GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10858/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	From 07/04/2025 to 07/04/2030

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of installing renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 75 on Deposited Plan 213140, Camballin

Lot 1500 on Deposited Plan 75877, Camballin

Myroodah-Luluigui Road Reserve (PIN 1157372), Camballin

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 4.1 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 07/04/2030.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

6. Weed management

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

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

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

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

7. Directional clearing

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

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

8. Records that must be kept

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

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) the date that construction commenced; (f) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5; and (g) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6.

9. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 8 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

B. Walker.

Belinda Walker
Executive Director
GREEN ENERGY

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

12 March 2025

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10858/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power
Application received:	27 November 2024
Application area:	4.1 hectares of native vegetation in a 5.1 ha development envelope
Purpose of clearing:	Installation of renewable energy infrastructure and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 75 on Deposited Plan 213140 Lot 1500 on Deposited Plan 75877 Myroodah-Luluigui Road Reserve (PIN 1157372)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
Localities (suburb/s):	Camballin

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Regional Power Corporation, trading as Horizon Power (Horizon Power) proposes to clear up to 4.1 hectares of native vegetation in a development envelope of 5.1 hectares for geotechnical surveys, solar arrays, battery storage, laydown and construction areas, ancillary infrastructure, network connection infrastructure and access tracks. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is contained within a single contiguous area (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The remaining area within the development envelope has already been cleared for tracks and existing infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	13 March 2025
Decision area:	4.1 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix A), relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1), the findings of a biological survey, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of eight individuals of potential Priority 3 flora taxa *Polymeria? sp*. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759)
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna if present during clearing activities
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing 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
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

