Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10822/2
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Brightstar Resources Limited
Application received:	5 November 2025
Application area:	175 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 39/138, 39/139 39/185, and 39/262
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Menzies
Colloquial name:	Jasper Hills Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Brightstar Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 175 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 780.68 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 84 kilometres southeast of Laverton, within the Shire of Menzies. Clearing conducted under CPS 10822/1 totals to 11.49 hectares (Brightstar Resources, 2025b). All clearing has occurred within the Fish deposit and Fish camp areas of the application area (Figure 1 and 2; Brighstar Resources Limited 2025b).

Clearing permit CPS 10822/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration) on 25 June 2025 and was valid from 19 July 2025 to 18 July 2030. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 100 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 780 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

On 5 November 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 10822/1 to increase the total clearing area from 100 hectares to 175 hectares (Brightstar Resources Limited, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	21 April 2026
Decision area:	175 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics, relevant datasets, supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey and fauna survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment. The environmental assessment against the clearing principles has not significantly changed since the original assessment of CPS 10822/1.

Additionally, an administrative amendment has been made to correct condition 12, Fauna management (pre-clearance survey - mulgara), of the permit. Condition 12(a) requires within two weeks prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder shall engage a fauna specialist to undertake clearance surveys for mulgara (*Dasycercus* species). Condition 12(b), 12(c) and 12(e) list additional species; sandhill dunnart, and great desert skink, which the application area does not provide suitable habitat for (DEMIRS, 2025; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; 2020). Condition 12(c) and 12(e) reference the incorrect condition number. The reporting date has also been updated to align with standard financial year reporting periods. These errors were not identified until the application to amend CPS 10822/1 was submitted.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures, the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to the environment.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- flora management measures to carry out a pre-clearance flora survey to demarcate and avoid the clearing of priority species; *Bossiaea eremaea, Calandrinia* sp. Menzies (F. Hort et al. FH 4100) and *Goodenia lyrata* within the application area.
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds;
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 February and 31 August are inspected to identify malleefowl mounds, and maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified mounds;
- a fauna management condition (brush-tailed mulgara) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared be inspected to identify brush-tailed mulgara, and to maintain a 10 metre buffer around identified active mulgara burrows;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

The assessment against the ten clearing principles has not changed significantly from CPS 10822/1. The assessment of the remaining principles remains unchanged from the assessment of 10822/1, however additional information has been considered in the assessment of CPS 10822/2. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed extension of the permit duration is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

