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:	10921/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Brightstar Resources Limited
Application received:	20 January 2025
Application area:	173.74 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 29/14, 29/153, 29/154
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Menzies
Colloquial name:	Menzies Mining Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Brightstar Resources Limited (Brightstar) proposes to clear up to 173.74 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 628.71 hectares, for the purpose of mining production and associated activities. The project is located directly adjacent to the townsite of Menzies, within the Shire of Menzies.

The application is to allow for the mining expansion at Menzies Gold Project (Brightstar, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	6 November 2025
Decision area:	173.74 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 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 E), biological survey information (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to potentially conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging and nesting habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*);
- potential land degradation in the form of soil 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 can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat

ahead of the clearing activity;

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

1.5. Site map

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

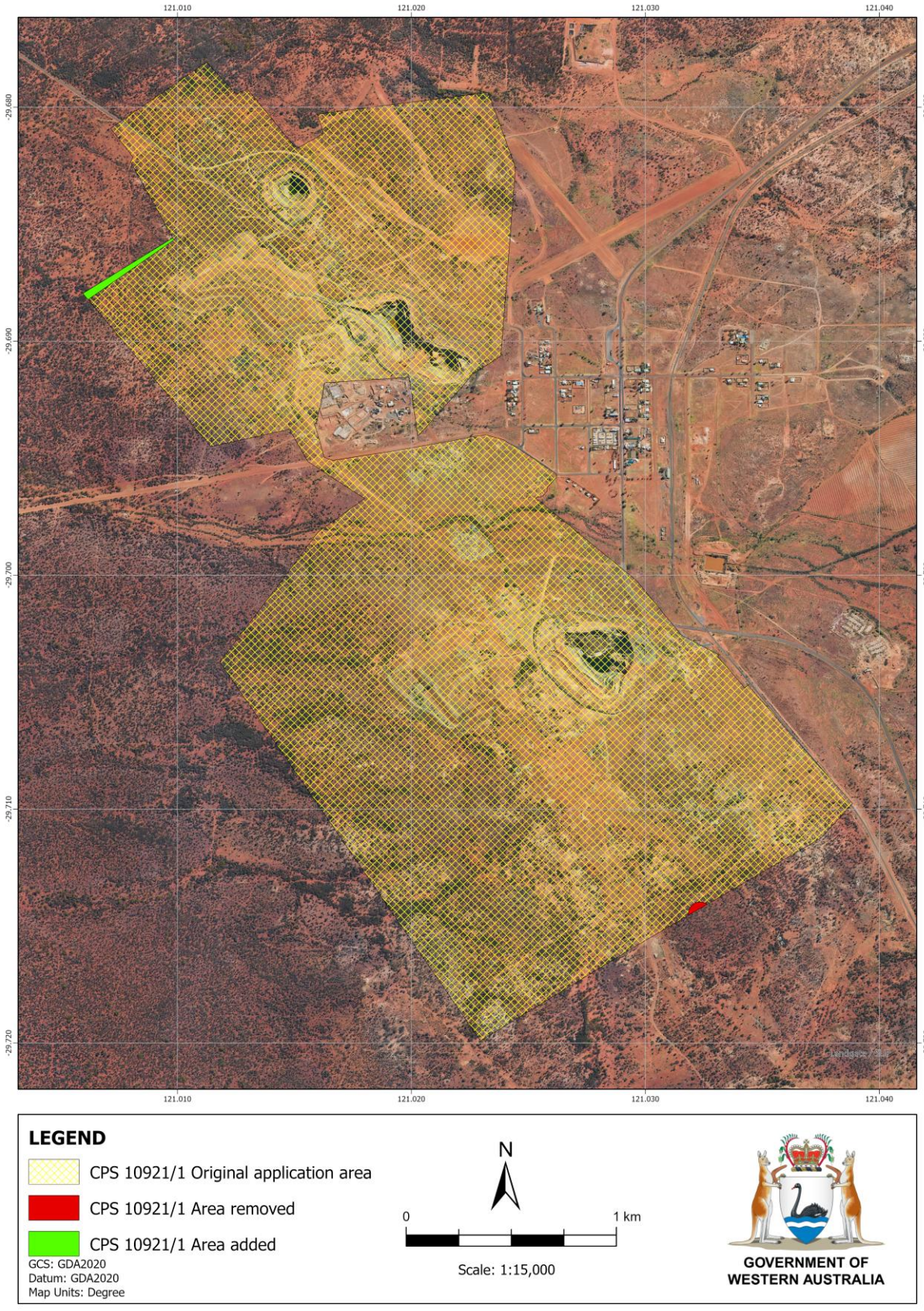

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the original application area, the red area indicates the area that has been excised from the application area, and the green area indicates the area added to the original application area. The yellow area and green area indicates the areas 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)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*
- *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)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The 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.