1.5. Site map

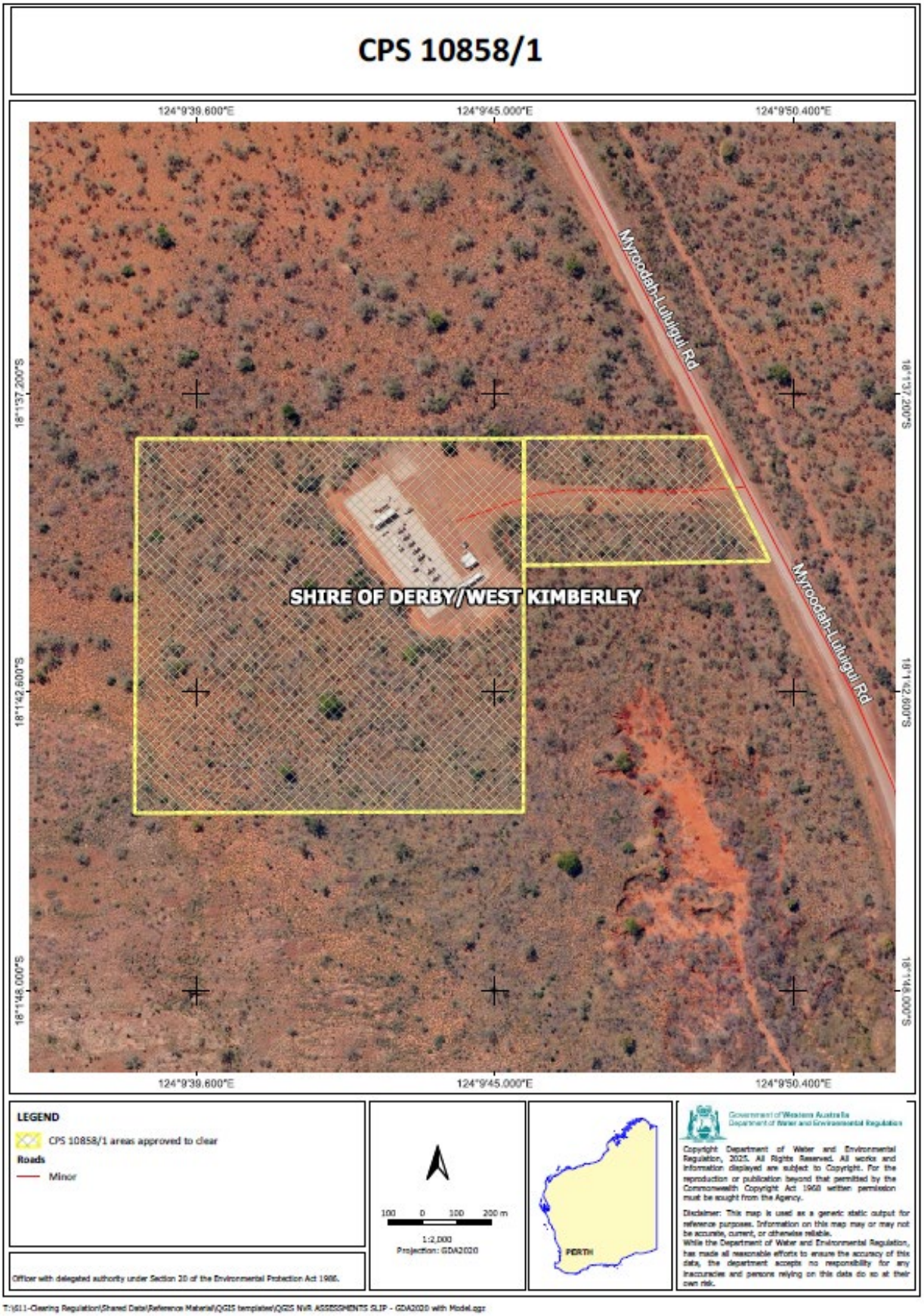

Figure 1 Map of the application area.

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

2 Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant advised that avoidance and minimisation measures were undertaken during site selection, including placement of solar infrastructure adjacent to the existing power station to reduce the clearing associated with additional transmission infrastructure, and utilising the existing power station as opposed to construction of a new facility.

The applicant advised that potential impacts of the proposed clearing would be managed through implementation of the applicant's Construction Environmental Management Plan (Horizon Power, 2024). The applicant has proposed the following mitigation measures:

- placement of assets and access tracks in existing cleared locations where possible
- undertaking works systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks
- preferentially selecting areas of degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared areas for the location of test pits and laydown areas
- demarcation of clearing locations with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities
- clearing areas will be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 4.1 ha of clearing is undertaken
- holding a pre-clearing environmental toolbox to ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit
- undertaking the clearing of native vegetation in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area
- movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/routes and will not cross into adjacent vegetation
- vehicles and machinery will arrive clean and weed control will be undertaken at the site post-construction as required.

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, staged clearing and erosion management conditions.

3.2.1. Biological values – Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna - Clearing Principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

The applicant commissioned GHD to perform a biological survey over the application area in 2024. The survey identified the vegetation in the application area as comprising of an open woodland of *Corymbia zygophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia tumida, Grevillea refracta* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* on red-orange sandplain in Very Good to Excellent conditions (Trudgen, 1991), with an exception to an area of approximately 1 ha of cleared area. The identified vegetation type is consistent with the vegetation mapping for the region.

The vegetation in Excellent condition may provide habitat to conservation significant flora and fauna taxa. A Priority 3 listed flora taxa was tentatively recorded at two locations in the application area; however, the species is known from the Dampierland bioregion, is not considered a range extension and not at immediate risk from local development (GHD, 2024). A total of 13 priority flora species are mapped in the local area with four of these species having the potential to occur in the application area.

The application area comprises one broad fauna habitat type 'Mixed tall open shrubland plain', which is well represented locally and regionally, and is considered to have high value for fauna species but does not contain breeding habitat or critical habitat for conservation significant fauna. No significant fauna species were recorded during the survey of the application area (GHD, 2024). A total of 37 conservation significant fauna species are mapped in the local area with eight of these species having the potential to occur in the application area.

Given the vegetation condition, the relatively small extent of clearing within the context of the much larger extent of native vegetation in the area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation of conservation significant flora and fauna species at the local and regional levels. Potential impacts to any fauna individual present at the time of clearing can be mitigated by ensuring that clearing is performed in slow manner in the direction of adjacent vegetation. Demarcating the clearing area can further avoid inadvertent clearing of any conservation significant flora, if present, in nearby vegetation.

Clearing, however, may introduce and spread weed to the native vegetation surrounding the application area which can reduce the quality and habitat values of the vegetation. This can be managed by ensuring that a stringent weed control and management is practised during clearing and the construction of the infrastructure for which the clearing is required.

Conclusion:

The proposed clearing is unlikely to have a direct impact on the conservation of flora and fauna at the local and regional extents. Indirect impact of clearing can be managed by imposing conditions to the permit:

Conditions:

The following conditions are imposed on the permit to mitigate the potential impacts of clearing:

- weed control and management
- slow and directional clearing.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

DWER advised the Shire of Derby-West Kimberley of the proposed clearing but did not receive a response. The project is considered Public Works and is expected to be exempt from development approval under Section 6 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, however, due regard is required with respect to:

- the purpose and intent of any planning scheme that has effect in the locality where, and at the time when, the right is exercised
- the orderly and proper planning, and the preservation of the amenity, of that locality at that time
- any advice provided by the responsible authority in the course of the consultation required.

