Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10891/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Dampier Salt Limited
Application received:	12 December 2024
Application area:	0.71 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral Production
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	*Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966* Mining Lease 242SA (AM 70/242)
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Port Hedland
Colloquial name:	Port Hedland Operations

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Dampier Salt Limited proposes to clear up to 0.71 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 0.71 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production (Dampier Salt, 2024). The project is located approximately 22 kilometres northeast of Port Hedland, within the Shire of Port Hedland (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for maintenance works of the intakes at the Port Hedland facility to improve flow capacity (Rio Tinto, 2024).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	17 July 2025
Decision area:	0.71 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 (now Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE)) 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 D), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey, 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;
- impacts to riparian vegetation and
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna species.

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; and

- maintain surface water flow.

1.5. Site map

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

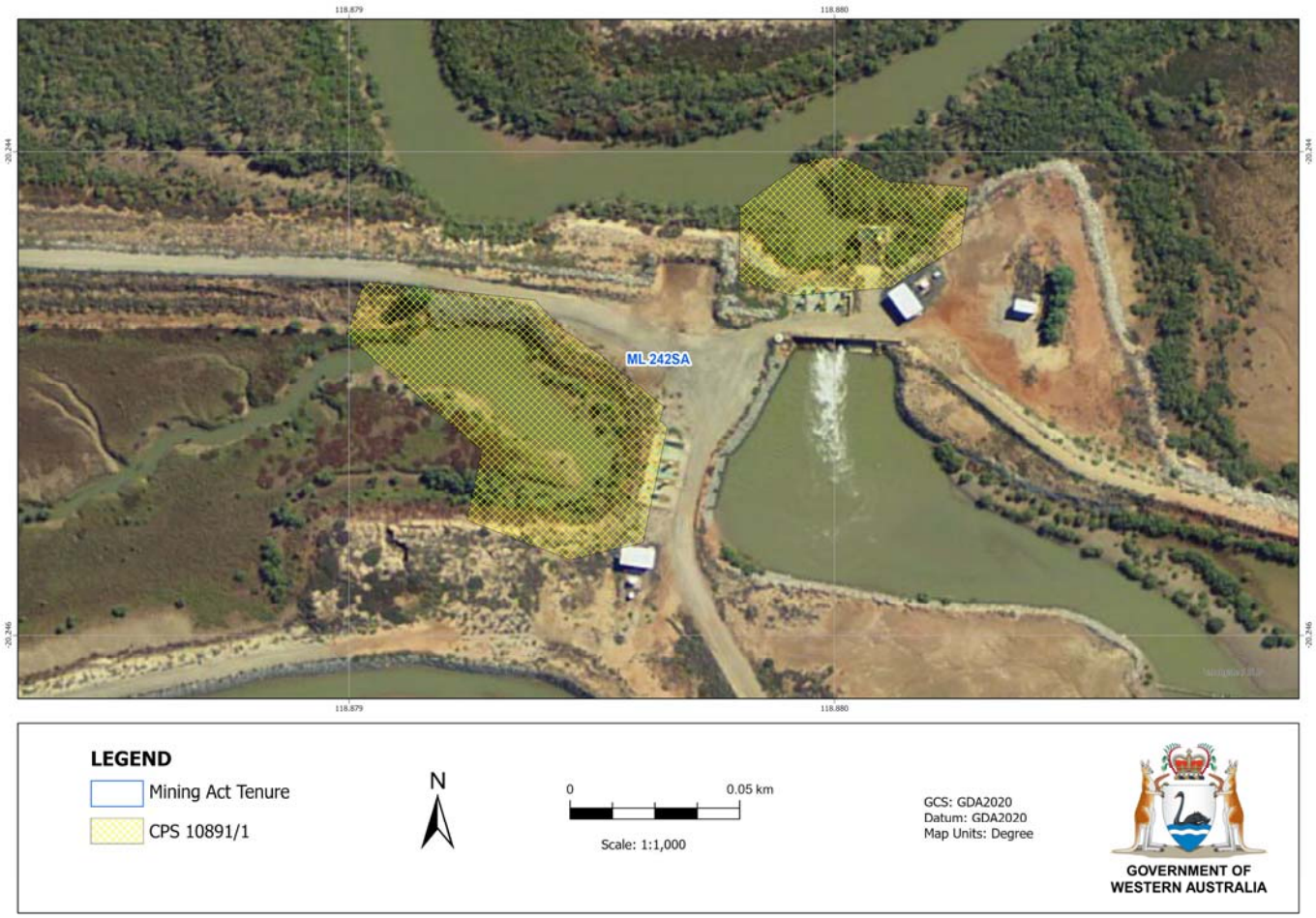

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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 (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)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