The original application was for the clearing of 204.4 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of 627.83 hectares. During the assessment the scope of the clearing was reviewed and the clearing authorised was reduced to 173.74 hectares and the clearing boundary increased to 628.71 hectares respectively. The clearing permit boundary was changed to excise known locations of an undescribed species, *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674), by 50 metres. Changes to the clearing permit boundary are shown in Figure 1 of Section 1.5.

Additionally, the proponent has planned for the mine expansion to take place in previously disturbed areas and areas adjacent to the existing mine to minimise vegetation disturbance (Brightstar, 2025). The proponent has also stated that mine expansion areas will be rehabilitated by ripping and seeding (Brightstar, 2025).

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 identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, adjacent flora and vegetation). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora) – Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment

Flora
Western Botanical (2025a) undertook a detailed flora and vegetation survey over the application area and surrounds (approximately 1,645.14 hectares) (Figure 2) from the 1 to 14 May 2021, and 3 to 11 August 2021 (Western Botanical, 2025). No Threatened or Priority flora species were recorded within the application area, no survey limitations were identified (Western Botanical, 2025a).

Priority flora
No priority species were recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025). The application area contains suitable habitat for *Jacksonia lanicarpa* (P1), *Alyxia tetanifolia* (P3), *Notisia intonsa* (P3) and *Philotheca coateana* (P3), and were determined to possibly occur within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a).

Jacksonia lanicarpa and *Alyxia tetanifolia* are tall trees and shrubs, respectively, both of which grow to two metres in height (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Given these species' form, these species would likely have been detectable at the time of the flora survey.

Notisia intonsa is a small annual herb that occurs across Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Esperance Plains, Mallee, Murchison IBRA regions in mixed eucalyptus woodlands, however, does not appear to be restricted to a singular soil type (Short, 2016; WA Herbarium, 1998-). This species is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing at a local or regional level due to its extensive range and variable habitat type.

Philotheca coateana is a small shrub that flowers in August to September, within Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA regions (WA Herbarium). There is a record of this species adjacent to the application area, however the townsite of Menzies appears to have been used for this record, rather than the records' actual location (GIS Database). As this species was likely detectable and occurs across multiple bioregions it is unlikely to be present within the application area or significantly impacted by the proposed clearing at a regional level.

Species of taxonomic interest
Swainsona sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) was recorded for the first time at three locations within the broader survey area (Western Botanical, 2025). This species has only been recorded in Greenstone hill *Acacia collegialis* shrublands habitat (GHAS-Ac), which is present within the application area, the nearest record of this species is approximately 20 meters from the application area (Western Botanical, 2025). Per communications between Western Botanical and Western Australian taxonomist and *Swainsona* expert Rob Davis, Davis determined that the specimen found most likely represents a new and undescribed species (Western Botanical, 2025). As per correspondence with Brightstar Resources Limited, the application area has since been altered to place a 50 metre buffer around the known locations of *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) adjacent to the application area.

Western Botanical undertook a targeted flora survey for *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) from the 20 to 21 August 2025 within suitable habitat in the application area and local surrounds (Western Botanical, 2025b). There were 51 plants identified within the targeted flora survey area, no previously recorded plants were relocated during this survey (Western Botanical, 2025b). Western Botanical (2025b) noted that *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) individuals likely did not germinate or perished shortly after due to unsuitable seasonal conditions, as other annual species associated with GHAS-Ac vegetation appeared stunted. Due to the lack of information regarding this species and unfavourable seasonal conditions impacting the survey effort, it is recommended GHAS-Ac vegetation association should be avoided to reduce impacts to this species (Western Botanical, 2025b).

Invasive species

Western Botancial (2025) identified 12 weed species within the application area including a weed of national significance, *Cylindropuntia pallida* (Opuntia Cactus, Hudson Pear) (Figure 3, Table 1). Eighteen *Cylindropuntia pallida* individuals were recorded north of the Selkirk Mine (Figure 3). *Cylindropuntia pallida* is listed as a C3 control category pest, organisms under this category should have some form of management applied to them to alleviate their harmful impacts (DPIRD, 2025b).

