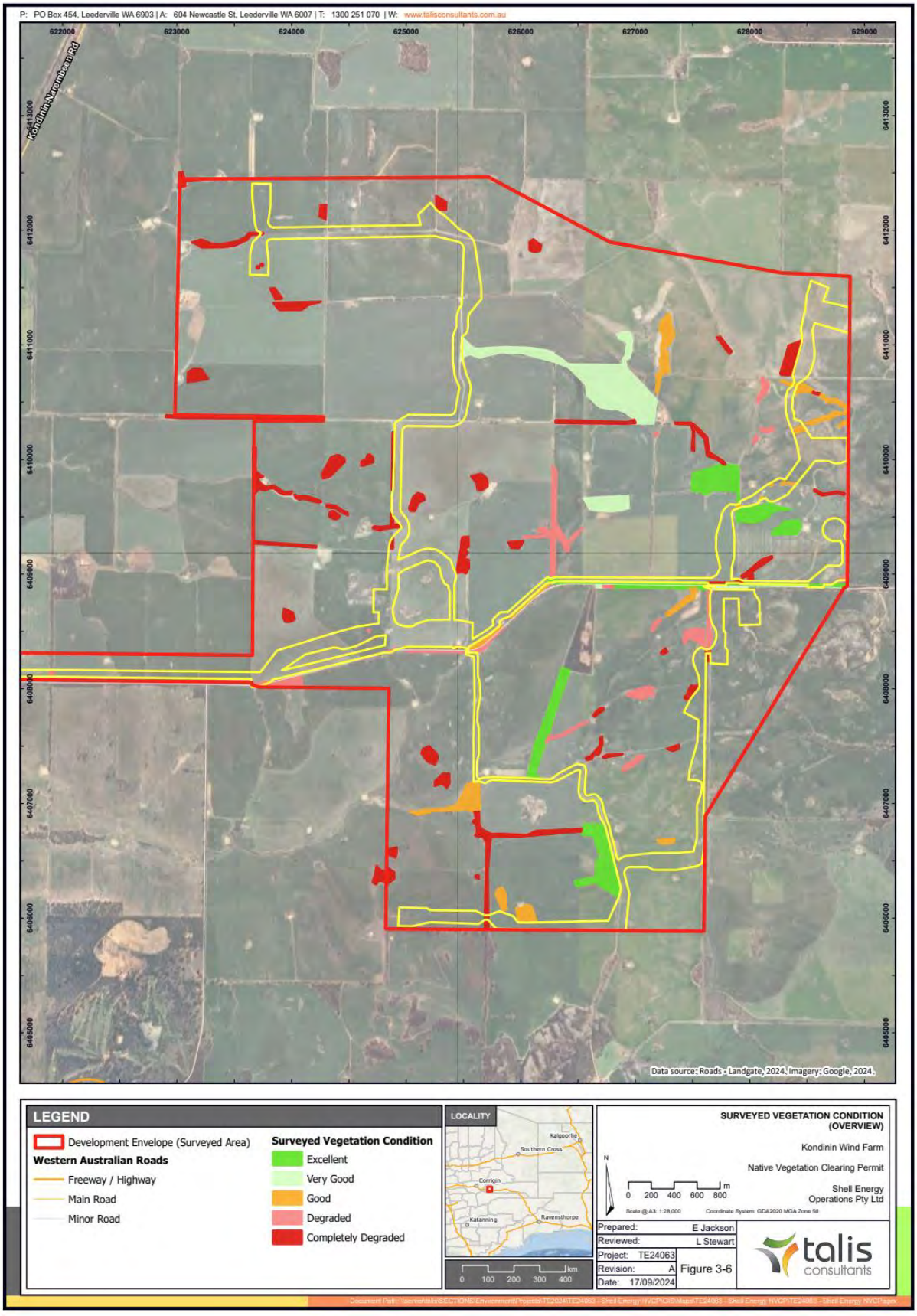

Figure 18. Vegetation condition within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