1.5. Site map

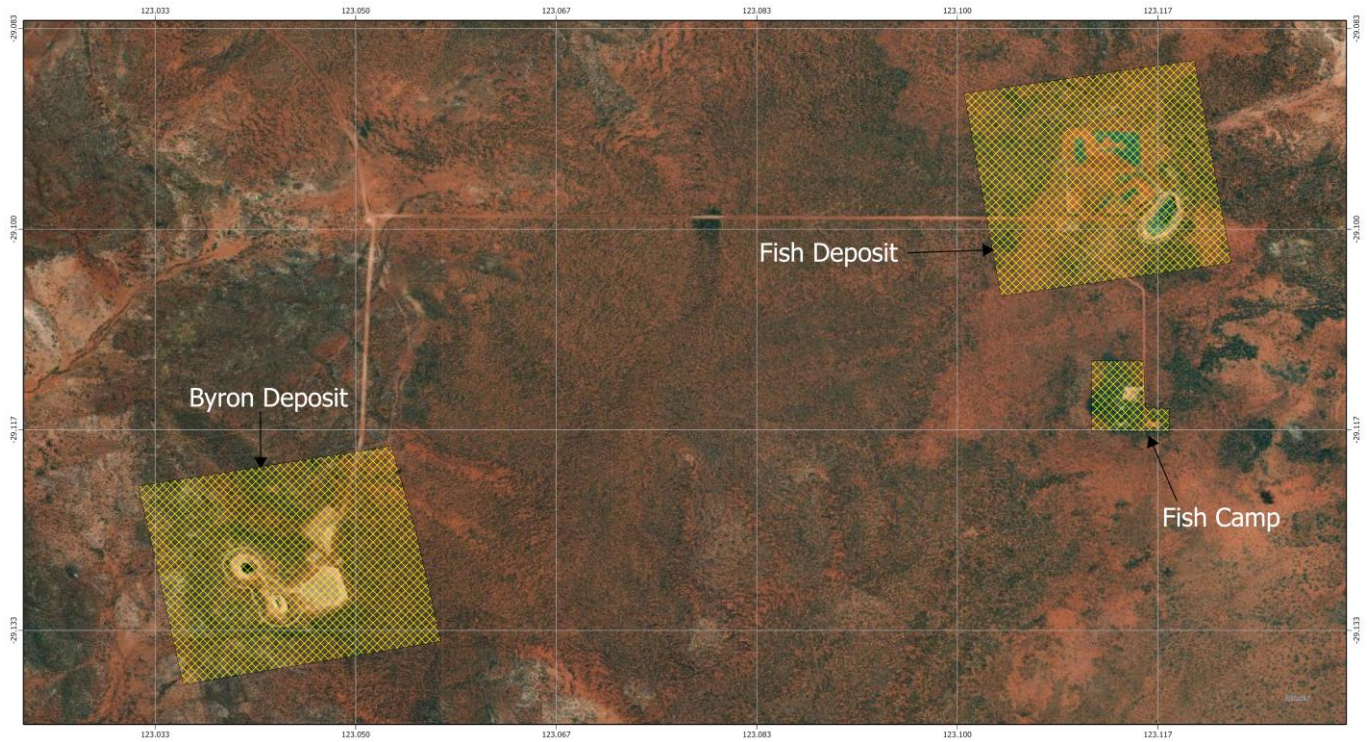

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit. Byron deposit, Fish deposit and Fish camp labelled respectively.

2. Assessment of application

2.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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. Further impacts to environmental values can be managed under permit conditions.

2.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

The assessment against the ten clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 10822/1. However, additional information and updated species conservation listings have been incorporated into the assessment of principles (a) and (b).

Since the assessment of CPS 10822/1 11.49 hectares of vegetation has been cleared within the Fish deposit and camp areas of the application area (Figure 2; Brightstar Resources Limited, 2025b). To satisfy conditions 9,10,11 and 12 of CPS 10822/1

pre-clearance flora and fauna surveys were undertaken to identify conservation significant flora and fauna species described in conditions 9,10,11 and 12. No evidence of priority flora or priority and threatened fauna species was recorded (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; Western Botanical, 2025).

2.2.1 Biological values (flora and vegetation) – Clearing Principle (a)

The 2025 Western Botanical targeted flora survey identified an additional four weed species which had previously not been recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025). None of these species are considered Weeds of National Significance however, weeds have potential to outcompete native flora and reduce biodiversity of an area (DPIRD, 2026; Western Botanical, 2025).

The presence / absence of priority flora species; *Bossiaea eremaea* (P3), *Calandrinia* sp. Menzies (F. Hort et al. FH 4100) (P3) and *Goodenia lyrata* (P3) could not be determined due to dry seasonal conditions and impacts of fire within the application area (Western Botanical, 2020). Therefore, a pre-clearance survey condition was implemented on CPS 10822/1. As areas of suitable habitat for these species remain uncleared within the application area, these conditions will be retained on the amended permit.

Previously the following species of taxonomic interest were recorded within the application area within the following habitats (Western Botanical, 2020).

Species of taxonomic interest	**Known habitat within the application area**	
	Vegetation unit	**Vegetation Description**
Acacia murrayana narrow phyllode form (G & S Cockerton 40247)	SAMA	Sandplain Spinifex Mulga and Mallee
	Disturbed	Disturbed
Eucalyptus lesouefii pruinose adult foliage form (G & S Cockerton WB40262)	EIWEsS	*Eucalyptus lesouefii* pruinose adult foliage form (G & S Cockerton WB40262) Woodland with *Eremophila scoparia* understorey
	CpW/MsS	*Casuarina pauper* Woodland and *Maireana sedifolia* Shrubland mosaic
	ChO	Shrublands on Chert Outcrops
Ptilotus obovatus upright form (G. Cockerton & G. O'Keefe 12281)	CpW	*Casuarina pauper* Woodland
	CpW/MsS	*Casuarina pauper* Woodland and Maireana sedifolia Shrubland mosaic
	EIWEsS	*Eucalyptus lesouefii* pruinose adult foliage form (G & S Cockerton WB40262) Woodland with *Eremophila scoparia* understorey
	BIF DS	Mulga Shrublands on Banded Ironstone Formation Debris Slope
	ChO	Shrublands on Chert Outcrops
	DRMS	Drainage Line Mulga Shrubland
Eriachne mucronata desert form glabrous (G & S Cockerton WB40048)	HPMS	Hardpan Mulga Shrubland
	LMWS	Lateritic Mulga and Wanderrie Shrubland
	SIMS	Stony Ironstone Mulga Shrublands