At the time of the flora survey *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock) was listed as a declared pest (Declared Pest - s22(2), C1 Exclusion) however is currently listed as a permitted organism under the BAM Act (DPIRD, 2025b; Western Botancial, 2025).

Western Botancial (2025) noted that *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel grass), currently not a declared pest, is an aggressive invader and efforts to control and minimise populations should be taken in the development and management of the Menzies Gold Project, particularly in the years following soil disturbance.

Conclusion

No priority species were recorded within the application area. Species considered to potentially occur within the application area are unlikely to be present or significantly impacted by the proposed clearing at a regional level. 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.

The impact of the clearing to *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) is unknown due to the lack of records and information on this species. To minimise potential impacts to this species a restrictive clearing condition will be implemented on the permit to prohibit clearing within Greenstone hill *Acacia collegialis* shrublands vegetation.

Conditions

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

- 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
- restrictive clearing condition to prohibit clearing of native vegetation within Greenstone hill *Acacia collegialis* shrublands vegetation association.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (b)

Assessment

Fauna

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) undertook a basic vertebrate fauna survey and risk assessment over the application area and surrounds (approximately 1,645 hectares) (Figure 2) between 15 and 18 of November 2021. No conservation significant fauna species were recorded, and no survey limitations were identified (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Malleefowl

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU) occur in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris* spp.) scrub, as well as scrubs of acacia in central Australia (DEWHA, 2017). Malleefowl construct their mounds in sandy or loamy soils where leaf litter is abundant (National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016). The application area provides some suitable foraging habitat, however, does not provide suitable nesting habitat. Majority of the application area occurs over sandy clay loams and clay loams (Western Botanical, 2025a), which does not provide suitable sandy soil for mound construction.

Southern whiteface

The southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*, VU) occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (DCCEEW, 2023). This species forages on the ground amongst leaf litter, and nests within tree hollows or crevices and in low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). This species breeds from July to October and build large domed nests of grass, bark and roots in tree crevices and low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023). The southern whiteface has been recorded in many fauna surveys within the region and is likely to be present within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). The application area contains suitable foraging habitat in shrubland and woodland habitats, the application area likely provides hollow trees suitable for roosting and nesting.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing is likely to have a low impact on malleefowl as the application area contains limited suitable foraging habitat and does not contain suitable nesting habitat. The proposed clearing is likely to impact suitable habitat for the southern whiteface. To minimise impacts to this species; identified southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nests should be avoided by 50 metres between the months of July and October.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 18 March 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are two native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). These claims have been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal and determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant groups. 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 three registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) and southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) which are a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (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.

There is one contaminated site that intersects the application area, this site has been registered under the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*. The proponent is advised to contact the Contaminated Sites Branch (Department of Water and Environmental Regulation) (GIS Database).