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, 2016b)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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

Evidence was submitted by the applicant (Dampier Salt, 2024), demonstrating that the following avoidance and mitigation measures will be implemented:

- the proposed works will be managed and executed through the internal Environment Permit System;
- vegetation clearing has been carefully planned to minimise impact;
- recognising the importance of mangroves, only vegetation affecting the seawater intake infrastructure will be removed;
- existing work areas and access tracks will be used where possible; and
- internal land management procedures will be followed to ensure appropriate mitigation for soil and overburden.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (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 (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 management conditions.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 21 February 2025 by DEMRIS (now DMPE) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (Ngarla and Ngarla 2 (Area A) - WAD6185/1998) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- *Leslie Solar Salt Industry Agreement Act 1966*

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 located approximately 22 kilometres northeast of Port Hedland, within the Shire of Port Hedland (GIS Database). It is mapped within the Roebourne subregion of the Pilbara Bioregion (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The application area has been subject to previous disturbance from historical mining (Rio Tinto, 2024; GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is mapped within an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) representing the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, listed within A Directory of Nationally Important Wetlands in Australia (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: • 127: Bare areas; mud flats. (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Rio Tinto during November, 2023. The following vegetation association were recorded within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024): • AmmTil: *Avicennia marina subsp. marina* open to closed forest over *Tecticornia indica* subsp*. leiostachya* sparse samphire shrubs.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Rio Tinto, 2024) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in 'Completely Degraded' to 'Very Good' (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as • Very good: Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks. • Completely degraded: Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The application area experiences an average annual rainfall of 315.6 millimetres (BoM, 2025). One vegetation type was identified across one major landform, embankments (Rio Tinto, 2024)
Soil description	The soils of the application area broadly mapped as the following soil type: • Littoral System: Bare coastal mudflats (unvegetated), samphire flats, sandy islands, coastal dunes and beaches, supporting samphire low shrublands, sparse acacia shrublands and mangrove forests (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	The Littoral Land System has depositional surfaces; saline coastal flats; estuarine and littoral surfaces with extensive bare saline tidal flats subject to infrequent tidal inundation (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004). 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 (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Waterbodies	The application area is located on coastal mudflats dissected by tidal creeks that are periodically inundated (Rio Tinto, 2024). The application area is mapped within the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is mapped within the Pilbara Groundwater Area and the Pilbara Surface Water Area (GIS Database).
Flora	Flora surveys recorded one priority flora species within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area is not mapped within a Threatened or Priority Ecological Community (TEC/PEC) (GIS Database).
Fauna / Fauna Habitat	There are records of 65 conservation significant species within the local area (50 kilometres) (GIS Database). No conservation significant fauna species were identified during the fauna habitat assessment undertaken by Rio Tinto (2024). Two broad fauna habitats were recorded within the application area: • Mangroves (54%); and • Intertidal Zone (15%) (Rio Tinto, 2024). The remaining 31% of the application area was categorised as completely disturbed (Rio Tinto, 2024).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion Pilbara	17,808,657.04	17,731,764.88	99.57	1.00	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 127	737,724.05	697,871.38	94.60	85,858.20	11.64
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 127	177,749.75	159,595.04	89.79	1.00	0.00

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Rio Tinto, 2024; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records derived from Florabase
Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum (S. van Leeuwen 5095)	3	<46	51
Atriplex eremitis	1	0	10
Bulbostylis burbidgeae	4	<36	40
Euphorbia clementii	3	<31	31
Euploca mutica	3	<22	77
Euploca parviantrum	1	<29	4
Gomphrena leptophylla	3	<43	8
Gomphrena pusilla	2	<31	15
Gymnanthera cunninghamii	3	<31	45
Rothia indica subsp. australis	3	<25	23
Tephrosia rosea var. Port Hedland (A.S. George 1114)	1	<29	53
Triodia chichesterensis	3	<32	43
Triodia degreyensis	1	<28	3

