GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10937/1
Permit Holder:	Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power
Duration of Permit:	From 19 April 2026 to 19 April 2031

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of installing new powerline infrastructure.

2. Land on which *clearing* is to be done

Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 414127, Waterbank
Lot 424 on Deposited Plan 218390, Waterbank
Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 414127, Waterbank
Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 421448, Waterbank

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 2.4 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

5. Weed management

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

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

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

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

6. Demarcation of the clearing area

Prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this Permit, the boundaries of the *clearing* area must be identified and demarcated using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees.

7. Flora management – *Corymbia paractia*

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, all *Corymbia paractia* individuals marked in red within the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 2 of Schedule 1 must be:
  (i) identified, recorded, and photographed; and
  (ii) demarcated and avoided with a minimum 50-metre buffer, where practicable.

(b) Where clearing within 50 metres of *Corymbia paractia* individuals is unavoidable, the Permit Holder must:
  (i) install clearly demarcated temporary fencing around the individuals prior to clearing and maintain the fencing until project activities have ceased;

(c) The Permit Holder must not cause or allow the clearing of more than six individuals of *Corymbia paractia,* unless otherwise approved by the *CEO.*

(d) On completion of clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must identify, record, and photograph all *Corymbia paractia* individuals retained in accordance with *Condition* 7(a) and 7(b).

8. Flora management – other priority flora

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must demarcate the following Priority flora identified within the report 'Kimberley IRP Biological Survey Horizon Power, 25 July 2024 (GHD, 2024):
  (i) *Glycine pindanica*
  (ii) *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759)

(b) The Permit Holder must not cause or allow the clearing of more than the following recorded individuals unless otherwise approved by the *CEO*:
  (i) two individuals of *Glycine pindanica*; and
  (ii) seventeen individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759).

9. Flora Management – Conservation of trees with hollows

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this Permit, the Permit Holder must flag all hollow-bearing trees mapped within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1; and

(b) The permit holder must avoid, where practicable, all trees containing hollows within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

10. Fauna management – greater bilby

(a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this Permit, for the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 of Schedule 1, the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) undertake surveys using transects spaced at 100 metres on average, to identify evidence of use by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*); and

(ii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under *condition* 10(a)(i), undertake surveys using transects spaced at 20 metres on average, to identify evidence of burrows that may be suitable for greater bilby use.

(b) Where potential greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition* 10(a), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

(ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.

(c) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 10(b), the Permit Holder must not clear within 50 metres of the *occupied* burrow and ensure there is an undisturbed vegetative linkage between the *occupied* burrow and vegetation outside of the area to be cleared, where practicable.

(d) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 10(b), and cannot be avoided with a minimum 50 metre vegetative buffer in accordance with *condition* 10(c), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) monitor the burrow with remote cameras for greater bilby use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;

(ii) where no evidence of greater bilby activity is identified under *condition* 10(d)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as un-*occupied,* and the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrow; and

(ii) collapse and fill the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed that no native vertebrate fauna is present within the burrow.

(iii) where evidence of greater bilby use is identified under *condition* 10(d)(i), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) continue to monitor the burrow for greater bilby activity;

(ii) implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent greater bilby from exiting the burrow; and

(iii) once greater bilby displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under *condition* 10(d)(ii)(i) and *condition* 10(d)(ii)(ii).

(e) If the greater bilby has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under *condition* 10(d)(iii), the Permit Holder must, within 24 hours prior to *clearing*, engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified greater bilby to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat* no closer than 100 metres from the area to be cleared, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

(f) Immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition* 10(e), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition* 10(d)(ii)(i) and *condition* 10(d)(ii)(ii).

(g) Within 24 hours prior to *clearing* within the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect any flagged burrow/s identified under *condition* 10(b)(i) for evidence of reexcavation by greater

bilby, unless these burrows are being avoided with a minimum 50 metre vegetative buffer in accordance with *condition* 10(c).

(h) Where re-excavated greater bilby burrow/s are identified under *condition* 10(g), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrow/s; and

(ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrow/s are *occupied*.

(i) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 10(h)(ii), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) remove and relocate any identified greater bilby from the burrow to an area of *greater bilby suitable habitat*, in accordance with a section 40 authorisation under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*; and

(ii) immediately after the greater bilby has been relocated under *condition* 10(i)(i), undertake the actions required under *condition* 10(d)(ii)(i) and *condition* 10(d)(ii)(ii).

(j) Where an un-*occupied* burrow is identified under *condition* 10(h)(ii), the Permit Holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under *condition* 10(d)(ii)(i) and *condition* 10(d)(ii)(ii).

(k) Where any greater bilby burrows are identified under *condition* 10(a) or 10(g), and any greater bilby is relocated under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i), the Permit Holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the *CEO* within two (2) months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this Permit:

(i) the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *occupied*, using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under *condition* 10(d);

(iii) the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under *condition*s 10(d), 10(f), 10(i) and 10(j);

(iv) the date and time greater bilby are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under *condition* 10(d);

(v) the gender of each greater bilby captured and relocated under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i);

(vi) the location of any greater bilby captured under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(vii) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are captured under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i);

(viii) the location of any greater bilby relocated under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ix) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where greater bilby are relocated under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i);

(x) the name of the *fauna specialist* that relocated greater bilby under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i); and (xi) a copy of the fauna licence authorising the relocation of greater bilby under *condition* 10(e) or 10(i).