The applicant is permitted to access water under Section 42 and 49 of the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979*. Any licences required for construction water will be acquired by the construction contractor.

The applicant is undertaking geotechnical works through the exercise of powers conferred by the *Energy Operators (Powers) Act 1979.* The applicant has advised that the proposed clearing area is leased by Horizon Power from Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Several registered Aboriginal heritage sites of significance have been mapped within the application area and the surrounding local area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The 4.1-hectare 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 large areas of uncleared land within the Dampierland IBRA Bioregion and Fitzroy Trough IBRA Subregion. Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area is not considered part of a significant ecological linkage. Most of the vegetation immediately surrounding the application area remains uncleared. The closest environmentally sensitive area is approximately 2.4 km southeast, which is associated with the Camballin Floodplain (Le Livre Swamp System), a Nationally Important Wetland, and a major post-breeding refuge for waterbirds (GHD, 2024).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any conservation areas. The closest legislated conservation area is Balili Conservation Park (Devonian Reef) approximately 96 km to the northeast.
Vegetation description	The flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2024) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of one vegetation type: • VT01 – 4.1 hectares - Open woodland of *Corymbia zygophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia tumida, Grevillea refracta* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* on red-orange sandplain. • Cleared – 1 hectare.
Vegetation condition	The flora and vegetation survey (GHD, 2024) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in the following condition (Trudgen, 1991): • 3.54 hectares (69.4%) as Excellent • 0.56 hectares (11.0%) as Very Good • 1 hectare (19.6%) as Cleared The main disturbance factors in the proposed clearing area comprise of vehicle tracks, associated infrastructure and weed invasion. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The local area climate is described as dry, hot and tropical with semi-arid summer rainfall. Annual average temperatures range from 20.1°C to 35.9°C, with an average annual rainfall of 613.5 millimetres (BOM, 2025). The application area is situated within St George Land System (Stg) which is characterised as a sandstone plateau and hill lands with open spinifex and stunted trees, and pindan on the sandplain (GHD, 2024).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as the St Geroge system (331St) described as rocky sandstone plateaux and mountains supporting open spinifex with stunted trees; also lower sandplains with pindan vegetation of acacias with curly spinifex and ribbon grass (GIS Database). The proposed clearing area is not within an area at risk of Acid Sulfate Soils and does not intersect any contaminated sites.
Land degradation risk	The mapped soil is not susceptible to land degradation risks and the clearing is not expected to cause appreciable land degradation.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no wetlands or watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared. There are several surrounding mapped minor watercourses, however, they do not intersect the proposed area to be cleared. The Camballin Floodplain (Le Livre Swamp System), a Nationally Important Wetland associated with the Fitzroy River, is located approximately 2.3 km east-southeast (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, Fitzroy River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and Camballin Irrigation District, proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The

Characteristic	Details
	Camballin Water Reserve, a P1 Public Drinking Water Source Area under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* is located approximately 4.2 km northeast of the application area. Groundwater salinity is mapped as 500 – 1,000 TDS mg/L, which is considered fresh. Groundwater bores around the nearby town of Looma are at a depth of approximately 10 - 50 metres below ground level, with no extraction of groundwater expected for the project.
Flora	DWER's desktop assessment identified 13 priority flora species recorded in the local area. The nearest mapped significant flora records include *Euploca geocharis* (Priority 1 [P1]) and *Corchorus fitzroyensis* (P3), both located approximately 2.3 km south of the application area. The biological survey (GHD, 2024) tentatively recorded one DBCA listed P3 flora taxa, *Polymeria?sp*. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) from the application area. The specimen did not have flowers and therefore could not be confirmed to species level, however, has several other characters that align with this taxon. A total of eight individuals were recorded from two locations. No other significant flora listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded during the survey. No flora recorded in the survey area represented range extensions, flora of interest, such as undescribed species or taxonomic anomalies (GHD, 2024). Two introduced flora species were recorded within the survey area; neither of these were weeds of national significance or declared pests under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (GHD, 2024).
Ecological communities	The application area is not located within any known or mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs). The closest community, the Kimberley Vegetation Association 759 PEC (P3), is approximately 6 km south of the application area and is associated with a major drainage line system.
Fauna	DWER's desktop assessment identified 37 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area. The closest records include: • Prince Regent hardyhead (*Craterocephalus lentiginosus*) – P2, approximately 2.5 km • small toadlet (Mitchell Plateau) (*Uperoleia minima*) – P3, approximately 4.7 km • Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – Other specially protected fauna, approximately 5.2 km. No significant fauna listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded in the application area during the survey (GHD, 2024).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Dampierland	8,343,944.95	8,319,879.14	99.71	142,055.31	1.70
Vegetation complex – Beard vegetation association*					
702	434,783.66	434,560.88	99.95	NA	NA
64	25,433.14	25,418.64	99.94	NA	NA
Local area					
50 km radius	779,674.19	778,717.60	99.88	NA	NA

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

A database search returned the following conservation significant flora species within a 50 km radius of the application area with the potential to occur in the proposed clearing area.