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. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is adjacent to the Menzies townsite, historical mining activity and native vegetation (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the Eastern Murchison subregion is native pastures, UCL and Crown Reserves, mining and conservation estate (CALM, 2002).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The application area is not located within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is Goongarrie National Park, located approximately 41 kilometres southeast of the application area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>The application area occurs within the IBRA Murchison bioregion in the Eastern Murchison (MUR1) subregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
Barlee 18: Low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; Mulga (Acacia aneura) and associated species; and
Barlee 251: Low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; Mulga (Acacia aneura) and Allocasuarina cristata (Government of Western Australia, 2019; GIS Database).
A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Western Botanical in May and August 2021. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a):
<table>
<tr><th>Landform</th><th>Vegetation code</th><th>Vegetation Association</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Alluvial plains</td><td>EsSafS</td><td>Eremophila scoparia - Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia shrublands</td><td>Alluvial plains with sparse overstories and dominant Eremophila scoparia and Senna artemisioides midstoreys.</td></tr>
<tr><td>PSAS</td><td>Sago bush (Maireana pyramidata) low shrubland</td><td>Alluvial plains with red earths or duplex soils on hardpan dominated by Maireana pyramidata.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Calcrete platforms</td><td>EclW</td><td>Calcrete platform Eucalyptus clelandiorum woodlands</td><td>Low precipitated calcrete platforms supporting dominant Eucalyptus clelandiorum overstoreys with chenopod low shrublands.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hardpan plains</td><td>HPMS</td><td>Hardpan mulga shrublands</td><td>Level to very gentle inclined plains subject to sheet flow, often with mantles of fine ironstone gravel, supporting scattered to moderately close Acacia aneura tall shrublands</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Low basalt / greenstone hills and rises</td><td>GHAS-Ac</td><td>Greenstone hill Acacia collegialis shrublands</td><td>Summits of greenstone and basalt hills dominated by Acacia collegialis.</td></tr>
<tr><td>GHAS-As</td><td>Greenstone hill Acacia sibirica shrublands</td><td>Hills and low rises of red earths on greenstone or basalt indurated by iron, supporting Acacia sibirica</td></tr>
<tr><td>LIRS</td><td>Lateritic ironstone ridge Acacia shrublands</td><td>Lateritic ironstone ridges with mixed Acacia shrublands.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Stony plains</td><td>CPBS</td><td>Calcyphytic pearl bluebush (Maireana sedifolia) shrublands</td><td>Stoney plains and slopes of greenstone hills supporting Maireana sedifolia</td></tr>
<tr><td>CpAsS</td><td>Casuarina pauper - Acacia sibirica Shrublands</td><td>Stoney rises and plains with moderate to abundant mixed mantles of greenstone, quartz and ironstone pebbles and cobbles, supporting prominent Casuarina pauper overstoreys with Acacia sibirica.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Drainage tracts</td><td>DRMS</td><td>Drainage tract Mulga shrublands</td><td>Narrow unincised linear drainage zones receiving concentrated run-on, supporting Acacia aneura tall shrublands</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation survey (Western Botanical, 2025) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Very good to Completely degraded condition (Trudgen, 1991), 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.
to
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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The climate of the Eastern Murchison (MUR1) region is arid, with mainly winter rainfall, the average annual rainfall is 252.7 millimetres recorded at Menzies (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped within elevation areas of 410 to 440 meters Australian height datum (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description and land degradation risk</td><td>The soil is mapped as a part of the following land systems (DPIRD, 2025a; Pringle et al., 1994; GIS Database):
Moriarty system (265Mo): Low greenstone rises and stony plains supporting chenopod shrublands with patchy eucalypt overstoreys. Slopes of low rises without protective stone mantles, alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed.
Gransal system (265Gs): Stony plains and low rises based on granite supporting mainly halophytic low shrublands. This system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion. Impedance of sheet flow can initiate soil erosion and cause water starvation and consequent loss of vigour in vegetation downslope (<0.1 hectares).
Graves system (265Gr): Basalt and greenstone rises and low hills supporting eucalypt woodlands with prominent saltbush and bluebush understoreys. Alluvial plains are susceptible to water erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed (<0.1 hectares).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies</td><td>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). There are no permanent waterbodies or major watercourses that intersect the application area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hydrogeography</td><td>The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (GIS Database). The application area intersects the Menzies Water Reserve, a Public Drinking Water Source Area proclaimed under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is between approximately 3,000 – 7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>There are no records of Threatened flora species occurring within the application area and local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Western Botanical, 2025; GIS Database). There are no records of Priority flora within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025; GIS Database). There are 23 priority flora that occur within the Murchison bioregion that require further consideration (GIS Database)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological communities</td><td>There are no Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities within the application area or local surrounds (20 kilometres) (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna</td><td>No Threatened of Priority fauna species have been recorded within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS Database). There are records of 10 fauna of conservation significance within the Eastern Murchison bioregion (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna habitat</td><td>Five fauna habitats were identified within the application area, in addition to disturbed habitat (Terrestrial Ecosystems):
<table>
<tr><th>Fauna habitat</th><th>Vegetation code</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Bushy shrubland</td><td>PSAS</td><td>Alluvial plains with red earths or duplex soils on hardpan dominated by Maireana pyramidata.</td></tr>
<tr><td>EsSafS</td><td>Alluvial plains with sparse overstories and dominant Eremophila scoparia and Senna artemisioides midstoreys.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Casuarina woodland</td><td>CpAsS</td><td>Stoney rises and plains with moderate to abundant mixed mantles of greenstone, quartz and ironstone pebbles cobbles, supporting prominent Casuarina pauper overstoreys with Acacia sibirica.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details		
	Eucalypt woodland	EclW	Low precipitated calcrete platforms supporting dominant *Eucalyptus clelandiorum* overstoreys with chenopod low shrublands.
	Shrubland	DRMS	Narrow unincised linear drainage zones receiving concentrated run-on, supporting *Acacia aneura* tall shrublands.
		GHAS-Ac	Summits of greenstone and basalt hills dominated by *Acacia collegialis.*
		GHAS-As	Hills and low rises of red earths on greenstone or basalt indurated by iron, supporting *Acacia sibirica.*
		HPMS	Level to very gentle inclined plains subject to sheet flow, often with mantles of fine ironstone gravel, supporting scattered to moderately close *Acacia aneura* tall shrublands.
	Shrubland on ridge	LIRS	Lateritic ironstone ridges with mixed *Acacia* shrublands.

