



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10902/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	NM Gold Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	8 May 2026
Application area:	164.35 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 51/886 Mining Lease 51/889
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	Garden Gully Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

NM Gold Operations Pty Ltd (NMG) proposes to clear up to 164.35 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 317.21 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure (MBS Environmental, 2026b). The project is located approximately 15.5 kilometres north of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for further mining operations within Mining Lease 51/889, including three additional open pits, a WRL, haul roads, laydown areas and associated infrastructure required to support extraction of the mineral resource (NMG, 2026).

Clearing permit CPS 10902/1 was granted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE)) on 6 March 2025 and was valid from 29 March 2025 to 28 March 2030. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 93.96 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 204 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated infrastructure. To date, a total of 75.88 hectares has been cleared under CPS 10902/1 (MBS Environmental, 2026b).

On 8 May 2026, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 10902/1 to (MBS Environmental, 2026a; 2026b; NMG, 2026):

- increase the area of native vegetation authorised to clear from 93.96 hectares to 164.35 hectares (increase of 70.39 hectares)
- increase the permit boundary from 204.52 hectares to 317.21 hectares (increase of 112.69 hectares), and
- update the permit holder name from Zeus Mining Pty Ltd to NM Gold Operations Pty Ltd.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	22 October 2026
Decision area:	164.35 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were 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 (Appendix A) 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;
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for conservation significant flora;
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation.

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;
- watercourse management (avoid clearing riparian vegetation where practicable, and where a watercourse is to be impacted by clearing the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained); and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

Given Condition 9 (flora management) of CPS 10902/1 was conducted over Mining Lease 51/886 and 51/889 (Appendix E), which covers the permit boundary for CPS 10902/2, the Delegated Officer determined that this can be removed from the permit for CPS 10902/2. The targeted survey recorded no *Calytrix verruculosa* (P3) individuals, therefore the impacts to this flora species from the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant (Botanica, 2025).

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 10902/1, except in the case of principle (g). The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed increase in area of native vegetation authorised to clear by 70.39 hectares, increase in permit boundary by 112.69 hectares and change in permit holder name is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