No changes to these species taxonomic classification has occurred since the assessment of CPS 10822/1 (DBCA, 2025b; WA Herbarium, 1998-). *Acacia murrayana* narrow phyllode form (G & S Cockerton 40247) and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* pruinose adult foliage form (G & S Cockerton WB40262) are abundant in the local area and had significant populations outside the application area (Western Botanical, 2020; 2025). *Ptilotus obovatus* upright form (G. Cockerton & G. O'Keefe 12281) is common within the application area and is also very widespread on similar landforms in the Laverton to Wiluna region. This species likely does not warrant conservation listing (Western Botanical, 2020). *Eriachne mucronata* desert form glabrous (G & S Cockerton WB40048) likely represents a separate species to *Eriachne mucronata* however, it is not considered to have a limited distribution and would not attract a conservation listing (Western Botanical, 2020).

The application area contains banded iron formations (BIF) outcrops and chert outcrops, by their nature these landforms are small in area and are moderately to widely disjunct in distribution and therefore have a greater risk of endemism (Western Botanical, 2020). BIF outcrops within the application area are small, low and narrow, and have a relief of approximately two metres above surrounding land on the western side (Western Botanical, 2020). Plant species recorded within BIF outcrops (approximately 2.73 hectares) and BIF debris slopes habitats (17.17 hectares), do not appear to be restricted to the application area (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The application area contains approximately 0.65 hectares of chert outcrops, no species appear to be restricted to this habitat type, however chert outcrops did contain species which were not common within the wider community including; fern *Cheilanthes distans* and shrubs, *Prostanthera althoferi* subsp. *althoferi*, *Hakea recurva* subsp. *arida*, *Sida ectogama*, *Dodonaea rigida* and *D. lobulata*, none of these species are conservation listed (DBCA, 2025b; WA Herbarium, 1998-; Western Botanical, 2020). Approximately 2.50 hectares of chert outcrop and 7.95 hectares of BIF outcrops were recorded within the broader survey area, outside of the application area and will not be impacted by the proposed clearing (Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database).

The amendment to increase the amount of clearing by an additional 75 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on flora and vegetation within the permit area.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- flora management measures to carry out a pre-clearance flora survey to demarcate and avoid the clearing of priority species; *Bossiaea eremaea*, *Calandrinia* sp. Menzies (F. Hort et al. FH 4100) and *Goodenia lyrata* within the application area.

2.2.2 *Biological values (fauna) – Clearing Principle (b)*

Since the assessment of CPS 10822/1 the conservation listing of the southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) has changed, increasing from a Priority 4 species to Vulnerable (DBCA, 2025a; DCCEEW, 2025). The southern whiteface has been previously recorded within the application area, and the application area is likely to support a small population of southern whiteface (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024). Given this species has previously been recorded within the vicinity of the application area and this species conservation listing further mitigation measures will be implemented on the permit.

Pre-clearance fauna surveys did not identify suitable habitat for great desert skink or sandhill dunnart, and did not identify evidence of malleefowl, malleefowl mounds or brush-tailed mulgara (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). However, large areas of suitable habitat for these species remains uncleared within the application area and therefore these conditions will be maintained.

The amendment to increase the amount of clearing by an additional 75 hectares is not likely to have a significant impact on fauna habitat within the permit area.

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

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

2.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 6 February 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. and one submission was received raising no objections to the proposed clearing.

There is one native title claim (WCD2023/002) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Nyalpa Pirniku). 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.