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 - Murchison	28,120,586	28,044,823	~99	2,185,987	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,306	19,843,148	~99	1,317,179	6.62
251	173,096	172,864	~99	120,496.03	69.61
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172.30	12,363,252.47	~99	614,964	4.96
251	58,012	57,780	~99	5,411	9.33

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix E.1), and biological survey information (Western Botanical, 2025a), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Species of Interest					
Swainsona sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674)	Y	Y	Y	0.2	3
Priority 1					
Calandrinia quartzitica	N	N	Y	9	18
Jacksonia lanicarpa	Y	Y	Y	78	12
Persoonia leucopogon	Y	N	N	25	5
Ptilotus procumbens	Y	N	Y	62	5
Rhodanthe uniflora	Y	N	N	56	3
Ricinocarpos digynus	Y	N	N	61	10
Priority 2					
Apatelantha insignis	Y	N	N	0.4	30

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Eucalyptus educta	N	N	N	49	46
Malleostemon sp. Adelong (G.J. Keighery 11825)	Y	N	Y	10	4
Thryptomene eremaea	Y	N	N	0.4	13
Priority 3					
Acacia eremophila var. *variabilis*	Y	N	Y	25	20
Alyxia tetanifolia	Y	Y	Y	26	14
Calandrinia sp. Menzies (F. Hort et al. FH 4100)	N	N	Y	56	5
Calytrix praecipua	N	N	N	49	28
Chrysocephalum apiculatum subsp. *norsemanense*	Y	N	Y	26	18
Eutaxia nanophylla	Y	N	Y	43	10
Eutaxia rubricarina	Y	N	Y	28	10
Homalocalyx grandiflorus	N	N	N	23	16
Hysterobaeckea ochropetala subsp. *cometes*	Y	N	Y	0.4	28
Notisia intonsa	Y	Some	Y	60	29
Philotheca coateana	Y	Some	Y	0.4	14
Priority 4					
Eucalyptus jutsonii subsp. *jutsonii*	Y	N	N	21	36
Grevillea erectiloba	Y	N	Y	0.3	30

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix H.1), and biological survey information (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Birds				
Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*)	MI	Y	Y	73
Grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*)	VU	N	Y	137
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	VU	Y	Y	0.4
Night parrot (*Pezoporus occidentalis*)	CR	N	N	354
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	OS	N	Y	64
Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*)	VU	Y	Y	271
Mammals				
Long-tailed Dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*)	P4	N	N	111
Brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*)	P4	Y	N	86
Sandhill dunnart (*Sminthopsis psammophila*)	EN	N	N	239
Reptiles				
Woma python (*Aspidites ramsayi*)	P1	N	N	0.3

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, MI: migratory, CD: conservation dependent, OS: other specially protected, 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: The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging and breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna, specifically the southern whiteface.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Western Botanical, 2025a; 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 or the local surrounds (20 kilometres) (Western Botanical, 2025; GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community (Western Botanical, 2025a).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2.). 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	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: There are no permanent water courses or wetlands recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There are multiple ephemeral drainage lines throughout the application area, which are associated with DRMS vegetation (Western Botanical, 2025a; GIS Database). Potential impacts to vegetation associated with watercourses can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.	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:	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to water erosion, particularly alluvial plains and narrow drainage tracts when vegetation or soil is disturbed (Pringle et al., 1994; GIS Database). Noting the extent of alluvial plain and drainage line habitat within the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. These impacts can be managed by a type of clearing authorised condition and a watercourse vegetation management condition on the clearing permit to prevent cleared areas from being unstable and prone to erosion for extended periods of times.		
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area (GIS Database), it is unlikely the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on surface water quality. There is one Public Drinking Water Source Area (Menzies Water Reserve) that intersects the application area, (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is considered to be compatible with the conditions of the Menzies Water Reserve, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact underground water quality (DWER, 2025).	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: Given there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area, and the application area is mapped as low rises and plains, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding (DPIRD, 2025a; GIS Database). Potential impacts that are likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incident or intensity of flooding can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.	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.