1.5. Site map

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

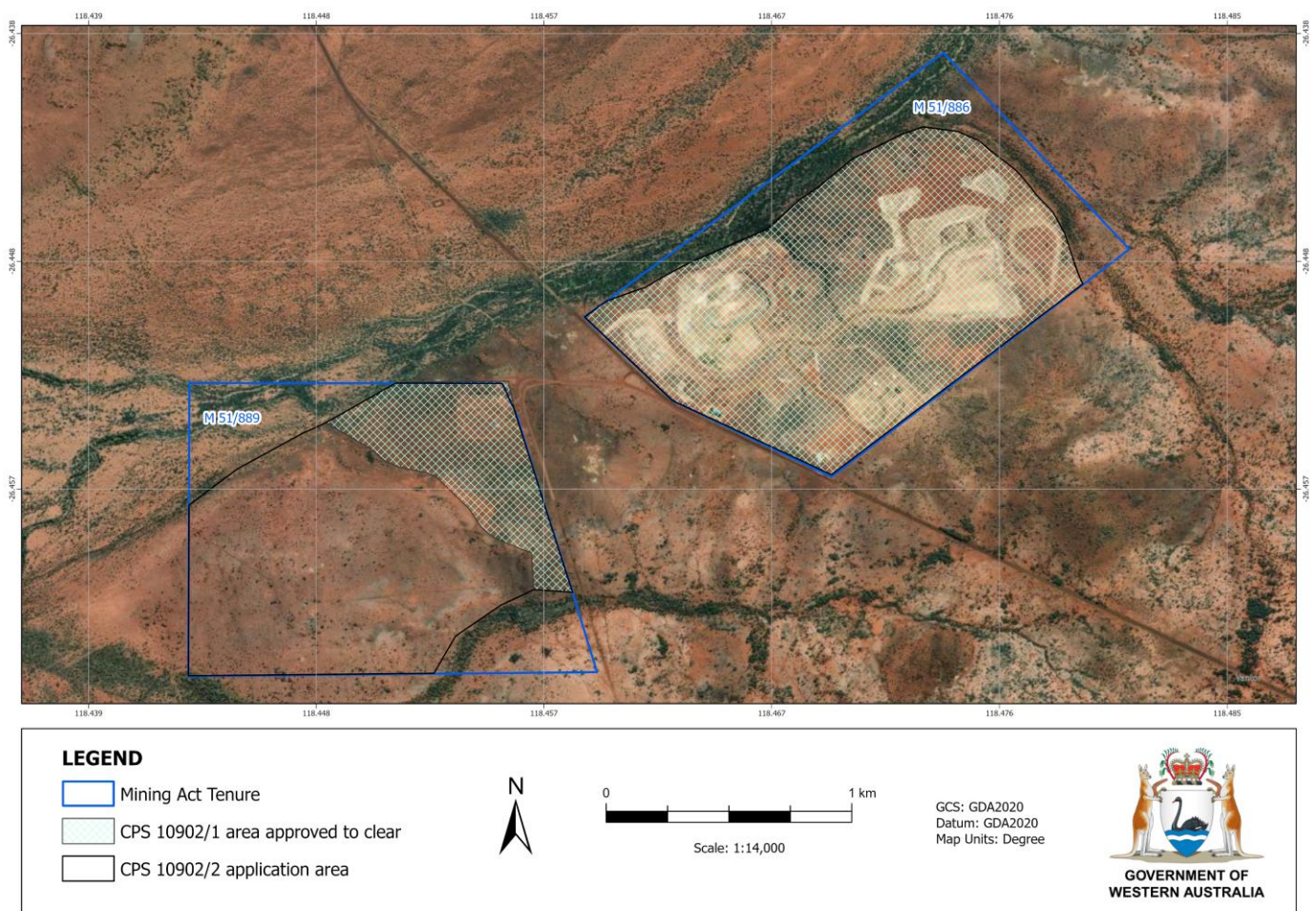


Figure 1. Map of the application area, indicated by the black line. The light green cross-hatched area indicates the permit boundary area of granted permit CPS 10902/1, showing the proposed increase in permit boundary area for this amendment, and slight adjustment of permit boundary in the north-east of M 51/889.

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
- the polluter pays principle

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

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, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)
- Technical guidance – Subterranean fauna surveys for environmental impact assessment (EPA, 2021)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The following measures to avoid and minimise clearing and associated impacts were outlined by the applicant and incorporated into the development of the Garden Gully Project (MBS Environmental, 2026b):

- Clearing of vegetation will be kept to the minimum required for the project.
- Existing disturbed areas will be utilised where possible.
- Management of clearing via the GDP Procedure.
- Clear delineation of the clearing area to ensure only what is required for a safe working area is cleared.
- Implementation of a procedure to record the amount of clearing undertaken and report the cumulative total.
- Vehicle and equipment hygiene procedures will be implemented to minimise entry of weed and soil borne diseases.
- Vehicle movements will be confined to defined roads and tracks.
- Implementing speed limits to minimise dust emissions and to minimise the risk of fauna injury or death due to vehicle traffic.
- A minimum buffer of 10 metres around priority flora species will be implemented.
- All personnel will undertake a site induction which will include detail on the importance of flora and fauna management.
- Dust control measures will be conducted as required and dust suppression via water cart where practicable.
- Stockpiling stripped topsoil and vegetation for use in future rehabilitation activities, away from the path of drainage lines.
- Topsoil stripping activities will be conducted during periods of low winds.
- Ensuring dispersive topsoils are stockpiled separately and not used in rehabilitation of sloped surfaces.
- Hydrocarbons and reagents will be stored in bunded areas. Spill kits will be maintained to allow containment and treatment of spillages of hydrocarbons from clearing equipment hose failures or leaks.
- Progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas on completion of project activities to minimise active areas exposed where possible.
- Scarifying or deep ripping compacted tracks and roads as part of rehabilitation, as appropriate.
- Establishment of surface water management infrastructure to direct surface water flow to natural drainage channels.

- Monitoring of high-risk erosion events, such as extreme weather, to mitigate impacts as far as reasonably practicable.
- Clearing and construction will be scheduled outside of peak rainfall events to avoid times of high surface flows and reduce the risk of erosion and elevated turbidity to drainage lines from disturbed areas.
- Vegetation will be removed in stages with disturbance kept to a minimum to reduce runoff.
- Where necessary, suitable floodways, drains and culverts will be installed to transfer flow past infrastructure and return it to its natural flow path.
- Project design has considered location of drainage lines and flood levels with the aim of minimising disturbance of these areas. Recommended surface water infrastructure to be installed in the event of a 1:100-year flood event will include a protective flood bund to the north of Lydia North pit to prevent inundation during design flood events.
- Operation in compliance with current and future obligations under RIWI Act 5C licence and GLOS to manage potential impacts to groundwater and surface water.

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

A review of current environmental information (Appendix B) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 10902/1.

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Long-tailed dunnart

Long-tailed dunnart (*Antechinomys longicaudatus*; P4) is known from several widespread localities within arid Western Australia and the Northern Territory (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011; WAM, n.d.). Records of long-tailed dunnart are highly patchy and distance between populations can be large, making the dispersal ability and genetic flow of the species potentially very poor (WAM, n.d.). Within their known range, long-tailed dunnart is known to inhabit rocky and stony soils with hummock grasses and shrubs (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011; WAM, n.d.). The low shrublands, spinifex grasslands and open *Acacia* vegetation within the application area may provide suitable habitat for long-tailed dunnart (Appendix E; MBS Environmental, 2026b). However, breeding habitat is unlikely to be present, as the application area lacks the essential structural features required for breeding, including rocky outcrops, breakaways, boulder fields, and crevices (MBS Environmental, 2026b). The species may utilise the application area for foraging and dispersal, however, it is unlikely to support breeding (MBS Environmental, 2026b). Mechanical clearing poses the risk of injury or mortality to long-tailed dunnart individuals.