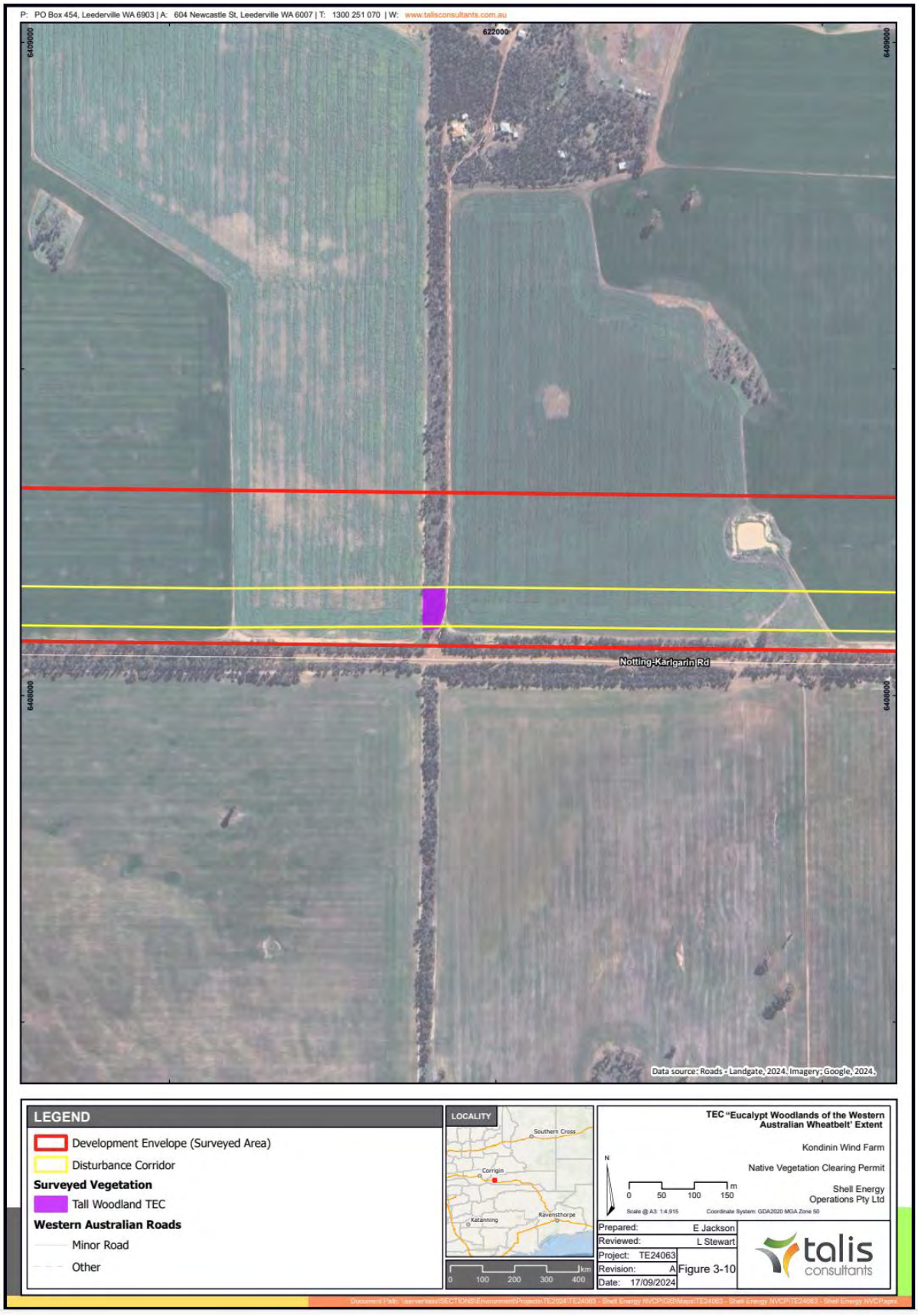

Figure 19. Threatened Ecological Communities within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