11. Fauna management - Fauna spotter

(a) The permit holder must:

(i) engage a fauna spotter to traverse the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1 ahead of *clearing* machinery immediately prior to, and for the duration of, *clearing* activities; and

(ii) conduct *clearing* activities in a slow, progressive manner in one direction, towards adjacent *native vegetation*, to allow fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the *clearing* activity.

(b) *Clearing* activities must cease in any area where native fauna are identified under *condition* 11(a) until native fauna individual(s) have moved on from that area to adjoining *native vegetation* .

(c) Where *conservation significant fauna* individual(s) are identified under *condition* 11(a) of this permit, the permit holder must include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO* within three months of undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit:

(i) the species of each *conservation significant fauna* individual(s) identified;

(ii) the number of individuals identified;

(iii) the date each individual was identified;

(iv) the location where each individual was identified recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(v) the relevant qualifications of the fauna spotter undertaking identification, under *condition* 11(b); and

(vi) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, a *conservation significant fauna* individual(s).

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

12. Records that must be kept

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

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised *clearing* activities generally	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the *clearing* occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds in accordance

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		with *condition* 5; and (g) actions taken to demarcate the clearing area prior to commencement of clearing in accordance with *condition* 6.
2.	In relation to flora management - *Corymbia paractia* pursuant to *condition* 7	(a) actions taken to identify, record, photograph and demarcate all *Corymbia paractia* individuals prior to commencement of clearing, in accordance with *condition* 7; (b) actions taken to install clearly demarcated temporary fencing around the individuals, from prior to clearing until cessation of the project, where a minimum 50-metre buffer is unavoidable, in accordance with *condition* 7(b); (c) evidence that no more than six individuals of *Corymbia paractia* were cleared, in accordance with *condition* 7; and (d) evidence that all retained individuals of *Corymbia paractia* were identified, recorded and photographed, in accordance with *condition* 7(a).
3.	In relation to flora management – other priority flora pursuant to *condition* 8	(a) actions taken to demarcate recorded priority flora; (b) number of individuals cleared from each priority flora taxa; (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of recorded priority flora species, where practicable.
4.	In relation to flora management – Conservation of trees with hollows pursuant to *condition* 9	(a) evidence that the hollow-bearing tree mapped within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1 was flagged, and that all trees containing hollows within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1 were avoided where practicable.
	In relation to fauna management for the greater bilby pursuant to *condition* 10	(a) results of the pre-clearance surveys undertaken in accordance with *condition* 10, including photographic records demonstrating the method and number of remote camera monitoring nights; and (b) a copy of the fauna specialist's report in accordance with *condition* 10.
	In relation to fauna management by a fauna spotter pursuant to *condition* 11	(a) evidence that a fauna spotter traversed the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1 ahead of clearing machinery immediately prior to, and for the duration of, clearing activities (b) evidence that clearing activities were conducted in a slow, progressive, single direction towards adjacent native vegetation to allow fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity (c) evidence that clearing activities ceased in any area where *conservation significant fauna* were identified

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		under *condition* 11(a) until the individual(s) had moved into adjoining vegetation (d) a copy of the fauna specialist's report in accordance with *condition* 11

13. Reporting

The Permit Holder must provide the *CEO* with the records required under *condition* 12 of this Permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a *condition* to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
conservation significant fauna	means that fauna taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority Fauna List for Western Australia (as amended) as well as those listed at Threatened under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
greater bilby suitable habitat	means habitat known to support the Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) within the known current distribution of the species.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
occupied	means currently occupied, or where uncertainty exists, potentially occupied, by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
priority flora	means that plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened

Term	Definition
	and Priority Flora List for Western Australia (as amended).
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

