Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10867/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	DBNGP (WA) Nominees Pty Ltd
Application received:	29 November 2024
Application area:	0.21 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Constructing a pipeline and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Lot 540 on Deposited Plan 221364, Burrup
	Lot 704 on Deposited Plan 411759, Burrup
	Lot 3013 on Deposited Plan 042282, Burrup
Location (LGA area/s):	City of Karratha
Colloquial name:	King Bay Lateral Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

DBNGP (WA) Nominees Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 0.21 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1.43 hectares, for the purpose of constructing a pipeline and supporting infrastructure. The project is located approximately 6.25 kilometres southwest of Dampier, within the City of Karratha.

The application is to allow for the construction of a pipeline and supporting infrastructure to transport natural gas from the existing Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP) to the proposed Perdaman Urea Plant development (Project Ceres) (DBNGP, 2024).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	25 March 2025
Decision area:	0.21 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 one submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), 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.

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;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of waterlogging; and

- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area within 12 months of clearing to ensure fauna habitat is not permanently lost.

1.5. Site map

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

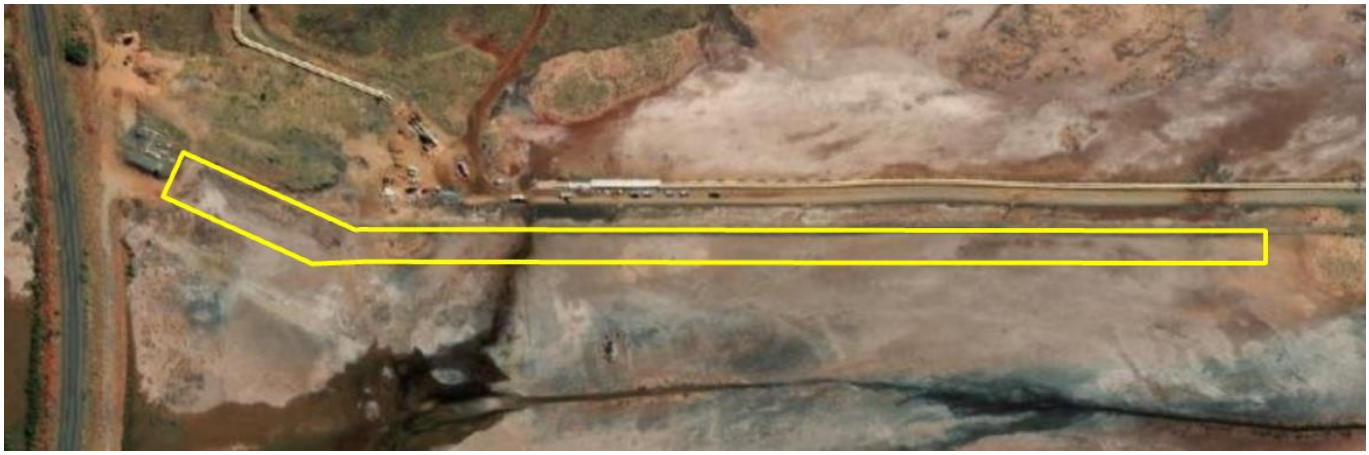

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *The Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* (WA)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 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 Permit Holder has provided the following proposed environment mitigation measures for the proposed clearing (AGIG, 2024):

- The proposal will utilise the existing rock causeway for the construction of the pipeline avoiding the clearing of vegetation;
- the proposed pipeline will be underground. As such, the majority of surface disturbance will be temporary, with natural landforms to be reinstated postconstruction;
- the clearing area has been designed to avoid increased fragmentation as far as practicable including positioning the application area adjacent to existing infrastructure (i.e. the existing causeway);
- weed hygiene controls will be implemented; and
- the proposal will utilise the existing causeway for the construction of the pipeline, avoiding the clearing of fauna habitat

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 B) 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 C) 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 a revegetation and rehabilitation management condition.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 14 February 2025 by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2005/001) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (Ngarluma/Yindjibarndi).

There are seven 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 migratory birds and their habitat, which are 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:

- An Environment Plan approved under the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969*.