Wetland and migratory shorebirds

Migratory shorebirds typically arrive at their staging areas in northern Australia in September and disperse across Australia, returning to staging areas in March to fly north (DCCEEW, 2025). The application area is located directly adjacent to Garden Gully Creek, a major non-perennial watercourse, which migratory shorebirds may utilise (GIS Database). Due to the near proximity, the application area provides potentially suitable foraging habitat for those birds. Impacts to potentially suitable habitat can be minimised through the riparian vegetation management condition.

Grey falcon

Grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*; VU) occurs in low densities across arid and semi-arid inland Australia (TSSC, 2019). This species frequents timbered lowland plains, *Acacia* shrublands, tree-lined watercourses, open woodlands, treeless areas and tussock grasslands (TSSC, 2019). Grey falcon nest in the tallest trees along watercourses, particularly in river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and coolibah (*Eucalyptus coolabah*), or in old nests of other large birds (TSSC, 2019). River red gum occurs within the *Acacia* and/or Eucalypt woodlands in drainage lines habitat (Appendix E) and may provide suitable habitat for grey falcon (Botanica, 2024). Impacts to potentially suitable habitat for grey falcon can be minimised through the riparian vegetation management condition.

Peregrine falcon

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*; OS) is widespread throughout much of Australia. This species is known to inhabit coastal and inland cliffs, open woodlands near waterbodies and watercourses, and open grasslands (Australian Museum, 2019; Botanica, 2024). Peregrine falcon nests in rocky ledges in tall, vertical cliff faces, and tall trees adjacent to drainage lines in tree hollows or in abandoned nests of other large bird species (Australian Museum, 2019). The *Acacia* and/or Eucalypt woodlands in drainage lines habitat (Appendix E) may provide suitable habitat for this species, and potentially suitable nesting habitat within large trees if present. Impacts to potentially suitable habitat for peregrine falcon can be minimised through the riparian vegetation management condition.

Subterranean fauna

A desktop subterranean fauna study and basic stygofauna survey was undertaken over approximately half the application area, majority of Mining Lease 51/886, by Rockwater (2024) in October 2024. Eight species of stygofauna were recorded within the application area, including copepods, ostracods, syncarids and aquatic worms, and all were found to occur more widely (Rockwater, 2024). The desktop study by Rockwater (2024) indicated that there appears to be no suitable habitat for troglofauna within the application area. All area within the proposed increase of permit boundary in this amendment from CPS 10902/1 has not been surveyed for subterranean fauna.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in:

- loss of potentially suitable foraging and dispersal habitat for long-tailed dunnart;
- loss of potentially suitable foraging habitat for wetland and migratory shorebirds;
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for grey falcon;
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for peregrine falcon; and
- loss of potentially suitable habitat for subterranean fauna.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to grey falcon, peregrine falcon and migratory shorebirds and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- watercourse management (avoid clearing riparian vegetation where practicable, and where a watercourse is to be impacted by clearing the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The amendment application was advertised on 25 September 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group (WCD2017/007 – Wajarri Yamatji Part A). The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on grey falcon, peregrine falcon and migratory birds and their habitats, which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 18 September 2026, two additional surveys were provided: • Botanica (2025) survey, ISA-0001701, and • Rockwater (2024) subterranean fauna survey, IBSA-2024-0503 (MBS Environmental, 2026a).	This information is considered in the assessment of principles (a) and (b), and as part of Section 3.2.1.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details											
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by gold mine operations and native vegetation representative of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is grazing of native pastures, Unallocated Crown Land and Crown Reserves, conservation lands and mining activities (CALM, 2002).											
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).											
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is Tijwari National Park, located approximately 130 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database).											
Vegetation description	The application area occurs within the Western Murchison subregion (MUR02) of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the Beard vegetation associations (MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database): • 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and • 29: Sparse low woodland; mulga, discontinuous in scattered groups. A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area (Botanica, 2024) during June 2024. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2024): <table><tr><th>Landform</th><th>Vegetation unit code</th><th>Vegetation description</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="2">Plain</td><td>RP-AOW1</td><td>Mid woodland of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia grasbyi</i>, <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> on rocky plain.</td></tr><tr><td>CLP-AOW1</td><td>Mid woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Eremophila compacta</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> on clay loam plain.</td></tr><tr><td>Drainage depression</td><td>DD-AFW1</td><td>Mid open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i>, <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> in drainage depression.</td></tr></table> Mapping of vegetation types is provided in Appendix E (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b).	Landform	Vegetation unit code	Vegetation description	Plain	RP-AOW1	Mid woodland of <i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i> and <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> , <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> on rocky plain.	CLP-AOW1	Mid woodland of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Eremophila compacta</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> on clay loam plain.	Drainage depression	DD-AFW1	Mid open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> in drainage depression.
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Drainage depression	DD-AFW1	Mid open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila galeata</i> and <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra over low sparse shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> in drainage depression.										
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2024) of the application area found the vegetation to be in Good to Completely Degraded condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.											
Climate and landform	The climate of the Western Murchison subregion is described as arid, with average annual rainfall of 219.8 millimetres recorded at the nearest weather station, with rainfall that usually falls in winter (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped with elevations ranging between 480 to 500 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).											