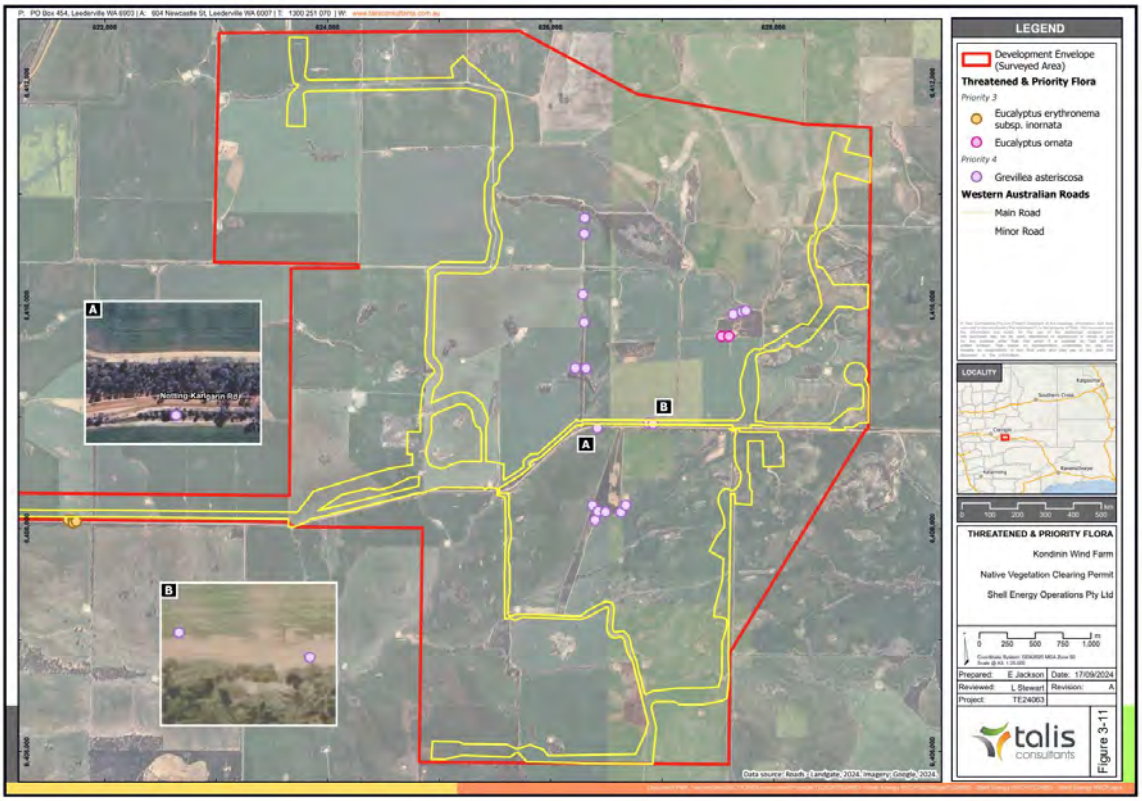

Figure 20. Threatened and Priority Flora within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