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. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The City of Karratha submitted a comment indicating the proposed pipeline is to supply the Perdaman Urea Plant and it was approved by the Joint Regional Development Panel on March 2022. They also noted that provisions to the planning framework must be considered within the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* and *Dampier to Bunbury Act 1997*.	The matters raised by the City of Karratha are managed under the *Petroleum Pipelines Act 1969* and other legislation. This submission has been reviewed and considered for this assessment.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of a 111.32 hectare saline coastal flat in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia which is adjacent to the Burrup Desalination Plant (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	The application area does not form part of any formal ecological linkages. Based on aerial imagery, it is possible that the application area is located in an area that could be utilised as a fauna corridor (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest conservation area is Murujuga National Park located approximately 1 kilometre south of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association 117: Hummock grassland *Triodia* spp. (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Eco Logical Australia during March, 2024. The following vegetation type was recorded within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2024): • Vegetation type 1 (VT01): *Tecticornia halocnemoides, Tecticornia indica* subsp. *leiostachya, Trianthema turgidifolium* low sparse chenopod shrubland. Representative photos are available in Appendix E.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Eco Logical Australia, 2024) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Poor (Trudgen, 1991) condition. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The application area is located in an arid zone with an annual average rainfall (Dampier Salt) of 263.3 millimetres (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils mapped in the application area are described as tidal soils, salt lake soils, and various red sandy soils (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The application area is falls within the Littoral land system (DPIRD, 2025). The Littoral land system is described as bare coastal mudflats with mangroves on seaward fringes, samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches. About 70 per cent of the system is tidal flat which supports no vegetation, coastal dunes are highly susceptible to wind erosion if plant cover is lost by fire or other disturbance; mangrove communities are significant habitats (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared. However, the application area falls within a saline coastal flat (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area falls within the Pilbara Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914 (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is of 1,000-3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish (GIS Database).
Flora	No Threatened or Priority flora species have been recorded within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2024; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (Eco Logical Australia, 2024; GIS Database).
Fauna	No Threatened or Priority fauna species have been recorded within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2024; GIS Database). Migratory birds were considered to have the potential to occur within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2024).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna habitat	Two fauna habitat types were identified within the application area (Eco Logical Australia, 2024). These habitats are described below: • Mudflats: Species poor mudflats; and • Low Chenopod Shrubland: Low sparse chenopods.

Appendix C. 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 records of conservation significant flora, fauna or ecological communities (Eco Logical Australia, 2024; GIS Database). There was one Priority 3 flora species (*Stackhousia clementii*) identified from the desktop assessment as possibly occurring in the application area. However, a post-survey likelihood of occurrence assessment determined that this species is considered to be unlikely to occur, based on a lack of suitable habitat present for this species and adequacy of survey effort (Eco Logical Australia, 2024). One introduced flora species (*Cenchrus* ciliaris) was recorded within the application area. This species is not listed as a Weed of National Significance or a Declared Pest (Eco Logical Australia, 2024). 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.	Not likely to be at variance	No
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 potential habitat (mudflats) for migratory birds listed below. • *Calidris ferruginea* (Curlew Sandpiper) • *Gelochelidon nilotica* (Gull-billed tern) • *Hydroprogne caspia* (Caspian Tern) • *Limosa lapponica* (Bar-tailed godwit) • *Tringa nebularia* (Common greenshank) • *Xenus cinereus* (Terek sandpiper) • *Pluvialis fulva* (Pacific Golden Plover) • *Tringa stagnatilis* (Marsh Sandpiper) Whilst the mudflat habitat has the potential to provide foraging habitat for several migratory wader fauna species, the habitat is well represented locally and within the broader Burrup Peninsula. Additionally, the pipeline will be buried underground, and any temporarily disturbed mudflat areas will be reconstructed once the construction phase is completed (Eco Logical Australia, 2024).	Not likely to be at variance	No
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 does not contain records of Threatened flora species and it is unlikely to contain habitat necessary for the continued existence of Threatened flora species (Eco Logical Australia, 2024; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	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: The area proposed to be cleared fall within any known or mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (GIS Database). No vegetation types within the application area were identified as representing any known or potential conservation significant ecological communities (Eco Logical Australia, 2024).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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 application area falls within the Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 117 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 94 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). The proposed pipeline will be underground. As such, the majority of surface disturbance will be temporary, with natural landforms to be reinstated after construction (AGIG, 2024).	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, and the small scale of the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of mapped conservation areas (GIS Database).	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: The application area is located on a saline coastal flat (GIS Database). The proposed pipeline will be underground, and the construction phase is estimated to last only from 4 to 6 months avoiding the wet season and kind tides (Eco Logical Australia, 2024). Due to the small scale of the proposed clearing, the short timeframe and seasonal timing of the construction of the pipeline, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the saline coastal flats (Eco Logical Australia, 2024).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils within the application area are not susceptible to erosion. The Littoral land system is only susceptible to wind erosion in areas where coastal dunes are present (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). Noting most of the application area contains mudflats naturally devoid of vegetation and the condition of the small amount of vegetation present in the Low Chenopod Shrubland is in poor condition (Eco Logical Australia, 2024), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable 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: Given the saline coastline flat in which the application area is located, is only seasonally inundated, and clearing and construction will only take place outside of the wet season (Eco Logia Australia, 2024), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	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:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Approximately 85 per cent of the Clearing Area has been classified as mudflats, which drain westward to King Bay. The mudflats are tidal and are subject to flooding during heavy rainfall periods and during extreme spring tides (Eco Logical Australia, 2024). An increase in waterlogging is unlikely to occur during the clearing or the operational phase of the proposal as the pipeline will be buried underground and the area's natural surface will be reconstructed throughout most of the application area once the construction phase is complete (Eco Logical, 2024).		