Mathew Gannaway
SENIOR MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

26 March 2026

Schedule 1

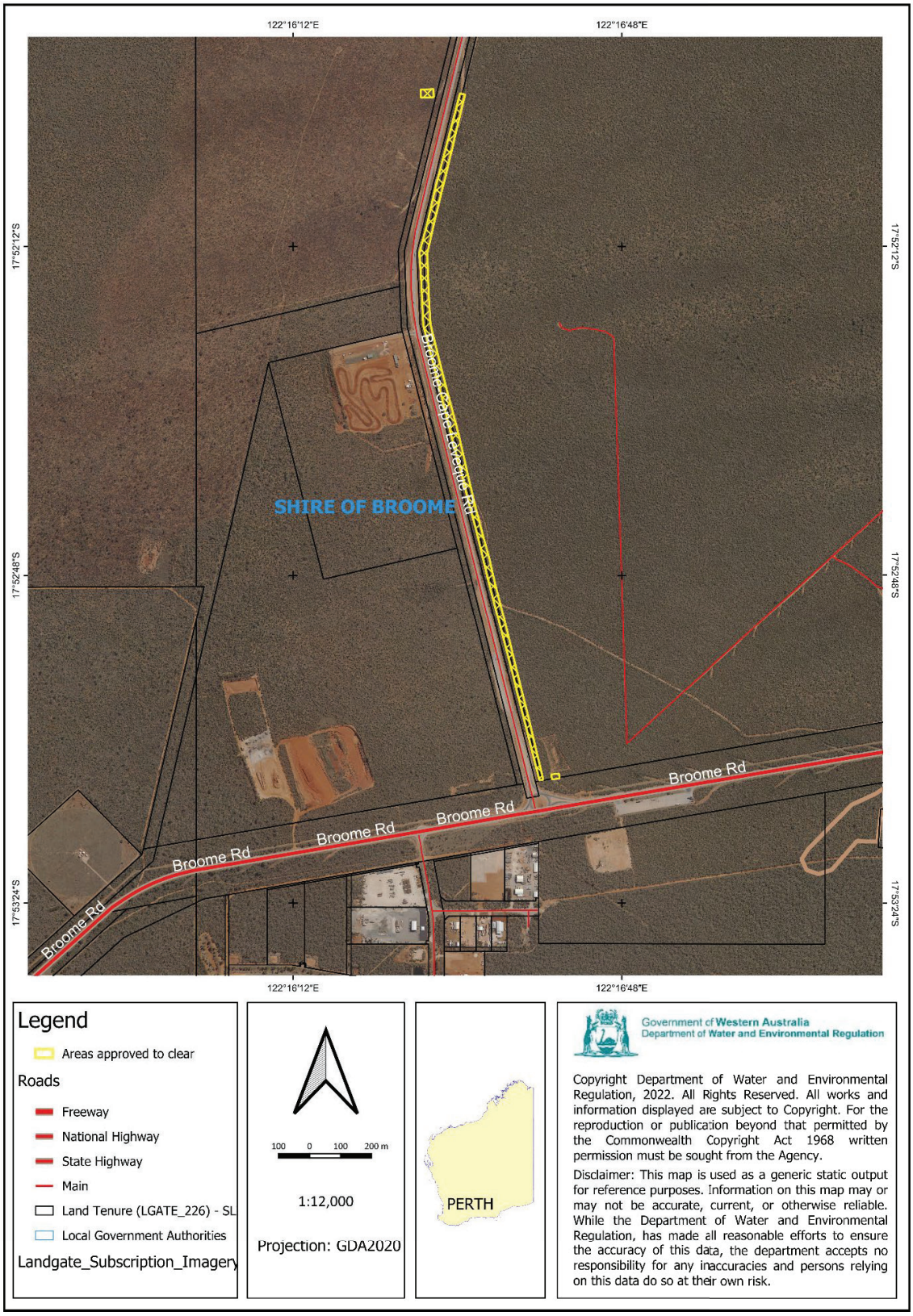

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

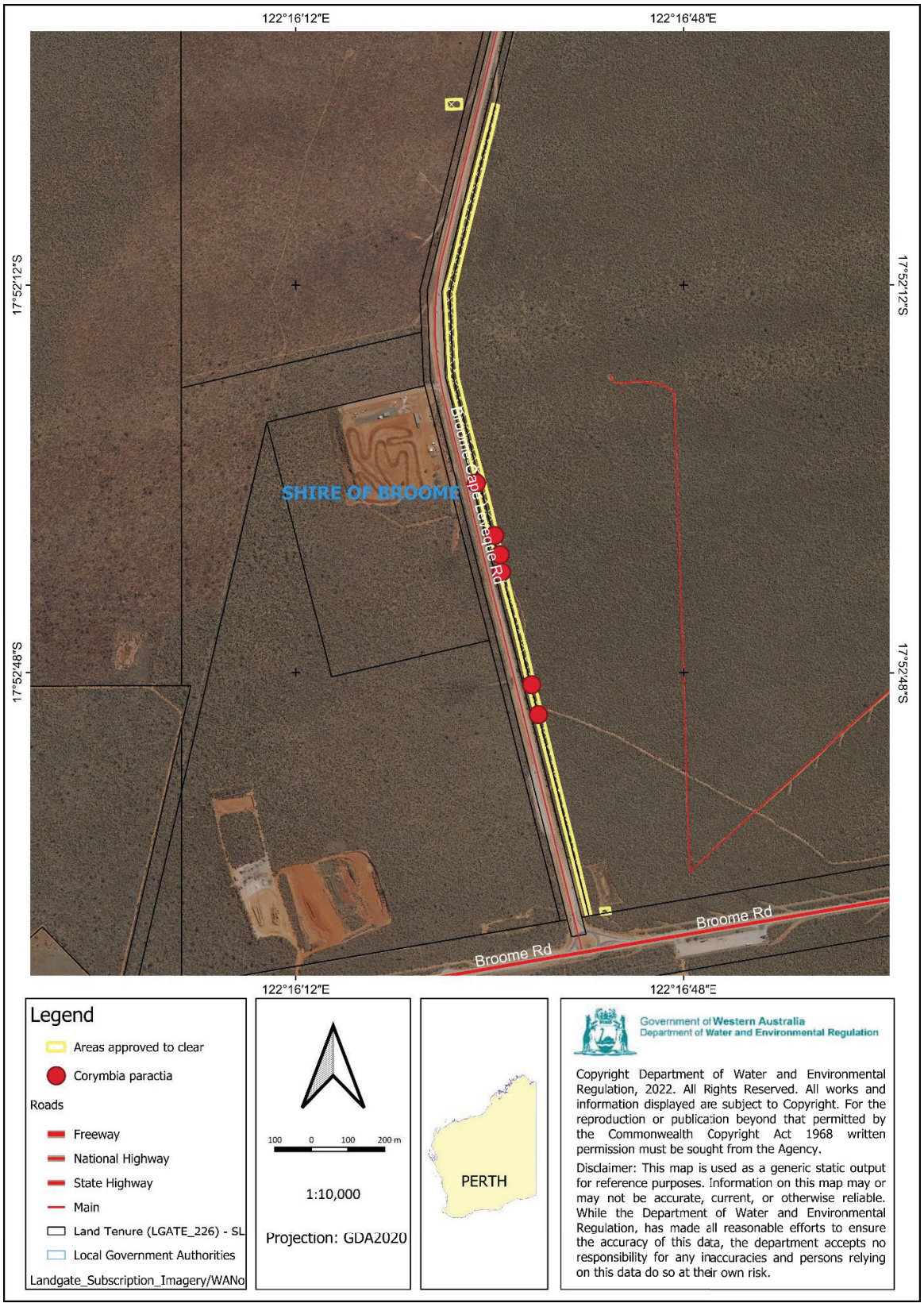

Figure 2: Map of the *Corymbia paractia* individuals marked in red

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10937/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Regional Power Corporation T/A Horizon Power
Application received:	4 February 2025
Application area:	2.4 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Installing new powerline infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 414127 Lot 424 on Deposited Plan 218390 Lot 501 on Deposited Plan 414127 Lot 550 on Deposited Plan 421448
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Broome
Localities (suburb/s):	Waterbank

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The proposed clearing footprint is contained within a single continuous area (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The applicant proposes to clear 2.4 hectares of native vegetation within a 4.82-hectare footprint. The purpose of the project is to install new powerline infrastructure to connect the new Shire of Broome waste disposal facility. Clearing for the powerline infrastructure will be undertaken by mechanical removal (Horizon Power, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	3 March 2026
Decision area:	2.4 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days, and one submission was received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submission is summarised in Appendix A.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard to the site characteristics (see Appendix B, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the findings of a biological survey (see Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also considered that the purpose of the clearing is to install a powerline to connect the new Shire of Broome waste disposal facility.