

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10845/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Widgie Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	19 November 2024
Application area:	135 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 15/87 Miscellaneous Licence 15/414
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Munda Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Widgie Gold Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 135 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 280 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 30 kilometres southwest of Kambalda West, within the Shire of Coolgardie.

The application is to allow for the recommencement of open pit mining within the Munda Gold Project and construct a haul road that will connect the mine site to the existing Mt. Edwards Haul Road for ore haulage to Coolgardie (Widgie Gold, 2024).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	1 May 2025
Decision area:	135 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DEMIRS) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant including information from a flora and vegetation survey as well as a fauna assessment (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- potential impacts to malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*); and
- potential land degradation in the form of erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;

- avoid clearing of Priority flora *Philotheca apiculata* and avoid clearing within a 10 metre buffer;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- conduct pre-clearance surveys to identify and avoid active malleefowl mounds; and
- commence mineral production and associated activities no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Munda Gold Project area is a historic mine site. Planned infrastructure will, where possible, be located in historically cleared or degraded areas and linked to existing area infrastructure to minimise the need for new clearing (Widgie Gold, 2024).

Progressive clearing will be undertaken as required to accommodate project development stages. Progressive rehabilitation will be part of the mine planning process (Widgie Gold, 2024).

The clearing areas will be inspected prior to the commencement of ground disturbing activities and the findings in respect to malleefowl will be reported in the Annual Native Vegetation Clearing Report to DEMIRS (Auric Mining Ltd, 2024).

Weed management strategies will be in place. For example (Auric Mining Ltd, 2024):

- materials (i.e. soil) should not be removed from sites for reuse where weed infestations are evident without prior spraying;
- require as a site condition that all earthmoving equipment and vehicles are washed down prior to the initial transport to site and are soil free; and
- existing infestations in the general project area and stockpiles will be brought to the attention of the Mine Management for action.

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene and staged clearing management conditions as well as non-standard directional clearing, flora management and fauna management conditions.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 18 February 2025 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Marlinyu Ghoorile). However, the mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). 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*), which is a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Federal) Department of Climate Change, 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 and the Environment for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan approved under the *Mining Act 1978*.

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the vegetation and landscape of the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application does not form part of a conservation area. The closest record of a conservation area is the Dordie Rocks Nature Reserve which is located approximately 10 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: 9: Medium woodland; coral gum (<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>) & goldfields blackbutt (<i>E. lesouefii</i>) (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica Consulting during November, 2021. The following vegetation communities were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2021): CLP-EW1 (Eucalyptus woodland): <i>Eucalyptus urna</i>, <i>E. lesouefii</i> and <i>E. transcontinentalis</i> woodland over <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i>, <i>Acacia hemiteles</i> and <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> shrubland over <i>Olearia muelleri</i> and mixed <i>Maireana</i> low shrubland. RH-EW1 (Eucalyptus woodland): <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i>, <i>E. griffithsii</i> and <i>E. torquata</i> open woodland over <i>Dodonaea lobulata</i>, <i>Trymalium myrtillus</i> subsp. <i>myrtillus</i> and <i>Grevillea nematophylla</i> open shrubland over <i>Westringia rigida</i>, <i>Olearia muelleri</i> and <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> low open shrubland. Representative photos of these vegetation communities are available in Appendix D.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Botanica Consulting, 2021) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very Good to Completely Degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate	The application area falls within a zone marked by wet winters and dry summers with an annual average rainfall of 286.7 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils mapped within the application area are described as calcareous loamy earth, calcareous stony soil, friable non-cracking clay, red deep sand, very shallow soil over ferricrete, and saline soil (DPIRD, 2025).
Land systems and erosion risk	The application area falls within the Coolgardie, Graves, and Monger land systems. These land systems are described as shown below (Wadell and Galloway, 2023): Coolgardie land system: Uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands. Where not protected by a stony mantle, footslopes and valley floors are susceptible to water erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed. Graves land system: Basalt and greenstone low hills, supporting acacia shrublands and/or eucalypt woodlands with saltbush and bluebush understoreys. Stony mantles and moderately dense vegetation mean this land system is generally not prone to erosion, unless the protective mantle is disturbed, which most often occurs with construction of exploration tracks and drill pads. Alluvial plains in valley floors are susceptible to water erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed. Monger land system: Low rises, breakaways and very gently undulating plains with ironstone gravel mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands, dissected by saline alluvial tracts that support halophytic shrublands. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that four minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within the Goldfields Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).
Flora	No threatened species have been recorded in the application area. One Priority 1 flora species was recorded in the southwest of the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2021; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities have been recorded in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2021; GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	The basic fauna search did not record any evidence for the presence of significant fauna or habitat within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2021; GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Based on vegetation and associated landforms assessed during the flora and vegetation assessment, two broad scale terrestrial fauna habitats were identified as occurring within the survey area (Botanica Consulting, 2021): Eucalyptus woodland on clay-loam plain: <i>Eucalyptus</i> and <i>Melaleuca</i> open woodland over <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland over mixed low shrubland. Eucalyptus woodland on rocky hillslope: <i>Eucalyptus</i> woodland over <i>Dodonaea</i> and <i>Tymalium</i> shrubland over mixed low shrubland.