Characteristic	Details
Soil description and land degradation risk	The soil within the application area is mapped as the following systems (DPIRD, 2026a; Curry et al., 1994; GIS Database): Wiluna: Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs. Sandy surfaced gravelly plains, alluvial fans and plains, and drainage floors are mildly to moderately susceptible to accelerated erosion when degraded. The system shows extensive disturbance and localised erosion as a result of mining activities. Yandil: Flat hardpan wash plains with mantles of small pebbles and gravels; supporting groved mulga shrublands and occasional wanderrie grasses. Moderately susceptible to accelerated erosion when degraded. Mapped soil types include red shallow loams and sandy duplexes, red-brown hardpans and stony soils (MBS Environmental, 2026b). Texturally, surface soils were typically sandy loams, whilst subsoils generally contained more clay and were classified as sandy loams, sandy clay loams or clays (MBS Environmental, 2026b).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area (GIS Database). The application area is directly adjacent to Garden Gully Creek, a major non-perennial watercourse that drains a moderately large catchment with an area of 546.5 square kilometres (MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). There are no Wetlands of National or International Importance within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is Meekatharra Water Reserve, located approximately one kilometre east of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Upper Murchison River catchment, part of the Murchison River drainage basin, within the East Murchison Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	A reconnaissance level flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area during June 2024 (Botanica, 2024). A targeted flora survey for <i>Calytrix verruculosa</i> (P3) was conducted over Mining Lease 51/886 and 51/889 (Appendix E), which covers all the permit boundary for CPS 10902/2 (Section 1.5), during April 2025 (Botanica, 2025) to comply with Condition 9 (flora management) of CPS 10902/1. No <i>C. verruculosa</i> individuals were recorded (Botanica, 2025). There are no records of threatened flora species within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Botanica, 2024; 2025; GIS Database). One priority flora, <i>Grevillea inconspicua</i> (P4), was recorded within the application area (Botanica, 2024; 2025). Mapping of conservation significant flora recorded is provided in Appendix E (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b). There are records of 10 conservation significant flora species within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database), and additional conservation significant flora have also been considered that were identified from the flora survey (Botanica, 2024; 2025; MBS Environmental, 2026b).
Ecological communities	There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Botanica, 2024; GIS Database). There are no Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within the application area (Botanica, 2024; GIS Database). There are two PECs within the local surrounds (20 kilometres); Yagahong Land System (P3) located approximately 7.5 kilometres west of the application area, and Austin Land System (P3) located approximately eight kilometres south-west of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are no records of conservation significant fauna species within the application area (Botanica, 2024; GIS Database). There are records of seven conservation significant fauna species within the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database), and additional conservation significant fauna have also been considered that were identified from the fauna survey (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b).
Fauna habitat	A basic vertebrate fauna assessment was conducted over the application area (Botanica, 2024) during June 2024. Two fauna habitats were recorded within the application area, in addition to cleared area (Botanica, 2024): Acacia open woodland on rocky or clay-loam plain: Open <i>Acacia</i> woodland over <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland. Acacia and/or Eucalypt woodlands in drainage lines: Closed <i>Acacia</i> and/or Eucalypt woodland over mixed <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland.

Characteristic	Details
	Mapping of fauna habitat types is provided in Appendix E (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b).

B.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 - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99	2,185,988	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	1,317,179	6.62
29	7,903,991	7,898,973	~99	496,368	6.28
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Murchison)					
18	12,403,172	12,363,252	~99	614,964	4.96
29	2,956,382	2,955,695	~99	93,020	3.15

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area or considered in biological surveys (Botanica, 2024; 2025; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). The assessment of these species included consideration in field surveys, potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (Botanica, 2024; 2025; MBS Environmental, 2026b; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database).

Significant Species	Conservation Status		Habitat Description	Likelihood of Occurrence within Amended PPA
	EPBC Act and BC Act	DBCA Listed		
<i>Acacia speckii</i>		P4	Rocky soils over granite, basalt or dolerite. Rocky hills or rises.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.
<i>Calytrix verruculosa</i>	-	P3	Sandy clay. Shallow hardpan plain.	Unlikely - recorded in broader surveys for the Project however based on the survey effort and assessment to date, any further occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Drummondita miniata</i>		P3	Laterite. Breakaways.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.
<i>Eremophila fasciata</i>		P3	Stony hill.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.
<i>Eremophila retropila</i>	-	P1	Gravelly loam. Stony flats.	Unlikely - DBCA records 6 km southwest of L 51/139 and 9 km southeast of L 51/138. Based on the survey effort and assessment to date, occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Euploca mitchellii</i>		P1	Rocky hills.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.
<i>Goodenia berringinensis</i>		P4	Red sandy loam. Along watercourses.	Unlikely - DBCA records 37 km northeast of L 51/139 and 47 km northwest of L 51/138. Based on the survey effort and assessment to date, occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	-	P4	Along drainage lines on rocky outcrops, creeklines.	Unlikely - recorded 600 m southwest of L 51/139. Also recorded on M 51/886 by (Appendix E). Based on the survey effort and assessment to date and habitat available within the existing and proposed PPA, any further occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Hemigenia virescens</i>		P3	Yellow-red sandy clay.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.
<i>Homalocalyx echinulatus</i>		P3	Laterite. Breakaways, sandstone hills.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.