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact the quality of adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation containing priority flora species, including direct impacts to up to six individuals of *Corymbia paractia* (Priority 2), two individuals of *Glycine pindanica* (Priority 3) and seventeen individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (Priority 3), and indirect impacts to adjacent individuals; and
- the loss and fragmentation of habitat utilised by conservation significant fauna, including potential impacts to greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) habitat, the removal of one hollow-bearing tree, and disturbance to fauna during clearing activities.

Notwithstanding that the proposed clearing is assessed as at variance with clearing principles (a) and (b), the Delegated Officer considered that the identified impacts can be appropriately managed through strict avoidance and minimisation measures, together with targeted flora and fauna management conditions applied to the permit. In making this decision, the Delegated Officer also had regard to the objects of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* and was satisfied that, subject to these conditions, the proposal is unlikely to result in unacceptable environmental harm.

Based on the assessment of the available information and the applicant's demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in long-term adverse impacts on environmental values.

Accordingly, having considered the scale and location of the proposed clearing, the condition of the vegetation, and the mitigation measures proposed by the applicant, the Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- implement hygiene measures 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;
- impose targeted flora management measures, including demarcation, avoidance buffers and strict limits on the number of priority flora individuals authorised to be cleared; and
- impose detailed fauna management measures, including pre-clearing surveys, protection of hollow-bearing trees, staged clearing, fauna spotter requirements, and comprehensive greater bilby avoidance, monitoring and relocation measures.