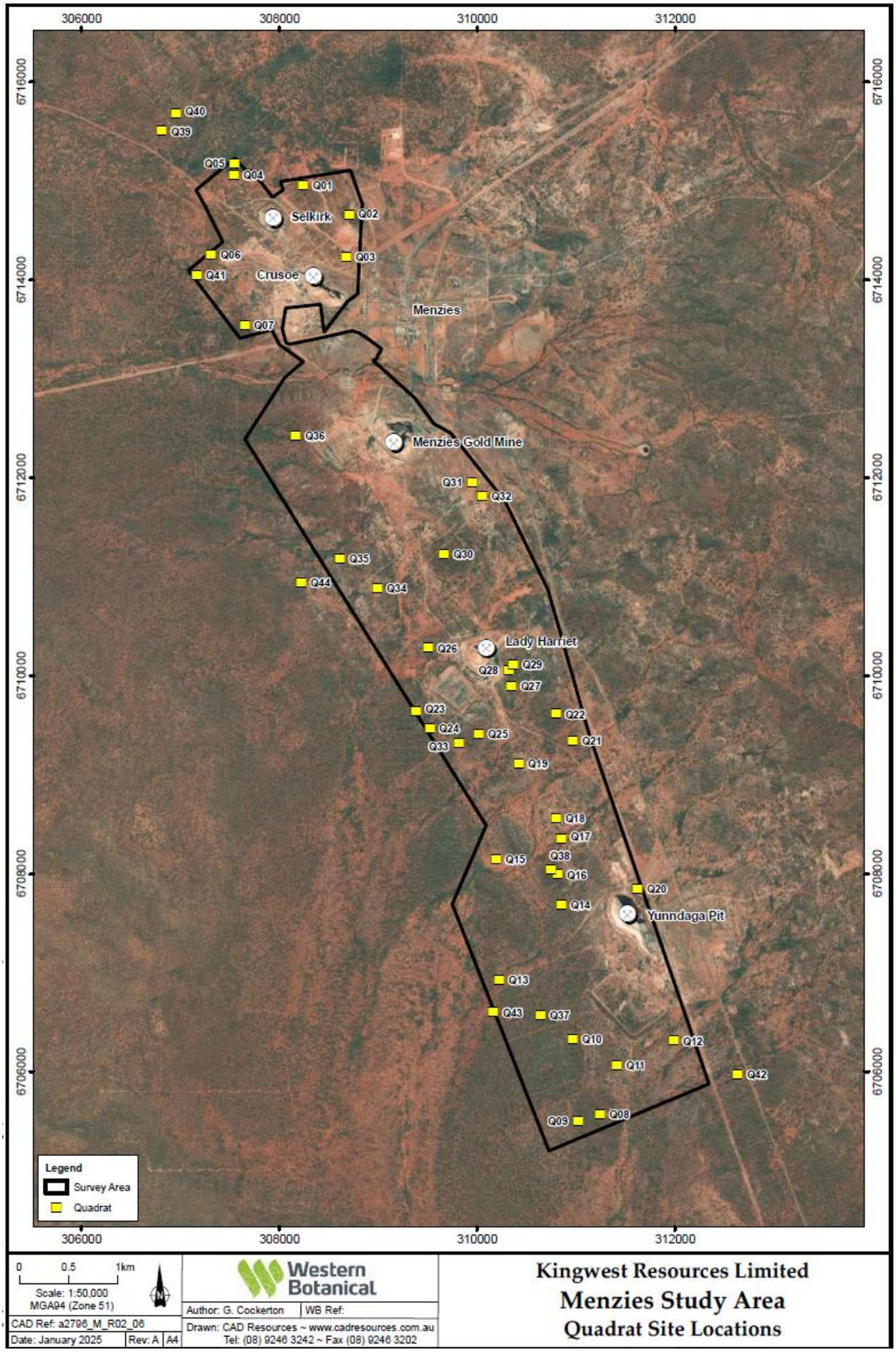

Figure 2. Flora sample sites within the broader survey area (Western Botanical, 2025a).