A.2. Fauna analysis table

A desktop review identified eight terrestrial vertebrate species of conservation significance that have the potential to occur within the application area with a full fauna likelihood assessment outlined below (Botanica Consulting, 2021).

Species	Conservation Status			Habitat Description	Comments	Likelihood
	EPBC Act	BC Act	DBCA Priority			
Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	EN	CR	-	Most habitat records are of <i>Triodia</i> (<i>Spinifex</i>) grasslands and/or chenopod shrublands in the arid and semi-arid zones, or <i>Astrelba</i> spp. (Mitchell grass), shrubby samphire and chenopod associations, scattered trees and shrubs, <i>Acacia aneura</i> (Mulga) woodland, treeless areas and bare gibber are associated with sightings of the species. Roosting and nesting sites are consistently reported as within clumps of dense vegetation, primarily old and large <i>Spinifex</i> (<i>Triodia</i>) clumps, but sometimes other vegetation types (DAWE, 2020b).	Outside known range, no suitable habitat expected to occur.	Unlikely
Grey Falcon <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	VU	VU		The Grey Falcon occurs at low densities across inland Australia. The species frequents timbered lowland plains, particularly acacia shrublands that are crossed by tree-lined water courses. The species has been observed hunting in treeless areas and frequents tussock grassland and open woodland, especially in winter. While breeding Grey Falcons feed almost exclusively on birds. Prey species include doves, pigeons, small parrots and cockatoos and finches, but a variety of other bird prey species has been recorded. Nonavian prey recorded by direct observation include small mammals and lizards.	Survey area may form part of larger home range but unlikely to breed in area	Possible
Malleefowl <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	VU	VU	-	Scrublands and woodlands dominated by mallee and wattle species (DAWE, 2020b).	Habitat likely marginal and unsuitable for breeding. Occasional transients only.	Possible
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>	MI	-	-	Low to very high airspace over varied habitat from rainforest to semi desert (Birdlife Australia, 2019).	Very occasional transients only.	Unlikely
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	MI	-	-	Running water in disused quarries, sandy, rocky streams in escarpments and rainforest, sewerage ponds, ploughed fields and airfields (Morecombe 2004).	No suitable habitat.	Would Not Occur
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	-	OS	-	The Peregrine Falcon is found in most habitats, from rainforests to the arid zone, and at most altitudes, from the coast to alpine areas. It requires abundant prey and secure nest sites and prefers coastal and inland cliffs or open woodlands near water, and may even be found nesting on high city buildings (Birdlife Australia, 2018).	Survey area may form part of larger home range but unlikely to breed in area	Possible
Migratory Shorebirds (Various species)	IA/MI	IA/MI	P4	Prefer muddy edges of shallow fresh or brackish wetlands, with inundated or emergent sedges, grass, saltmarsh or other low vegetation. This includes lagoons, swamps, lakes and pools near the coast, and dams, waterholes, soaks, bore drains and bore swamps, salt pans and hypersaline salt lakes inland (DAWE, 2020b).	No suitable habitat.	Would Not Occur
Western Rosella (inland) <i>Platycercus icterotis</i> subsp. <i>xanthogenys</i>	-	-	P4	The inland subspecies is found in eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (<i>E. wandoo</i>), flooded gum, salmon gum (<i>E. salmonophloia</i>), tall mallee and rock sheoak (<i>Allocasuarina huegeliana</i>)	At extreme of known range, habitat unlikely to be present.	Unlikely
Chuditch <i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	VU	VU	-	Previously occurred throughout arid and semi-arid Australia but is now restricted to south-west Western Australia. (DAWE, 2020b).	Considered to be regionally extinct	Unlikely