1.5. Site maps

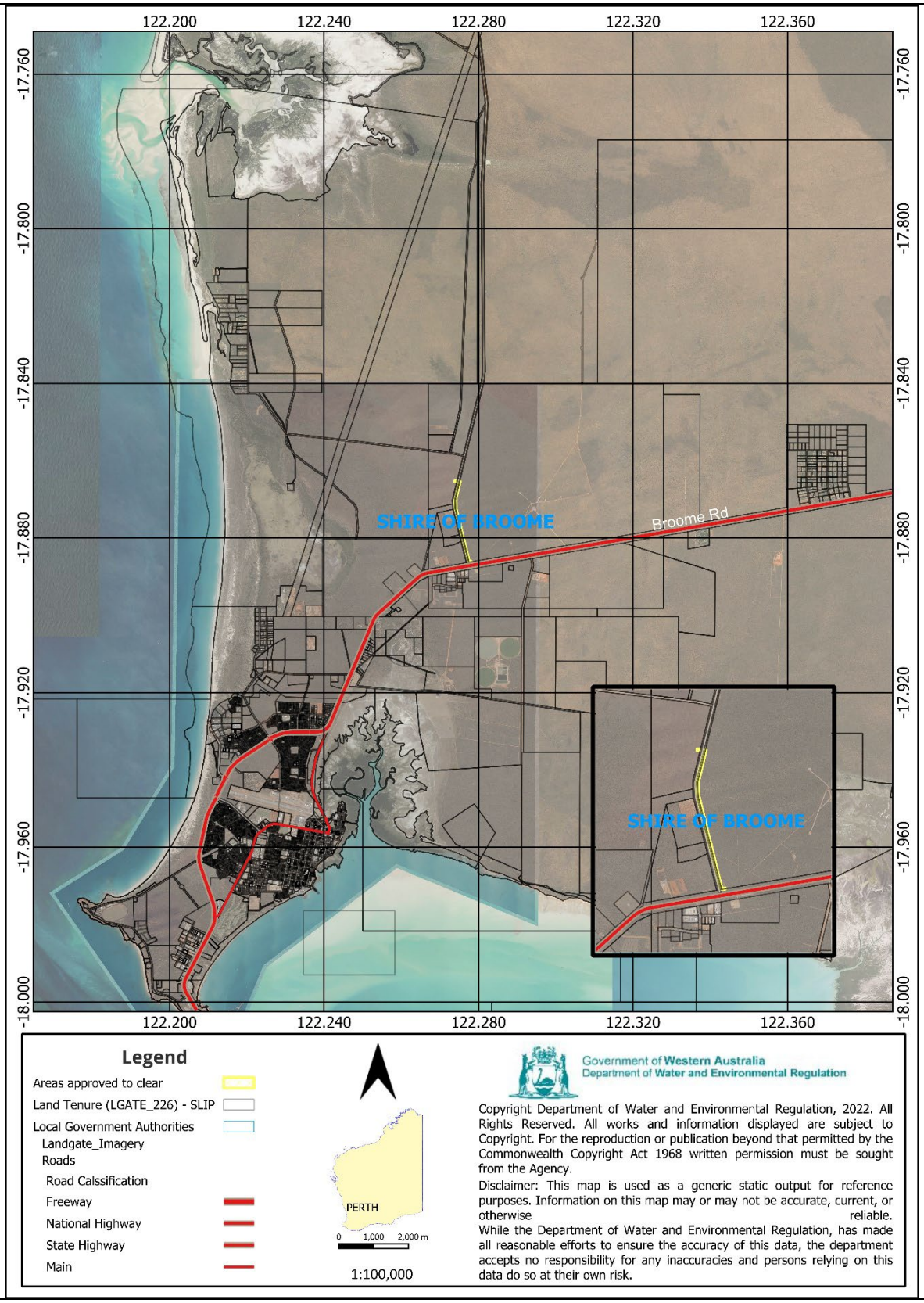

Figure 1: Context map of the application area. The cross-hatched yellow area indicates the area authorised to be cleared.

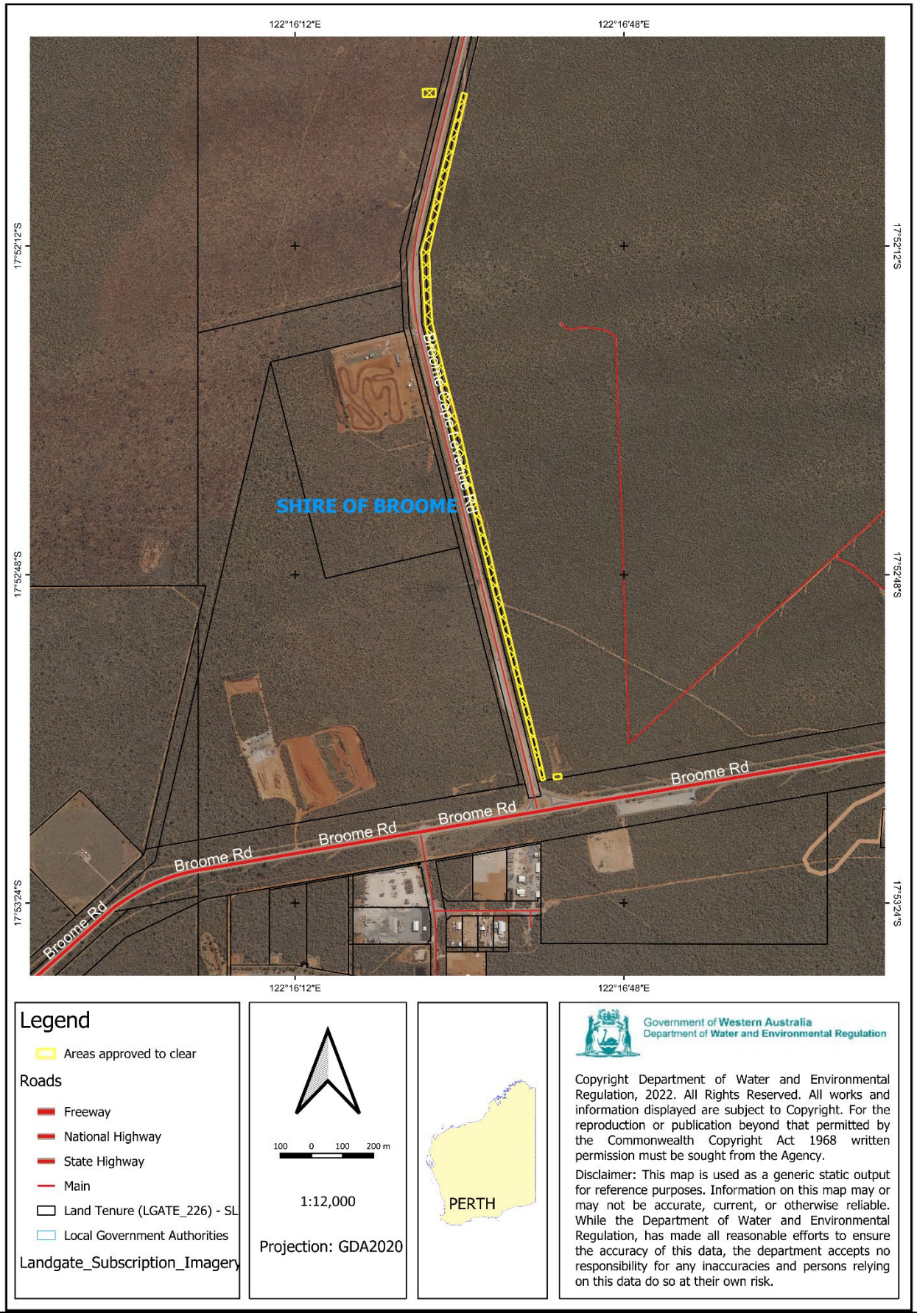

Figure 2: Map of the application area. The cross-hatched yellow area indicates the area authorised to be cleared.