Species name	Conservation status (WA)	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Corchorus fitzroyensis	P3	Y	Y	Y	2.3	2	Y
Euploca geocharis	P1	Y	Y	Y	2.3	1	Y
Goodenia byrnesii	P3	Y	Y	Y	>15	2	Y
Paranotis halfordii	P3	Y	Y	Y	>25	1	Y

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

A database search returned the following conservation significant fauna species within a 50 km radius of the application area with the potential to occur in the proposed clearing area.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Apus pacificus (Fork-tailed swift)	MI	Y	>45	1	Y
Chloebia gouldiae (Gouldian finch)	P4/EN	Y	17.4	1	Y
Falco hypoleucos (Grey falcon)	VU	Y	14.9	2	Y
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	5.2	4	Y
Hirundo rustica (Barn swallow)	MI	Y	>40	1	Y
Leggadina lakedownensis (Northern short-tailed mouse)	P4	Y	>35	4	Y
Macrotis lagotis (Bilby)	VU	Y	>25	7	Y
Petrogale lateralis kimberleyensis (West Kimberley rock-wallaby)	EN	Y	10.3	27	Y

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally threatened flora, TECs or PECs. No conservations significant flora and fauna are recorded from the application area. However, several conservation significant flora and fauna have been recorded in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes See section 3.2

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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 habitat potentially suitable for foraging and dispersal for 11 conservation significant fauna species but was not found to be critical habitat to any of the conservation significant species occurring in the local area. The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact any conservation significant fauna that might occur in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *See section 3.2.1*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The biological survey (GHD, 2024) did not record any threatened flora species that are likely to occur in the habitat present in the application area. There is no recorded threatened flora in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *See section 3.2.1*
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain vegetation that is representative of a threatened ecological community (TEC). The closest community, a P3 PEC, is approximately 6 km to the south of the application area associated with a major drainage line system	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (over 95 km), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality. The closest wetland is a Nationally Important Wetland approximately	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
2.3 km east-southeast from the application area. No riparian vegetation was recorded in the proposed clearing area.		
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are not susceptible to wind or water erosion. Topographic mapping indicates the degree of slope is small and not likely to have a large amount of soil or water movement that would cause or exacerbate erosion. The application area has previous disturbance next to the existing power station and access track. Standard construction management measures will be incorporated to reduce the risk of soil erosion and sedimentation as a result of ground disturbance and clearing. Noting the location of the application area and management actions such as dust control and flood risk mitigation measures to be implemented through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: No watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area. The application area is located within the Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, Fitzroy River and Tributaries Surface Water Area and Camballin Irrigation District, proclaimed under the RIWI Act. The proposed works will be limited to a depth of 3 metres below ground level for installation of the solar array frame and is not expected to intercept groundwater. No dewatering or groundwater extraction is required for the project and is therefore unlikely to impact on groundwater quality. Potential impacts to surface water quality from erosion/sedimentation/hydrocarbons will be managed (Horizon Power 2024), therefore impacts to surface water is expected to be unlikely.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Mean annual rainfall for the area is 613.5 mm (BOM, 2025) with rainfall generally received with downpours and cyclonic events typical of the region. There may be risk of flooding at the application area associated with storms and cyclones. Noting the extent of the proposed clearing in the context of the extensively vegetated area, no recorded watercourses or wetlands within the application area and the management measures in the CEMP, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	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 Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation

Photos from the biological survey undertaken by GHD in March 2024 (GHD, 2024).

Photo 1: Vegetation type VT01 - Open woodland of *Corymbia zygophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia tumida, Grevillea refracta* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* over hummock grassland of *Triodia schinzii* over an open tussock grassland of *Aristida hygrometrica, Eragrostis setifolia* and *Eriachne ciliata* over open forbland of *Melhania oblongifolia, Tribulopis angustifolia* and *Boerhavia coccinea* on red-orange sandplain.

Photo 2: Fauna habitat of 'Mixed tall open shrubland plain' - open woodland of *Corymbia zygophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia tumida*, *Grevillea refracta* and *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* on red-orange sandplain.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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