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Vegetation within the application area is considered to be of low biological diversity and is well represented outside of the Munda Gold Project area (Botanica Consulting, 2021). Priority 1 flora <i>Philotheca apiculata</i> was recorded within the application area, but outside the proposed development envelope. No priority flora was recorded in the mine development area (Botanica Consulting, 2021). Avoidance of this flora record can be managed by a flora condition on the clearing permit. The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Priority Ecological Communities (PECs). The closest mapped community is the Priority 3 Mount Belches <i>Acacia quadrimarginea/Ptilotus obovatus</i> (banded ironstone formation) Ecological Community (GIS Database). Current desktop and field survey evidence, suggests no floral habitat of regional significance will be permanently impacted by the proposed clearing activities (Botanica Consulting, 2021). Introduced taxa (weeds) were recorded in the survey area, none of these species are listed as Declared Plants. Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.		
Principle (b): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The assessment identified three significant fauna species as potentially occurring in the application area, consisting of two Vulnerable (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i> and <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>) and one Specially Protected (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) taxa (Botanica Consulting, 2021). It should be noted that while habitats in the application area for one or more of the species listed above are considered possibly suitable, some or all may be marginal in extent or quality and therefore the fauna species considered as possibly occurring may in fact only visit the area for short periods as infrequent vagrants (Botanica Consulting, 2021). Pedestrian searches by the flora survey team, which included an arid ecologist with extensive malleefowl experience, did not locate any evidence of the bird's presence (Auric Mining Ltd, 2024). No evidence for the presence of malleefowl, including nesting mounds, tracks or other signs, were recorded within the application area. No other evidence of significant fauna species was observed during the survey (Botanica Consulting, 2021). The Permit Holder proposed to conduct searches before clearing commences and to report findings in respect to malleefowl to DEMIRS. This commitment will be enforced by placing a fauna management condition on the clearing permit.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (c): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared did not contain any records of Threatened flora species (GIS Database) and none were identified in the application area during the flora survey (Botanica Consulting, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened Ecological Communities were mapped or recorded in the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2021; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The application area falls within the Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Coolgardie Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 9 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
97 per cent of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).		
<u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (10 kilometres) (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Four minor non-perennial drainage lines are mapped as transecting the application area. Aerial imagery indicates these drainage lines are not very well defined, and the vegetation community mapping also indicates the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland (Botanica Consulting, 2021; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> The mapped soils and land systems are moderately susceptible to erosion if the protective stone mantle or perennial shrub cover is disturbed (Wadell and Galloway, 2023). Noting the extent and location of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	May be at variance	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given no permanent water courses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i> <u>Assessment:</u> Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.

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

Appendix D. Photographs of vegetation communities



Figure 1. Vegetation community CLP-EW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2021).



Figure 2. Vegetation community RH-EW1 (Botanica Consulting, 2021).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- 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
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- 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)
- 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)

E.2. References

- Auric Mining Ltd (2024) Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document Munda Gold Project M15/87, L15/414. Report prepared for Widgie Gold Pty Ltd.
- Botanica Consulting (2021) Mt. Edwards Project Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Assessment. Report prepared for Widgie Nickel Ltd, December 2021.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Kambalda West. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 24 April 2025).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 24 April 2025).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 24 April 2025).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf
- 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.
- Waddell P.A. and Galloway P.D. (2023) 'Land systems, soils and vegetation of the southern Goldfields and Great Western Woodlands of Western Australia', Technical bulletin 99, vol 2, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.
- Widgie Gold Pty Ltd (2024) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10845/1, received 19 November 2024.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , 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
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DEMIRS)
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	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , 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.