<i>Indigofera rotula</i>		P3	Red loamy banks of watercourses.	Unlikely - recorded over 200 m southeast of Five Mile Well Pit and L 51/139. Based on the survey effort and assessment to date, occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Lepidium xylodes</i>	-	P1	Gravelly loam, clayey sand.	Unlikely - recorded 43 km northwest of L 51/138. Based on the survey effort and assessment to date, occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Menkea draboides</i>	-	P3	Red sand or clay, granite.	Unlikely - recorded over 3 km to the southwest of L 51/138. Based on the survey effort and assessment to date, occurrence within amended PPA is considered unlikely (Appendix E, Appendix F, Appendix G and Appendix H).
<i>Pityrodia augustensis</i>	VU		Amongst rocks on slopes or in drainage lines.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). Nearest record over 300 km from Project area.
<i>Ptilotus lazardis</i>		P3	Clay loam. Floodplains.	Unlikely - recorded 36 km southwest of L 51/138
<i>Ptilotus luteolus</i>		P3	Hillslopes.	Unlikely - not recorded by Botanica (Appendix E, Appendix F and Appendix H) or NVS (Appendix G). No habitat fitting this description in amended PPA or wider Project area.

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

(MBS Environmental, 2026b)

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area or considered in biological surveys (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). The likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined by consideration in field surveys, potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019; BirdLife Australia, n.d.; Botanica, 2024; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DCCEEW, 2023; 2024; 2025; Menkhorst and Knight, 2011; Menkhorst et al., 2019; Simpson and Day, 2010; TSSC, 2019; WAM, n.d.; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence within application area [Recorded/ Likely/ Possible/ Unlikely]
Mammal					
Long-tailed dunnart (<i>Antechinomys longicaudatus</i>)	P4	Y	Y	<15	Possible
Bird					
Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	MI	Y	Y	<10	Possible
Curlew sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	CR & MI	N	N	<10	Unlikely
Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	VU	Y	Y	<70	Possible
Gull-billed tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	MI	N	N	<10	Unlikely
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	VU	Y	Y	<85	Unlikely
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	OS	Y	Y	<15	Possible
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	MI	N	N	<10	Unlikely
Southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	VU	Y	Y	<100	Unlikely
Wood sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	MI	N	N	<15	Unlikely

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.” <u>Assessment:</u> Fauna The area proposed to be cleared may contain foraging and dispersal habitat for conservation significant fauna (discussed in Section 3.2.1). Flora and vegetation The area proposed to be cleared contains conservation significant flora, <i>Grevillea inconspicua</i> (P4), however if cleared, impacts to the species are unlikely to be significant as there are multiple nearby populations and 63 herbarium records of the species (Appendix E; Botanica, 2024; WAH, 1998-). The targeted survey conducted by Botanica (2025) recorded no <i>Calytrix verruculosa</i> (P3) individuals (Appendix E), therefore the impacts to this flora species from the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant. There is potentially suitable habitat for several other conservation significant flora (listed in Appendix B.3), however these were not identified during the field survey (Botanica, 2024). A total of six weed species were identified within the surveyed area (Botanica, 2024). None of these species are declared pests under the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i> (DPIRD, 2026b) or listed as a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) (Weeds Australia, 2026). However, weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. The proposed clearing may contribute to the spread of invasive weed species within the application area and negatively impact biodiversity within and adjacent to the application area. Potential impacts to biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.	May be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (b):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared may contain foraging and dispersal habitat for conservation significant fauna.	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.” <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Botanica, 2024; 2025; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no known TECs located within or in close proximity to the application area (Botanica, 2024; 2025; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.” <u>Assessment:</u> The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Principle (h):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (approximately 130 kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.” <u>Assessment:</u> There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). However, several minor, non-perennial watercourses intersect the application area, and a major watercourse (Garden Gully Creek) runs adjacent to the application area (Botanica, 2024; MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). Therefore, the proposed clearing is likely to impact on vegetation associated with a watercourse and may disrupt surface water flows. Potential impacts can be minimised with a watercourse management condition.	At variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.” <u>Assessment:</u> The land systems mapped within the application area are mildly to moderately susceptible to accelerated erosion (Curry et al., 1994; DPIRD, 2026a). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. The impacts of erosion may be reduced by maintaining the staged clearing condition to utilise cleared areas within three months of conducting clearing, to prevent cleared areas from being unstable and prone to erosion for extended periods of time.	May be at variance (changed from CPS 10902/1)	No
<u>Principle (i):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The application area is within the Upper Murchison River catchment, a major non-perennial watercourse runs adjacent, and a Public Drinking Water Source Area is located approximately one kilometre east (MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). There are no known or potential aquatic groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) within the application area, and there are two potential terrestrial GDEs in the application area, both with low potential (MBS Environmental, 2026b; GIS Database). Given no permanent watercourses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, along with the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in surface or ground water quality (MBS Environmental, 2026b).	Not likely to be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No
<u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.” <u>Assessment:</u> No permanent watercourses or waterbodies are recorded within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database). The average annual rainfall at the nearest weather station is 219.8 millimetres (BoM, 2026), and the average annual evaporation is between 3,200 and 3,600 millimetres, greatly exceeding rainfall (BoM, 2006). However, given the application area sits within the Upper Murchison River catchment, a major non-perennial watercourse runs adjacent, and several minor non-perennial drainage lines run through the application area, the proposed clearing may contribute to localised waterlogging in certain areas (MBS Environmental, 2026b). Potential exacerbation of waterlogging from the proposed clearing can be managed by the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant, as well as maintaining the staged clearing condition to reduce degradation of cleared areas and the watercourse management condition (MBS Environmental, 2026b).	May be at variance (as per CPS 10902/1)	No