2 Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed for the Project which lists the specific mitigation and management measures to be applied during construction of the Project (Horizon Power, 2025). Key management measures include:

- No clearing is permitted outside the Development envelope (clearing footprint).
- Works will be undertaken systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks.
- The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities.
- Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 2.4 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project.
- A pre-clearing environmental toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
- Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation.
- Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean and weed control will be undertaken at the site post-construction as required (Horizon Power, 2025).

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3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora, fauna, 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 and biodiversity) - Clearing Principles (a), (c), and (d)

Assessment

Ecological Community: The application area is located within the Dampierland bioregion and the Pindanland sub-region. The vegetation is mapped as Pindan woodland vegetation association 750, which is described as acacia thicket with eucalypt woodland over spinifex, including *Acacia tumida*, *Eucalyptus tectifica*, *Corymbia grandifolia*, *Triodia pungens* and *T. bitextura*. Vegetation condition within the application area ranges from Very Good to

Completely Degraded, with the majority of vegetation within the development envelope classified as Excellent (GHD, 2024; Shepherd et al., 2001).

A Threatened and Priority Ecological Community (TEC and PEC) likelihood assessment was undertaken, and no TECs were identified within the application area. The closest TEC is the Roebuck Bay mudflats, located approximately 4.5 kilometres from the application area.

Two occurrences of the Relict Dune System (Minyiuru: Mangarr – *Sersalisa sericea*) Priority 1 PEC were identified in proximity to the project area, located approximately 900 metres and 800 metres from the application area.

No TECs or PECs were recorded within the proposed clearing area (GHD, 2024). The proposed clearing is not likely to impact a TEC or PEC.

Flora: A flora likelihood assessment was undertaken based on the habitat and soil preferences of conservation significant flora recorded within a 50-kilometre radius of the application area, site characteristics (Appendix B.1), and known species distributions (Appendix B.2).

Eight conservation significant flora species were identified as having suitable habitat within the application area (Appendix B.2). Of these, seven species were recorded within the broader GHD (2024) survey area. However, only three priority flora species were recorded within, or immediately adjacent to, the clearing footprint and are therefore the focus of this assessment: *Corymbia paractia* (P2), *Glycine pindanica* (P3) and *Polymeria* sp. Broome (P3). The remaining species were either not recorded within the clearing footprint or were located at sufficient distance such that the proposed clearing is not expected to result in a direct or indirect impact.

***Corymbia paractia* (P2)**

Advice from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA, 2025) confirms that *Corymbia paractia* has previously been recorded within the application area, including six individuals within the clearing footprint and a further six individuals located immediately adjacent to the clearing footprint along Cape Leveque Road. The biological survey undertaken by GHD (2024) did not identify *C. paractia* within the application area.

DBCA advised that accurate identification of *Corymbia paractia* requires flowering or fruiting material, which typically occurs between November and December, and that identification outside this period can be difficult due to morphological similarity with related taxa such as *C. flavescens*, which was recorded during the survey (DBCA, 2025).

Corymbia paractia is a highly restricted species and is currently under consideration for listing as Threatened Flora under the BC Act (DBCA, 2025). DBCA advised that impacts to the six individuals within the application area, and potential inadvertent impacts to the six individuals adjacent to the clearing footprint, are likely to represent a significant impact on the local population and contribute to cumulative impacts.

DBCA recommended avoidance of clearing of *C. paractia* individuals wherever practicable and the implementation of management measures to minimise direct and indirect impacts. Accordingly, targeted management condition has been imposed on the clearing permit to manage impacts to *C. paractia* individuals.

***Glycine pindanica* (P3)**

Two individuals of *G. pindanica* were recorded within the application area during the GHD survey (2024). A further six individuals were recorded within 50 metres of the footprint, including four located between the application area and Broome–Cape Leveque Road. Thirteen individuals were recorded across the wider survey area (GHD, 2024).

DBCA advised that *G. pindanica* is a disturbance opportunist and is likely to regenerate following the proposed works (DBCA, 2025). The direct clearing of two individuals and indirect impacts to nearby individuals may represent a significant impact on the local subpopulation; however, given the number of known records in the surrounding area and the species' regeneration capacity, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant regional-scale impact or affect the species' overall conservation status (DBCA, 2025).

***Polymeria* sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759) (P3)**

Seventeen individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome were recorded within the application area during the GHD survey (2024). An additional 106 individuals were recorded within 50 metres, and 394 individuals were recorded across the wider survey area.

DBCA advised that *Polymeria* sp. Broome appears to be restricted to the La Grange region and southern coastal Dampier Peninsula. While widespread across the survey area, its distribution coincides with areas suited to irrigated agriculture and may therefore be subject to cumulative impacts (DBCA, 2025). Based on the number of individuals recorded, the clearing of 17 plants is unlikely to represent a significant impact at the local or regional scale or affect the conservation of this species (DBCA, 2025).

Conclusion

Based on the assessment above, the proposed clearing is expected to contribute to cumulative impacts on *Corymbia paractia* (P2). The proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact *Glycine pindanica* (P3) and *Polymeria* sp. Broome (P3). Impacts to priority flora can be managed through the implementation of targeted permit conditions.