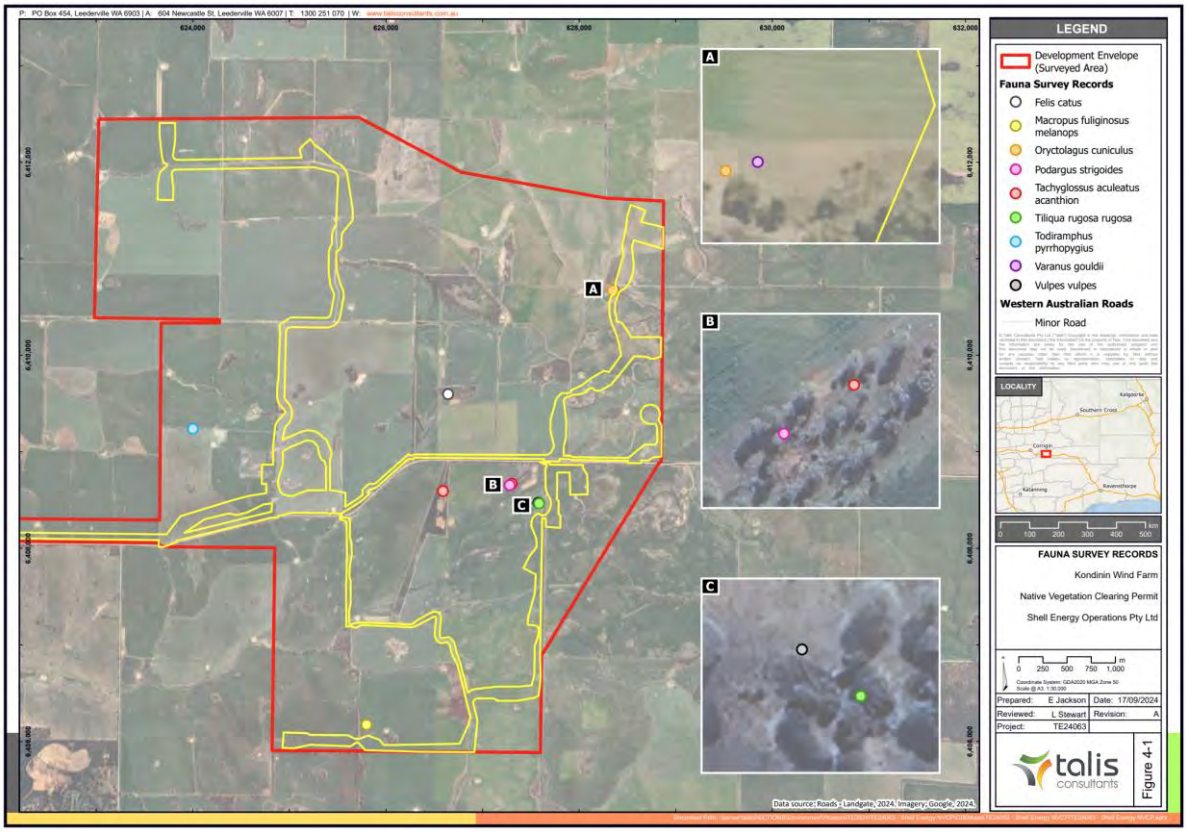

Figure 21. Fauna identified within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