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

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

Appendix A. Site characteristics

Site characteristics table from CPS 10822/1 (DEMIRS, 2025).

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by native vegetation and non-perennial lakes, 36 kilometres north of Lake Minigwal (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the bioregion is Aboriginal Reserves, conservation reserves, grazing native pastures, lakes and major watercourses and UCL and Crown Reserves (CALM, 2002).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024; GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas in or within close proximity to the application area (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Queen Victoria Spring Nature Reserve approximately 121 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Vegetation description	The application area occurs within the IBRA Great Victorian Desert bioregion in the Great Victorian Desert Shield subregion (GVD1) (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: • **Great Victorian Desert 18**: low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; and • **Great Victorian Desert 1239**: tree-and-shrub-steppe (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Western Botanical during August 2020, and by Native Vegetation Solutions during May 2024. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020): **Sandplains** • **SAMA:** sandplain spinifex mulga and mallee • **SAGS:** sandplain spinifex with *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* • **LMWS:** lateritic mulga and wanderrie shrubland • **LMWS/ SAMU:** mosaic of lateritic mulga and wanderrie shrubland and sandplain spinifex-mulga shrubland • mulga over sandplain **Low Hills** • **CpW:** *Casuarina pauper* woodland • **CpW/MsS:** *Casuarina pauper* woodland and *Maireana sedifolia* shrubland mosaic • **EIWEsS:** *Eucalyptus lesouefii* pruinose adult foliage form (G & S Cockerton WB40262) woodland with *Eremophila scoparia* understorey • **SIMS:** stony ironstone mulga shrublands • mulga shrubland • casuarina over sclerophyll shrubland **Rocky Outcrops** • **ChO:** shrublands on chert outcrops • **BIF Debris Slope:** mulga shrublands on banded ironstone formation debris slope • **BIF (ridge):** mulga shrublands on banded ironstone formation outcrop • mulga over banded ironstone formation **Drainage Lines and Hardpan Plains** • **HPMS:** hardpan mulga shrubland • **GRMU:** groved mulga shrubland **Existing Disturbance**
Vegetation condition	The vegetation surveys (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very good to Completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as • **Very good:** Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks. to • **Completely degraded:** Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs. The area proposed to be cleared has previously been cleared for exploration activities, mining pits, waste dumps, tracks and haul roads, drill lines and access roads (NVS, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020). Approximately 222 hectares of the application area has been burnt by a wildfire that passed through the area in late 2018 (GIS Database). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in **Error! Reference source not found.**.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Great Victoria Desert Shield bioregion is arid, the average annual rainfall is 278.2 millimetres recorded at Laverton Aero (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped within elevation areas of 440 to 460 meters Australian height datum (GIS Database).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as a part of the following land systems (DPIRD, 2025; GIS Database): • **AB50 Atlas System (274b5):** Plains with scattered dunes and small breakaways of unit BY7; and • **BE15 Atlas System (274g9):** Gently undulating to low hilly pediments with stony and gravelly pavements and traversed by numerous seasonal streams. The application area is described as red sandy earth (Soil Group 463) and red-brown hardpan shallow loam (Soil Group 523) (GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Land degradation risk	Red sandy earth soils are susceptible to wind erosion (Schoknecht and Pathan, 2013). Red-brown hardpan shallow loam soils are susceptible to water erosion on sloping land and drainage lines (Schoknecht and Pathan, 2013).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there is one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). There are no permanent waterbodies that intersect the application area, the nearest waterbody is a non-perennial lake approximately 3.4 kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water source area is the Laverton Water Reserve and Catchment Area located approximately 81 kilometres northwest of the application area (GIS Database). There are no Wetlands of International Importance or Nationally Important Wetlands that occur within the application area or in the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is between approximately 3,000 to 7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There are no records of Threatened flora species occurring within the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database). There are no Priority flora species within the application area (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database). However, there are records of three Priority flora that occur within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database). An additional two Priority flora species have potential to occur within the application area (Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database). Four novel flora species, and one population near the northern extent of the species known range identified by Western Botanical (2020) within the application area.
Ecological communities	There are no records of Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities within the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The nearest Priority Ecological Community is Mount Linden Range vegetation complex (banded ironstone formation) (P3) approximately 62 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are four fauna of conservation significance within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024; GIS Database), and an additional twelve conservation significance species that occur within the subregion (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024).
Fauna habitat	Six broad fauna habitats were identified within the application area with 115.17 hectares consisting of disturbed area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024): • mulga woodland; • mulga woodland with eucalypts; • mulga drainage; • rocky rise; • open eucalypt woodland with low shrubs; and • sparse sheoak woodland.