Conditions

To manage and mitigate impacts to priority flora, the following conditions will apply to the clearing permit:

Flora management – *Corymbia paractia*

- Prior to any clearing, all *C. paractia* individuals marked in red within the cross-hatched yellow areas must be:
  - identified, recorded and photographed; and
  - demarcated and avoided with a minimum buffer of 50 metres, where practicable.
- Where clearing within 50 metres is unavoidable, the permit holder must install and maintain clearly demarcated temporary fencing around individuals prior to clearing
- No more than six individuals of *C. paractia* may be cleared unless otherwise approved by the CEO.
- Upon completion of clearing, all retained individuals must be identified, recorded and photographed.

Flora management – other priority flora

- Prior to clearing, the permit holder must demarcate the following priority flora recorded in the biological survey (GHD, 2024):
  - *Glycine pindanica*; and
  - *Polymeria* sp. Broome.
- The permit holder must not clear more than:
  - two individuals of *Glycine pindanica*; and
  - seventeen individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome, unless otherwise approved by the CEO.

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

Assessment

Fauna: A fauna likelihood assessment was undertaken using desktop data, site characteristics (Appendix B.1) and the findings of the biological survey, with consideration of known species distributions (Appendix B.3).

The desktop assessment identified 112 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area (50-kilometre radius). The majority of bird species identified were migratory waterbirds protected under international agreements, which are typically associated with aquatic habitats and breed in northern latitudes. As there are no wetlands or major watercourses within the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on these migratory waterbirds or other aquatic species identified from the local area.

Twelve conservation significant fauna species were identified as having the potential to occur within the application area and required further consideration (Appendix B.3). The following assessment is based on habitat requirements, distribution, mapped vegetation types and vegetation condition, and the findings of the biological survey (GHD, 2024).

Species requiring further consideration (Appendix B.3)

- *Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift)
- *Macrotis lagotis* (greater bilby)
- *Falco hypoleucos* (grey falcon)
- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon)
- *Pandion haliaetus* (osprey)
- *Lerista separanda* (Dampierland plain slider)
- *Tiliqua scincoides intermedia* (northern blue-tongue skink)
- *Simoselaps minimus* (Dampierland burrowing snake)

- *Erythrura gouldiae* (Gouldian finch)
- *Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis* (northern brush-tailed possum)
- *Ozimops cobourgianus* (northern coastal free-tailed bat)
- *Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus* (bare-rumped sheath-tailed bat)

Migratory waterbirds (MI)

None of the migratory waterbird species are expected to breed within the application area. The proposed clearing is not considered likely to impact nest sites or significant breeding habitat for these species. Given the extent of proposed clearing and the absence of aquatic habitat features within the application area, the area is not considered likely to represent significant breeding, foraging or roosting habitat for conservation significant waterbird species.

Fork-tailed swift (MI)

The fork-tailed swift was recorded during the biological survey (GHD, 2024). This species is an aerial forager that does not rely on the application area for breeding or roosting habitat. Given the small scale of clearing and the species' high mobility, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in a significant impact on the fork-tailed swift.

Gouldian finch (EN)

The Gouldian finch inhabits open woodlands dominated by *Eucalyptus* species with a ground layer of grasses, and core habitat typically includes access to surface water and, during breeding, hollow-bearing trees. The biological survey did not identify evidence of this species (GHD, 2024). The application area is mapped as Pindan shrubland and lacks nearby water sources and other key habitat attributes. Accordingly, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact significant habitat for this species, and any use of the application area would be expected to be incidental or occasional (GHD, 2024; DBCA, 2025).

Peregrine falcon (OS), grey falcon (VU) and osprey (MI)

These raptor species were not recorded during the biological survey (GHD, 2024). While suitable foraging habitat may be present within the broader landscape, the application area does not contain suitable nesting or breeding habitat for these species, and no nesting habitat is proposed to be cleared. Given the mobility of these species and the limited scale of clearing, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to significantly reduce foraging habitat in the local area.

Dampierland plain slider (P2) and Dampierland burrowing snake (P2)

The Dampierland plain slider and Dampierland burrowing snake are poorly known species recorded from the Dampierland bioregion. The biological survey undertaken by GHD (2024) did not record either species within the application area. The closest database records for both species are located approximately 11.6 kilometres from the application area.

Given the absence of survey records within the application area, the distance to known records, the limited scale and linear nature of the proposed clearing, and the availability of extensive contiguous habitat in the surrounding landscape, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to impact significant habitat for either species. Accordingly, the absence of survey records does not change the significance assessment, and the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on these species.

Northern brush-tailed possum (VU)

The northern brush-tailed possum was not recorded during the biological survey (GHD, 2024). However, trees with suitable hollows may provide potential nesting habitat for this species. One hollow-bearing tree was identified within the clearing footprint and may be impacted by the proposed clearing.

All other trees containing potential hollows were avoided through project design. The potential impact to hollow-bearing habitat is addressed through permit conditions requiring avoidance of hollow-bearing trees where practicable, staged clearing, and fauna spotter supervision. Given the limited number of hollow-bearing trees affected and the availability of similar habitat in the surrounding area, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in a significant impact on the northern brush-tailed possum.

Northern Blue-tongue Skink (CR)

The northern blue-tongue skink was not recorded during the biological survey undertaken by GHD (2024). This species is widely distributed across northern Australia and occupies a range of open woodland and shrubland habitats, including disturbed environments.