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. Biological survey mapping excerpts

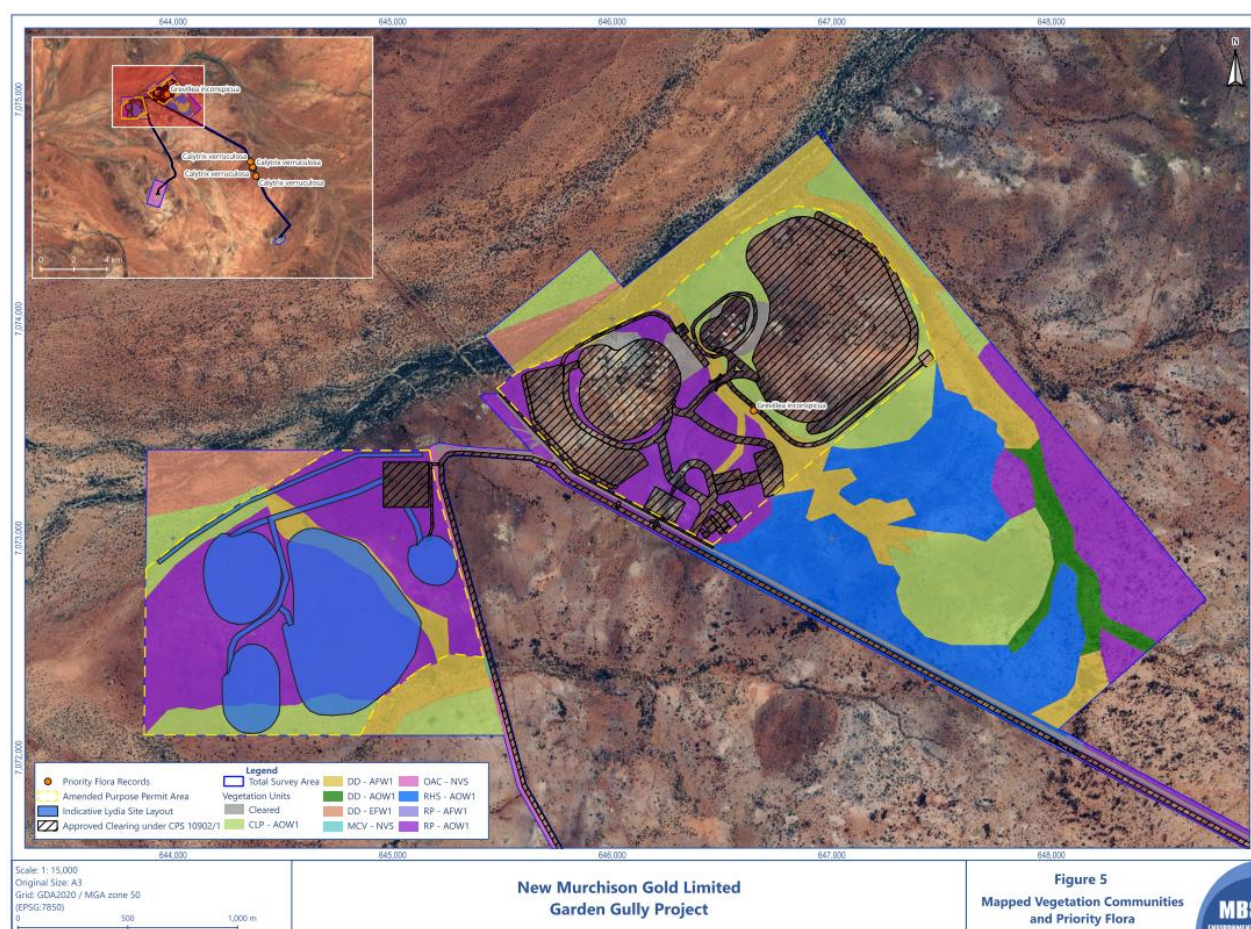


Figure 2. Vegetation types and conservation significant flora location in surveyed area, and proposed mine site layout (MBS Environmental, 2026b). Note that only RP-AOW1, CLP-AOW1 and DD-AFW1 vegetation types occur within the application area.