Appendix D. 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 E. Photographs of the vegetation

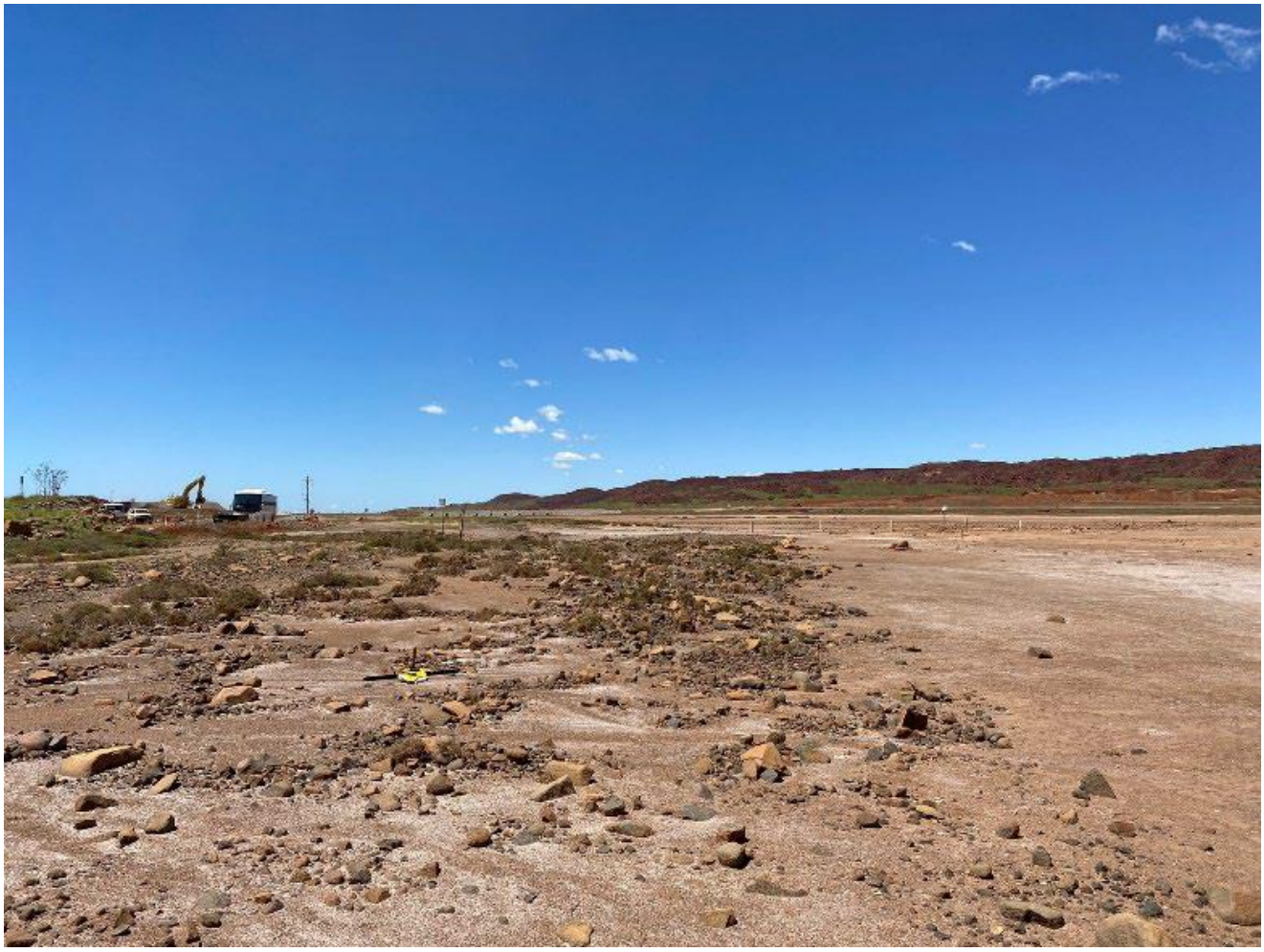

Figure 1. Low Chenopod Shrubland habitat (Eco Logia Australia, 2024).