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

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: Rio Tino undertook a flora, vegetation and fauna habitat assessment of the 0.71 hectare area proposed to be cleared in November 2023 and a subsequent targeted flora survey in April 2024 (Rio Tinto, 2024). A total of 22 taxa from 21 genera, representing 11 families were recorded during the survey, this is reflective of the previously disturbed nature of the study area (Rio Tinto, 2024). One vegetation type was identified across one major landform (embankments) within the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024).	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
One Priority flora individual, *Atriplex eremitis* (P1), was recorded during the survey within the existing disturbed area, located within the direct impact footprint for the proposed works on the intakes (Rio Tinto, 2024). This species has 10 records across the Dampierland, Great Sandy Desert and Pilbara bioregions (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-) and 59 individuals of *Atriplex eremitis* have been recorded within the Rio Tinto database that are not proposed to be impacted through this or any other application currently under assessment. The proposed clearing of one individual is not considered to significantly impact this species. As this species occurs on disturbed ground, there is potential that the proposed disturbance associated with the proposal may create additional suitable habitat for the species.		
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 is located within the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (GIS Database). The Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System provides habitat for at least 50 species of waterbird including 33 species listed under international conservation agreements (Rio Tinto, 2024). Thirty one percent of the study area is completely disturbed and the remainder of the vegetation within the study area consists of mangroves and is representative of regenerated mangroves that were previously cleared during construction (Rio Tinto, 2024). The proposed clearing of 0.38 hectares of regenerated mangroves out of the current extent of 160 hectares of mangroves within the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System represents a 0.2% of the mangroves (Rio Tinto, 2024). Due to the small footprint of the habitats proposed to be disturbed, previous disturbance, and the abundance of more suitable habitat in the surrounding area and bioregion, the migratory shorebirds of the area are not considered to be reliant upon the application area or the habitats it supports.	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: No Threatened flora has been recorded within the application area nor within 50 kilometres of the application area (Rio Tinto, 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: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within the application area (GIS Database). Flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any TECs (Rio Tinto, 2024).	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 application area falls within the Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) (GIS Database). Over 99% of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Pilbara Bioregion IBRA (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation association 127 (GIS Database). This vegetation association has not been extensively cleared as over 89% of the pre-European extent of this vegetation association remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area does not represent a significant remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared (GIS Database).	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:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, which is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (GIS Database). The proposed clearing associated with the maintenance works is over areas that has historically been cleared for installation of the salt fields and is not expected to negatively impact the condition of the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System (Rio Tinto, 2024).		
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 study area is located on coastal mudflats dissected by tidal creeks that are regularly inundated (GIS Database; Rio Tinto, 2024). The study area is also located within the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, listed within A Directory of Nationally Important Wetlands in Australia (GIS Database). The tidal saline creeks intersecting the study area will only be temporarily impacted while maintenance works are completed and then will be rehabilitated to their existing form as to not impact drainage and water flow (Rio Tinto, 2024). The clearing associated with the maintenance works is over areas that have historically been cleared for installation of the salt fields (GIS Database; Rio Tinto, 2024). The clearing is minor in order to undertake the maintenance on the intakes for the salt ponds and is not expected to negatively impact the condition of the Leslie (Port Hedland) Saltfields System, however potential impacts may be managed by implementing a condition on the permit requiring surface water flow to be maintained.	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: Due to the existing disturbance that has occurred surrounding the area subject to this application, there are areas devoid of vegetation such as the existing access roads and areas around the intake infrastructure (Rio Tinto, 2024; GIS Database). The proposed clearing will occur on land that has previously been cleared and is not likely to cause further 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 permanent or semi-permanent fresh water features occur in or adjacent to the application area (Rio Tinto, 2024; GIS Database). The application area is located on coastal mudflats dissected by tidal creeks that are periodically inundated, however, given the small scale of the proposed clearing, it is unlikely that the clearing would affect groundwater quality in the region.	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: Local flooding occurs seasonally in the Pilbara region as a result of cyclonic activity and sporadic thunderstorm activity. The clearing associated with the maintenance works is over an area that has historically been cleared for installation of the salt fields. The small scale of clearing proposed is not expected to exacerbate the incidence or intensity of flooding in the area.	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. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- 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)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976-1991 (DBCA-029)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- 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 - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station: 004032. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 7 July 2025).

Dampier Salt Limited (Dampier Salt) (2025) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10819/1, received 12 December 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 7 July 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 7 July 2025).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) 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

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

Rio Tinto (2024) Flora, Vegetation and Fauna Habitat Assessment, Intakes, Port Hedland. Report prepared by Rio Tinto for Dampier Salt Limited, December 2024.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (WAM) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 9 July 2025).

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 (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia

IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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