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment of ten clearing principles from CPS 10822/1, principles (a) and (b) contain summarised information from Section 3.2.1 and Section 3.2.2 in CPS 10822/1 regarding flora and fauna (DEMIRS, 2025).

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 potential habitat for three priority flora species; *Bossiaea eremaea*, *Calandrinia* sp. Menzies (F. Hort et al. FH 4100) and *Goodenia lyrata*. Four flora species of taxonomic interest have been recorded within the application area. Chert and BIF outcrops have been recorded within the application area which have the potential to support more restricted species.	At variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	Yes *Refer to Section 2.2.1.*
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 contains foraging and breeding habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and potential habitat for southern whiteface	At variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	Yes *Refer to Section 2.2.2.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
(*Aphelocephala leucopsis*, VU), sandhill grasswren (*Amytornis oweni oweni*, P4), and brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*, P4).		
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (NVS, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	No
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: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity (20 kilometres) to the application area (NVS, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024; Western Botanical, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	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 vegetation type area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The current extent of vegetation associations remaining Commonwealth of Australia (2001). • **Great Victorian Desert 18:** 99.99% (1,370,478.23 hectares) • **Great Victorian Desert 1239:** 99.99% (1,393,809.72 hectares) The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024; GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	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 nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	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: There are no permanent water courses or wetlands recorded within the application area. There is one minor, non-perennial watercourse that intersects the application area, the vegetation communities associated with this watercourse is CpW/MsS and EIWEsS. Potential impacts to vegetation associated with this vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.	May be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	No
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 highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Noting the location of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing can be minimised by the implementation of a stated clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetation cover for extended periods.	At variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	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:	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given no permanent water courses, wetlands, and Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.		
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: There is one minor non-perennial watercourse that intersects the application area, there are numerous non-perennial watercourses and water bodies within the local surrounds that occur at lower elevations. The proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly contribute waterlogging as land is relatively flat with low hills. Potential impacts to vegetation associated with this vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition	May be at variance (as per CPS 10822/1)	No