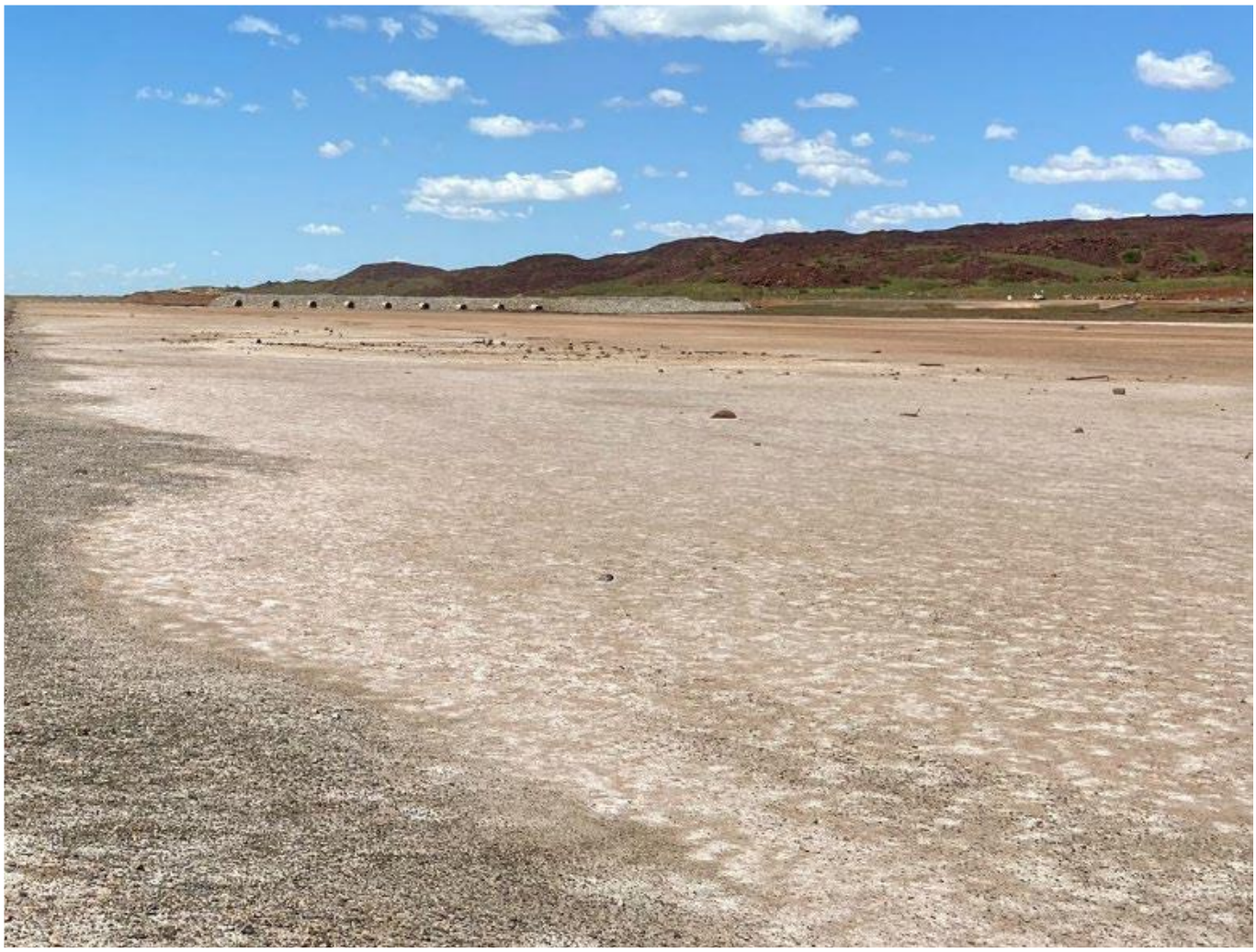

Figure 2. Mudflats habitat naturally devoid of vegetation (Eco Logia Australia, 2024).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

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

- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- 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)
- Esri World Imagery
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments – Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrography, Linear (DWER-031)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Rangelands (DPIRD-064)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

F.2. References

DBNGP (WA) Nominees Pty Ltd (DBNGP) (2024) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10867/1, received 29 November 2024.

Australian Gas Infrastructure Group (AGIG) (2024) King Bay Lateral Project (formerly known as Perdaman Lateral) – Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Supporting Document.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Dampier Salt. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 25 February 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 26 February 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://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 24 February 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

Eco Logical Australia (2024) *Perdaman Pipeline Flora and Fauna Survey*. Prepared for DBNGP WA Nominees Pty Ltd.

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

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.

Van Vreeswyk, A.M.E., Payne, A.L., Leighton, K.A. and Hennig, P. (2004) An inventory and condition survey of the Pilbara Region, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin No. 92. Department of Agriculture, South Perth, Western Australia.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
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	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{DBCA (2023) Conservation Codes for Western Australian Flora and Fauna. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia}:

T **Threatened species:**

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

Threatened fauna is 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:

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:

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.

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.