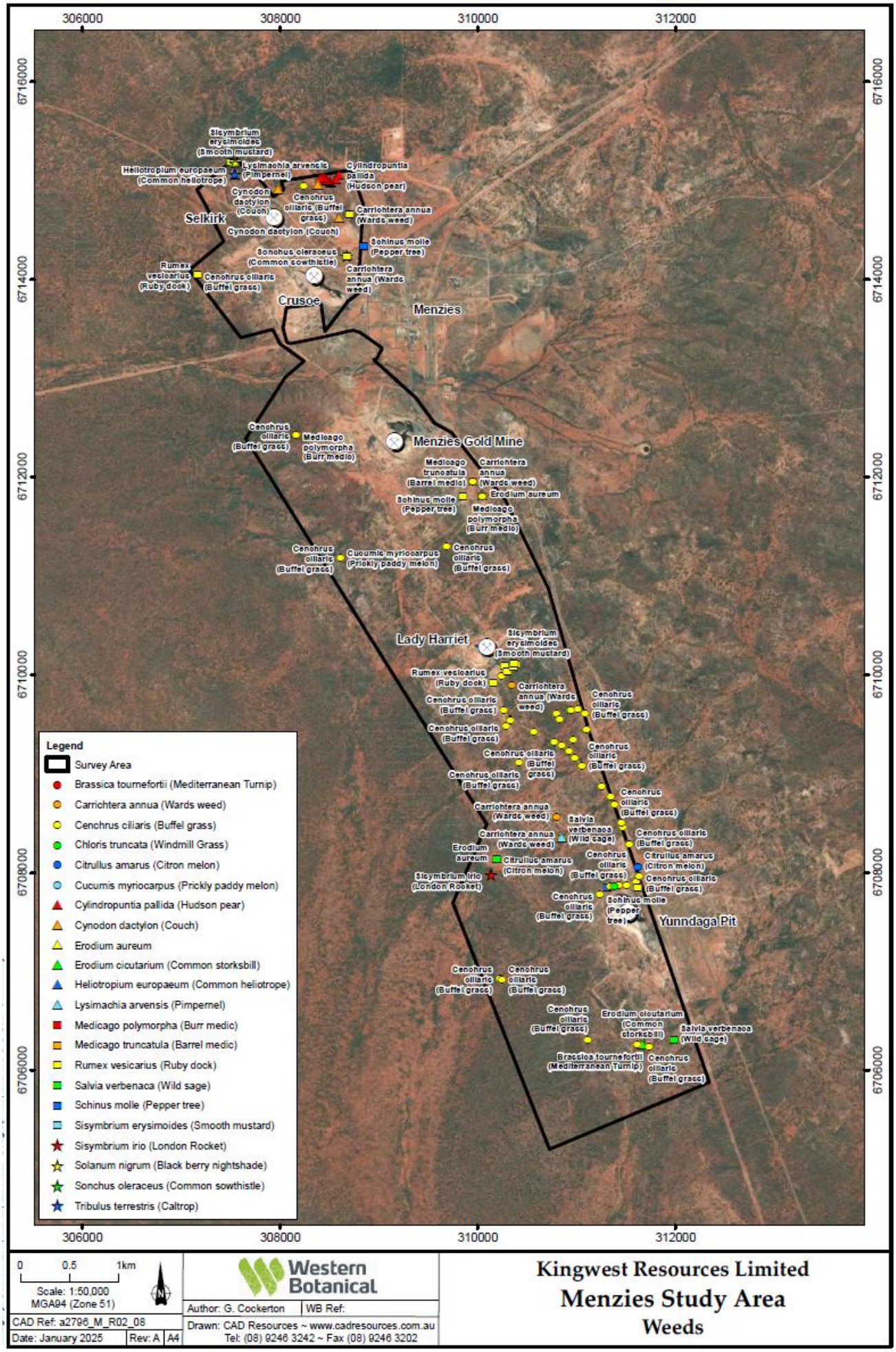

Figure 4. Weeds mapped within the application area and broader survey area (Western Botanical, 2025a).

Table 1. Weeds within the application area and broader survey area. *Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock) was previously considered a declared pest (Western Botanical, 2025a).