Appendix C. Areas cleared within the application area

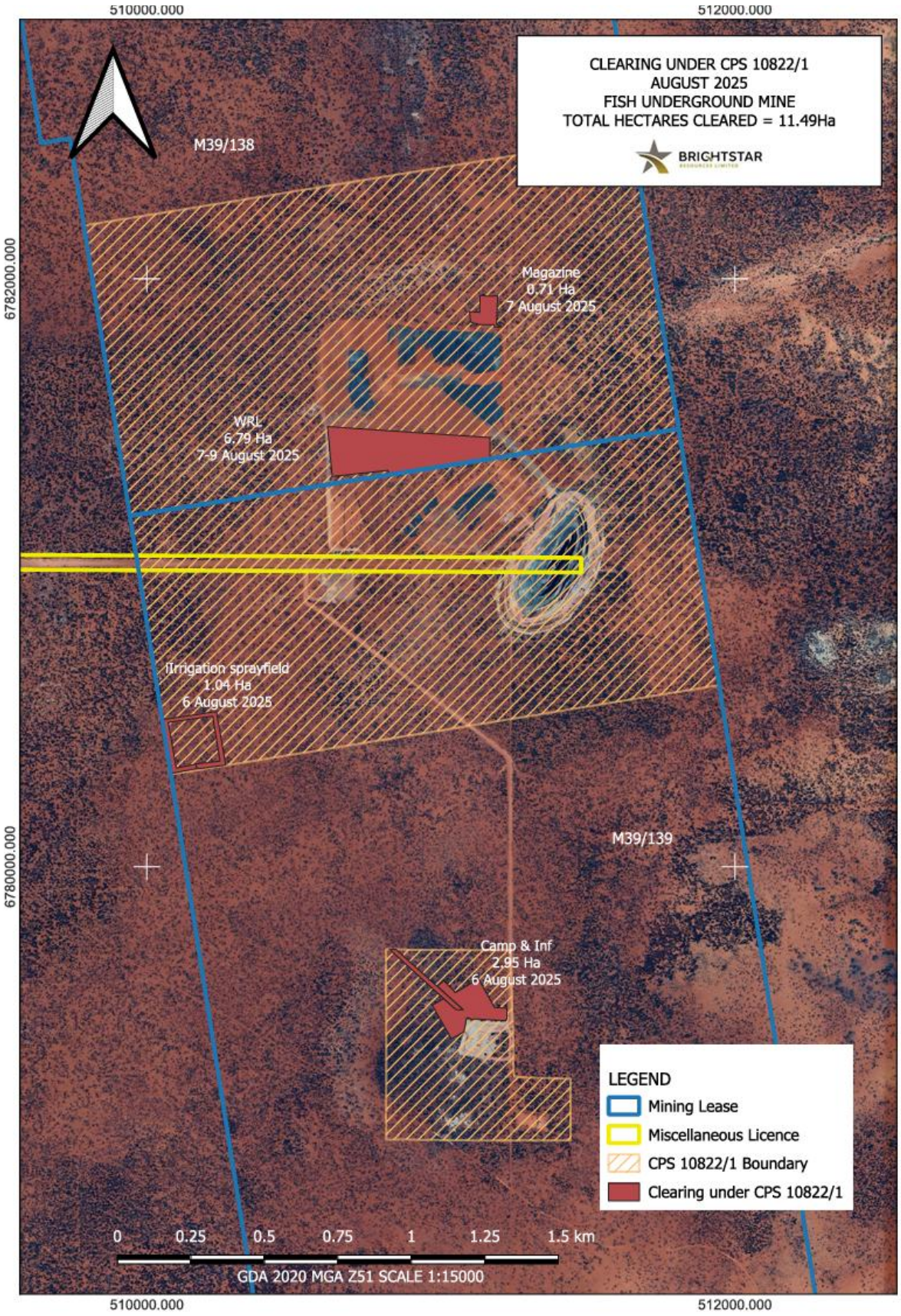

Figure 2. Areas within the Fish deposit and camp area that have been cleared (Brightstar Resources Limited, 2025b).

Appendix D. References and databases

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- 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 - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

Brightstar Resources Limited (2025a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10822/2, received 5 November 2025.

Brightstar Resources Limited (2025b) *Clearing under CPS 10822/1 August 2025, Fish Underground Mine* [Map].

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Laverton Aero (012305). Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 28 April 2025).

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

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

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2025a) Threatened and Priority Fauna List, July 2025. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) (2025b) Threatened and Priority Flora List, July 2025. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2023) Conservation Advice for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface). Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, March 2023.

Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) (2025) Clearing Permit Decision Report CPS 10822/1. Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, July 2025.

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 3 March 2026).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 30 April 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2026) Western Australian Organism List. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/online tools/western-australian-organism-list/ (Accessed 19 March 2026).

Schoknecht, N. R., and Pathan, S. (2013) Soil groups of Western Australia – A simple guide to the main soils of Western Australia (4th edn). Report No. 380. Department of Agriculture and Food.

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2024) Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Assessment – Laverton Operations. Prepared for Brightstar Resources Limited, June 2024.

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) Pre-clearance inspection for areas around Fish operations. Prepared for Brightstar Resources Limited, July 2025.

Submission (2026) Public submission in relation to clearing permit application CPS 10822/2, received 16 February 2026.

Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAM) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed March 2026).

Western Botanical (2020) Targeted Flora and Vegetation Assessment, Lord Byron and Fish Deposits. Prepared for Blue Cap Mining Pty Ltd, Laverton Gold Project, August 2020.

Western Botanical (2025) Targeted Priority Flora Survey of the Fish Underground Project. Prepared for Brightstar Resources Limited, July 2025.

3. 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)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
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* (Commonwealth 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 (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia:

Threatened species

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

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

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

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of Ministerial Guideline Number 1 and Ministerial Guideline Number 2 that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria, and is based on the national distribution of the species.

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.