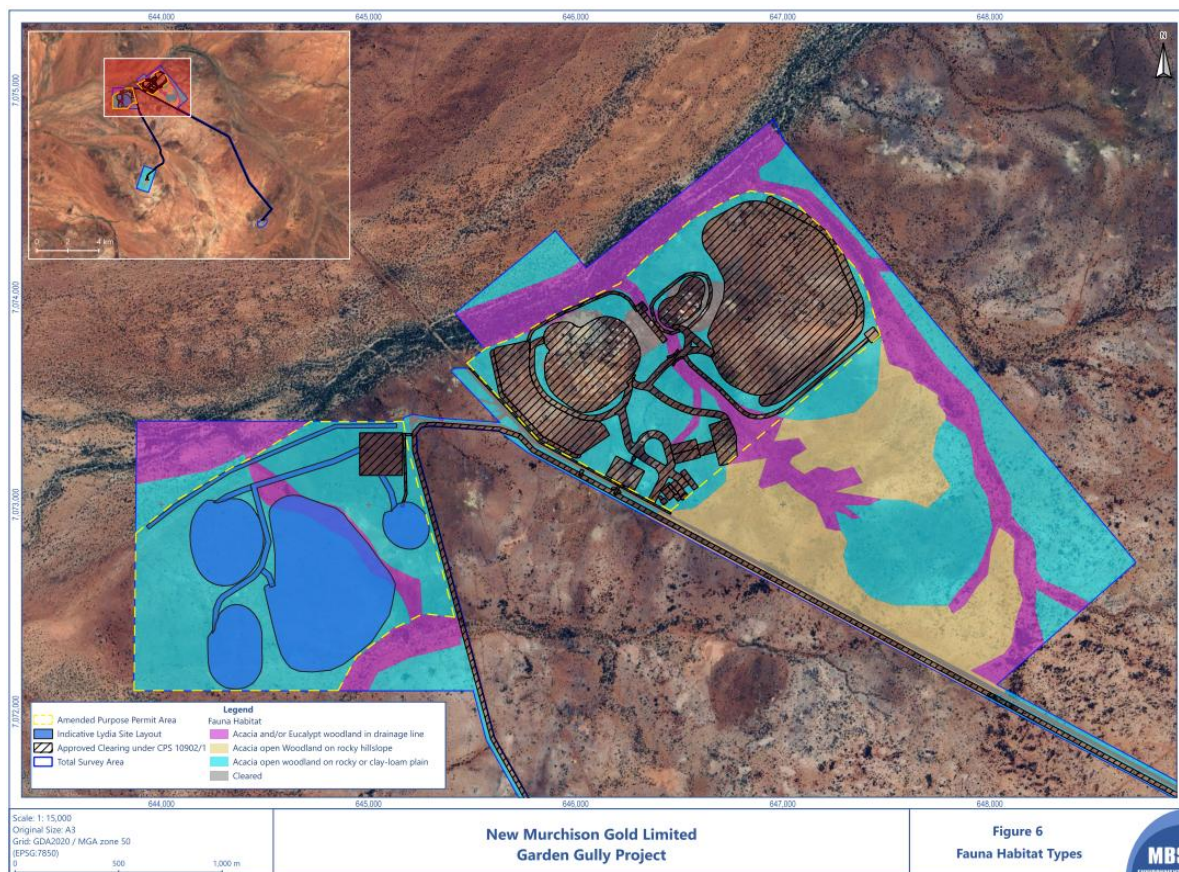


Figure 3. Fauna habitats in surveyed area, and proposed mine site layout (MBS Environmental, 2026b). Note that *Acacia* open woodland on rocky hillslope does not occur within the application area.