Family	Species	# Plants Recorded	Comments
Anacardiaceae	*Schinus molle* (Pepper tree)	3	Generally occurring near previous mining operations
Asteraceae	*Sonchus oleraceus* (Common Sowthistle)	1	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
Boraginaceae	*Heliotropium europaeum* (Common Heliotrope)	1	Common species on alluvial plains.
Brassicaceae	*Brassica tournefortii* (Mediterranean Turnip)	1	One individual recorded in DRMS Vegetation Association
	Carrichtera annua (Ward's Weed)	8	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
	Sisymbrium erysimoides (Smooth Mustard)	4	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
	Sisymbrium irio (London Rocket)	1	One individual recorded in the DRMS Vegetation Association
Cactaceae	*Cylindropuntia pallida* (Hudson Pear)	18	Declared Pest. Not encountered within Yunndaga Study Area. Several populations recorded north of the Selkirk mine. Plant spreads vegetatively by segments which root where they contact the ground
Cucurbitaceae	*Citrullus amarus* (Citron melon)	2	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
	Cucumis myriocarpus (Prickly Paddy Melon)	5	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
Fabaceae	*Medicago polymorpha* (Burr Medic)	4	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
	Medicago truncatula (Barrel medic)	3	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
Geraniaceae	*Erodium aureum*	2	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
	Erodium cicutarium (Common Storksbill)	1	One individual recorded in the DRMS Vegetation Association
Lamiaceae	*Salvia verbenaca* (Wild Sage)	5	Common species in Vegetations Associations occurring on alluvial plains
Poaceae	*Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel Grass)	900+	Aggressive invader and coloniser. Recorded throughout Study Area on alluvial plains and drainage sites. Particularly prevalent near Yunndaga Siding and other disturbed sites.
	Chloris truncata (Windmill Grass)	1	One individual recorded in disturbed area north of the Yunndaga pit
	Cynodon dactylon (Couch)	4	Three patches recorded north of the Selkirk mine
Polygonaceae	*Rumex vesicarius* (Ruby Dock)	150+	Declared Pest. Common invader of rocky substrates (i.e., Waste Rock Landform, and Pit bunding). Disturbance opportunist. Recorded throughout Study Area
Primulaceae	*Lysimachia arvensis* (Pimpernel)	2	Recorded in DRMS and HPMS Vegetation Associations.
Solanaceae	*Solanum nigrum* (Blackberry Nightshade)	1	One individual recorded in the HPMS association, north of the Selkirk mine.
Zygophyllaceae	*Tribulus terrestris* (Caltrop)	1	One individual recorded in the EsSaf Vegetation Association, north of the Selkirk mine.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- 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)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

E.2. References

Brightstar Resources Limited (Brightstar) (2025) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10921/1, received 20 January 2025.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Menzies (012052). Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 14 August 2025).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl (Accessed XX Month 2025).

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2023) Conservation Advice for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface). Available from: https://environment.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/species/pubs/529-conservation-advice-31032023.pdf (Accessed 27 August 2025).

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA) (2017) Survey guidelines for Australia's threatened birds. https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/survey-guidelines-birds-april-2017.pdf (Accessed 22 August 2025).

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 14 August 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025a) 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 14 August 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025b) Western Australian Organism List. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://www.dpird.wa.gov.au/online-tools/western-australian-organism-list/ (Accessed 22 August 2025).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2025) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 10921/1. Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia, April 2025.

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

Invasive Plants and Animals Committee 2016, Australian Weeds Strategy 2017 to 2027, Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Canberra. Available from: https://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/sitecollectiondocuments/pests-diseases-weeds/consultation/aws-final.pdf (Accessed 22 August 2025).

National Malleefowl Recovery Team (2016) National Malleefowl Monitoring Manual: Edition: 2016-1. Available from: https://library.dbca.wa.gov.au/FullTextFiles/631333.pdf (Accessed 22 August 2025).

Short, P. S. (2016) Notes concerning the classification of species included in *Calocephalus* R.Br. s.lat. and *Gnephosis* Cass. s.lat. (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae), with descriptions of new genera and species. *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, 26,* 147-220. https://data.environment.sa.gov.au/Content/Publications/JABG29P147_Short.pdf

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment: Menzies Mining Project. Prepared for Brightstar Resources, January 2025.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (WA Herbarium) (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 15 August 2025).

Western Botanical (2025a) Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment of the Menzies Gold Project for Kingwest Resources Ltd V2. Prepared for Kingwest Resources Ltd, January 2025.

Western Botanical (2025b) WB1079 Memo Summary of findings from recent Targeted Survey for *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674), 28 August 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.