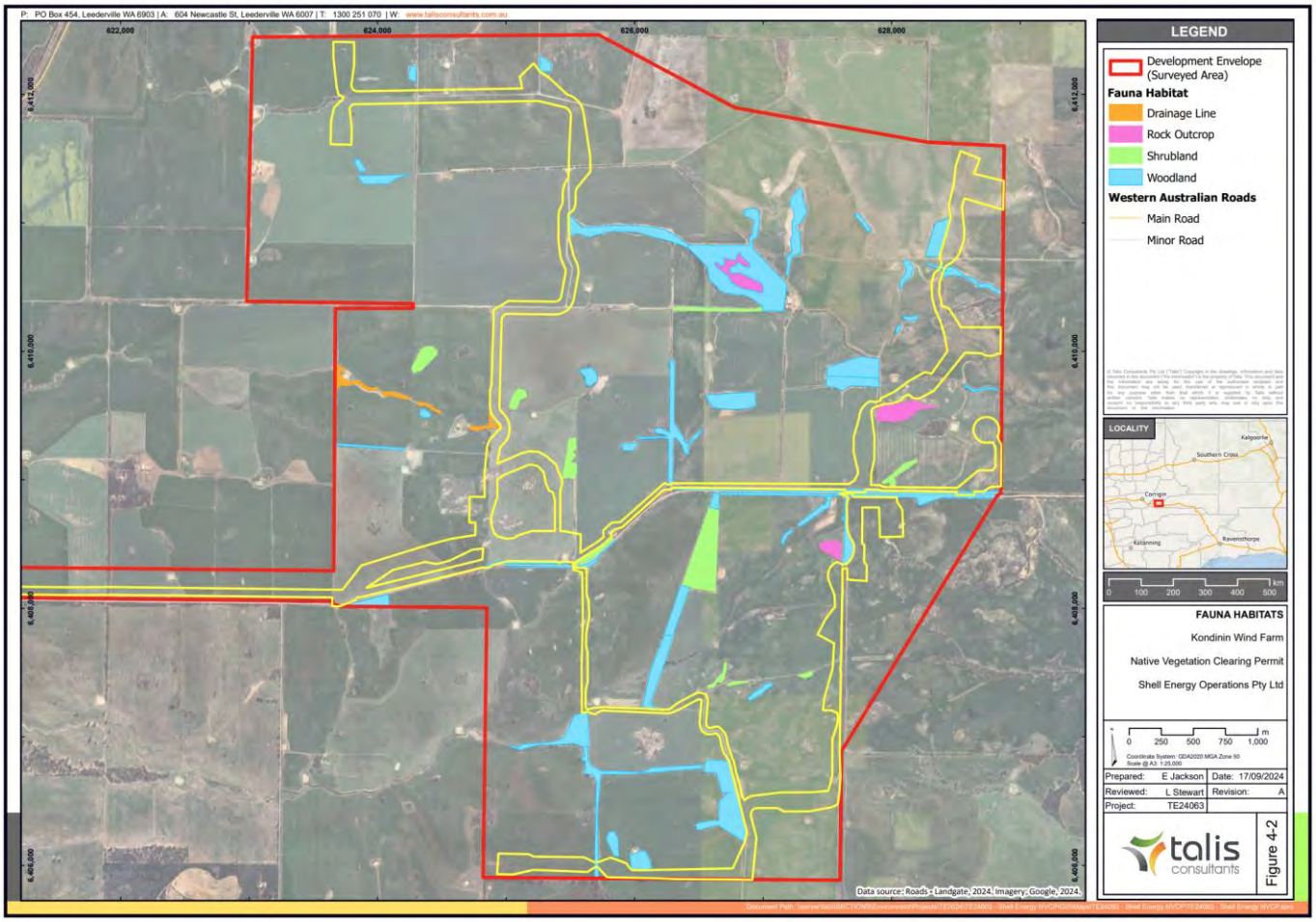

Figure 22. Fauna habitat identified within the survey area (Ecoscape Australia, 2023)

Appendix E. Sources of information

Appendix E.1 GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)

- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

Appendix E.2 References

Benshemesh, J. (2007). National Recovery Plan for Malleefowl. Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia. Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW, 2022) Referral guidelines for 3 WA threatened black cockatoo species: Carnaby's cockatoo, Baudin's cockatoo and the forest red-tailed black cockatoo, former Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, February.

Department of Environment Regulation (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 Parks and Wildlife (DPAW) (2016). Fauna profiles: Malleefowl Leipoa ocellata. Retrieved from: http://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au

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

Ecoscape Australia (2023) Kondinin Wind Farm Biological Survey, received 23 October 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1038471).

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.

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.

Kitchener, D.J., (1981). Breeding, diet and habitat preference of Phascogale calura (Gould, 1844)(Marsupialia: Dasyuridae) in the southern wheat belt, Western Australia. Records of the Western Australian Museum, 9(2), pp.173-186.

Marchant, S. and Higgins, P. J. (Eds) (1990). 'Handbook of Australian New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Vol. 1. Ratites to Ducks, Part A: Ratites to Petrels'. (Oxford University Press: Melbourne.)

Mawson, P.R. and Long, J.L. (1995) Changes in the status and distribution of four species of parrot in the south of Western Australia during 1970-90. Pac. Cons. Biol. 2 (2): 191-199.

Menkhorst, P., & Knight, F. (2010). A field guide to the mammals of Australia. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Palmer, G.C., 2002. Foraging behaviour of a Peregrine Falcon'Falco peregrinus'. Australian Field Ornithology, 19(8), pp.248-250.

Short, J., Hide, A., and Stone, M. (2011). Habitat requirements of the endangered red-tailed phascogale, Phascogale calura. Wildlife Research, 38(5), 359-369.

SW Environmental (2017) Level 1 Flora and Fauna Assessment, Kondinin Wind Farm, received 23 October 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1038471).

Talis Consultants (2024) Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (Purpose): Supporting Documentation, Kondinin Wind Farm, received 23 October 2024 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1038470).

Threatened Species Scientific Committee. 2020. Conservation Advice Falco hypoleucos, Grey Falcon. Threatened Species Scientific Committee, Canberra, ACT. Available at: http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/929-conservationadvice-09072020.pdf

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-). *FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora*. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 20 July 2024).

Woinarski, J.C.Z. (1989). The vertebrate fauna of broombush Melaleuca-uncinata vegetation in northwestern Victoria, with reference to effects of broombush harvesting. Wildlife Research, 16(2), pp.217-238.