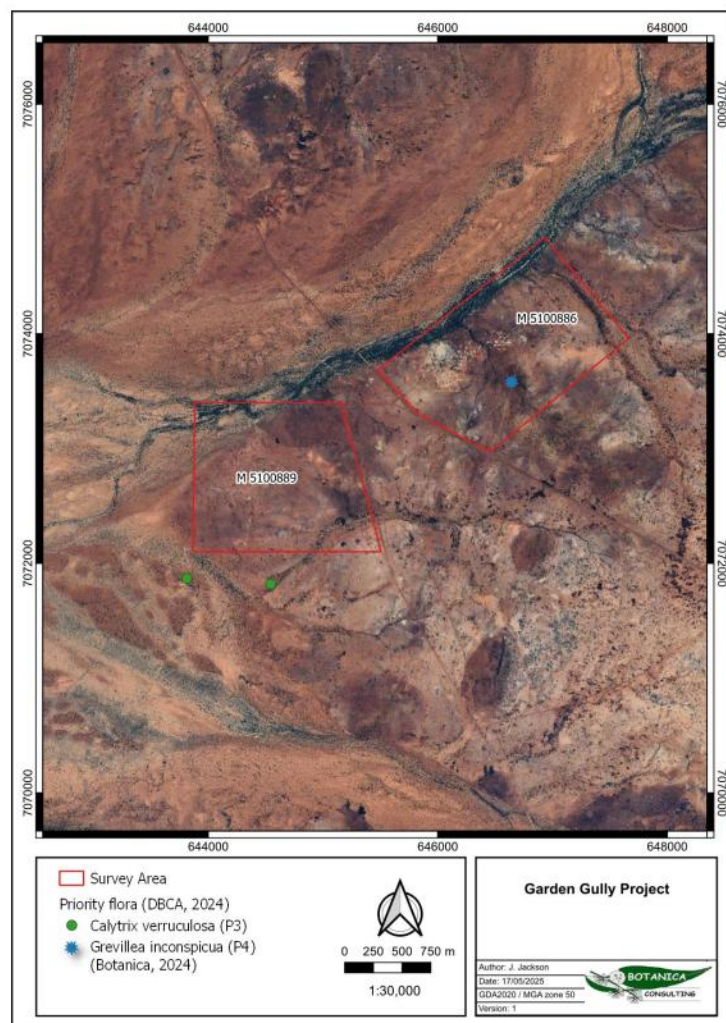


Figure 4. Conservation significant flora recorded within and adjacent to the application area (Botanica, 2025).

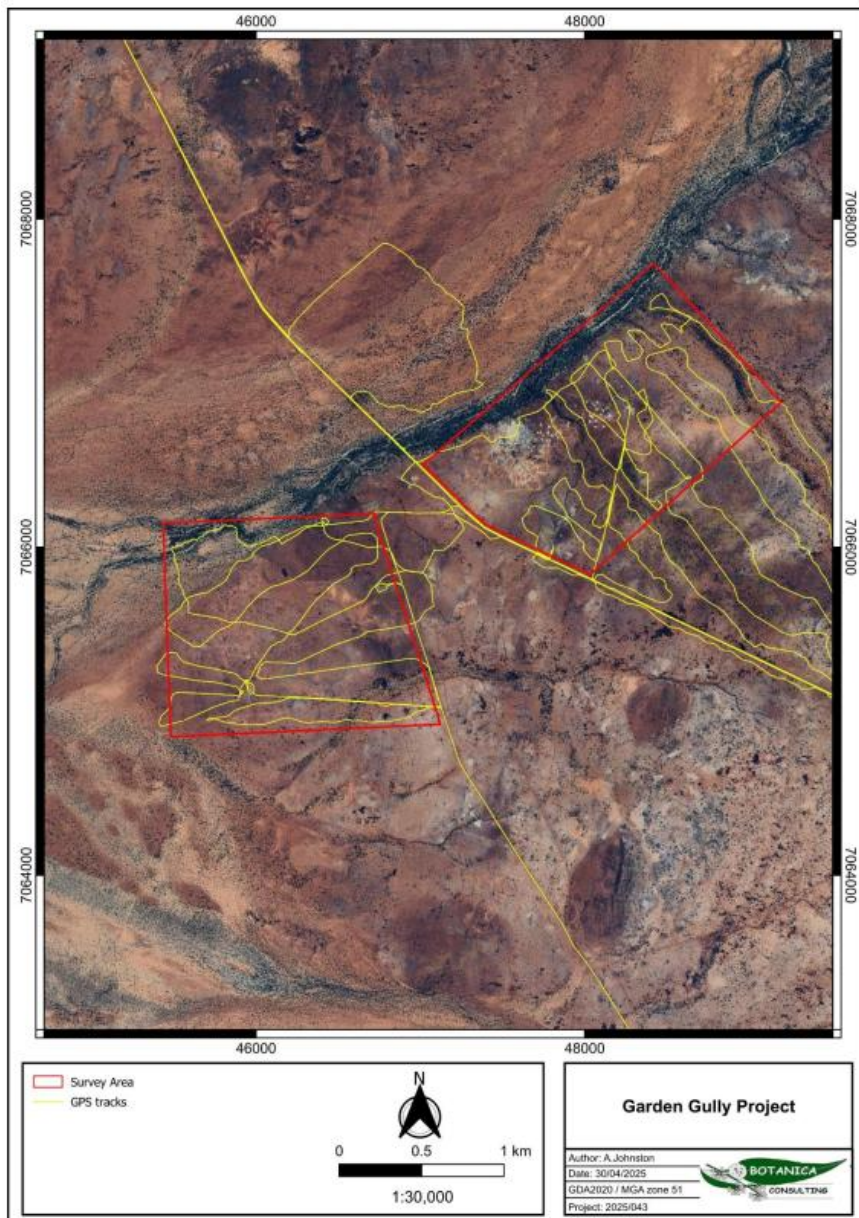


Figure 5. GPS tracklog of targeted flora survey over Mining Lease 51/886 and 51/889 (Botanica, 2025).

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- 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)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)

- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)

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)

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)

DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (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	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (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	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.