While suitable habitat features may be present within the application area, the absence of survey records indicates that the site is not currently supporting a resident population. The proposed clearing footprint is limited in extent and occurs within a broader landscape that retains extensive areas of similar habitat.

Given the lack of recorded individuals within the application area, the small scale and linear nature of the proposed clearing, and the availability of contiguous habitat in the surrounding landscape, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to result in a significant impact on the northern blue-tongue skink.

Bare-rumped sheath-tailed bat (VU) and northern coastal free-tailed bat (P1)

Neither the bare-rumped sheathtailed bat nor the northern coastal freetail bat was recorded during the biological survey (GHD, 2024). The application area contains Pindan shrubland vegetation that may provide foraging and commuting habitat for these species. Trees within and adjacent to the clearing footprint may also provide potential roosting resources.

Potential impacts to bat habitat are addressed through permit conditions requiring the avoidance of hollow-bearing trees where practicable, staged clearing, and fauna management measures. Given the absence of survey records, the small scale of clearing, and the extensive availability of similar habitat in the surrounding landscape, the proposed clearing is not considered likely to significantly affect roosting or foraging resources for these species.

Greater bilby (VU)

The biological survey recorded evidence of greater bilby presence, including tracks, diggings and burrows, within the broader survey area (GHD, 2024). No active burrows were recorded within the immediate clearing footprint at the time of survey; however, the vegetation types within the footprint meet definitions of critical habitat for the greater bilby.

While the proposed clearing may remove a small area of potential habitat, it represents a minor, linear disturbance within an extensive area of contiguous bilby habitat in the surrounding landscape. The Delegated Officer determined that, subject to the implementation of comprehensive greater bilby management conditions — including pre-clearing surveys, burrow avoidance buffers, remote camera monitoring, staged displacement, and relocation in accordance with the BC Act, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on the local or regional greater bilby population.

Conclusion

In addition to the greater bilby, the proposed clearing may result in temporary disturbance to habitat utilised by other conservation significant fauna, including the northern brush-tailed possum and insectivorous bats that may utilise tree hollows for roosting. Given the importance of hollows as a limiting habitat resource for arboreal mammals and bats in the local landscape, a precautionary permit condition has been applied to ensure this resource is avoided where practicable. The biological survey did not specify the species of the hollow-bearing tree identified within the clearing footprint; accordingly, precautionary permit conditions have been applied to avoid hollow-bearing trees where practicable, regardless of species.

Potential impacts are addressed through permit conditions requiring avoidance of hollow-bearing trees where practicable, staged clearing, and fauna spotter supervision during clearing activities.

Conditions

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

Fauna management – conservation of hollow-bearing trees

- Prior to undertaking clearing, the permit holder must flag hollow-bearing trees mapped within the application area; and
- avoid, where practicable, trees containing hollows within the application area.

Fauna management – greater bilby

- Pre-clearing surveys by a fauna specialist, including transect surveys and burrow identification;
- burrow avoidance buffers and maintenance of vegetative linkages where practicable;
- remote camera monitoring where avoidance is not possible;
- burrow inspection and management actions for unoccupied burrows;
- displacement and relocation measures for occupied burrows (in accordance with authorisations under the BC Act); and
- reporting to the CEO on burrows, monitoring, relocation actions and supporting documentation.

Fauna management – fauna spotter

- A fauna spotter must traverse the clearing area ahead of clearing machinery and during clearing;

- clearing must occur slowly and progressively in one direction towards adjacent native vegetation;
- clearing must cease where fauna are identified until fauna have moved on; and
- reporting requirements apply if conservation significant fauna are identified.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Shire of Broome (2025) advised DWER that officers at the Shire have considered the application and are satisfied with the information provided, noting the clearing is being undertaken to provide a power connection to the Regional Resource Recovery Park (RRRP). The RRRP is an important strategic project for the Shire of Broome and will ensure that waste from the community is managed in a sustainable manner through recycling, resource recovery and diverting waste from landfill. The Shire of Broome therefore provides it support to Horizon Power's application.". The Shire did not have any objections to the proposed clearing.

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

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Survey did not identify *Corymbia paractia* (P2) in the application area	Impacts to *Corymbia paractia* are addressed in Section 3.2.1
Corymbia paractia dominated community on dunes PEC definition should be amended to include all *Corymbia paractia*.	It is acknowledged the concern in relation to the description of this PEC. This is beyond the scope of the clearing permit assessment by DWER. PEC descriptions are determined by DBCA.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to DWER at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix C.

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. It is located approximately eight kilometres northeast of Broome in the Shire of Broome. Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99.39 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	There are no ecological linkages mapped within or adjacent to the application area.
Conservation areas	The application area does not intersect a mapped conservation area. The closest mapped conservation area is: • DBCA legislated land and waters Section 5 (1)(h) reserve 700 metres West. • Public Drinking water source area protection P1 area 150 metres East. • Marine Park 5 kilometres South. • Environmental conservation reserves 4 kilometres South. • Cultural and natural reserves 700 metres East-North. • DPLH-098: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Historical 700 metres West.
Vegetation description	A biological survey (GHD, 2024) has been completed across a broad area, with only one vegetation type mapped within the application area: • VT05 - Variable from low open forest to open woodland (*Corymbia greeniana, C. zygophylla* and/or *C. flavescens*) with *Acacia eriopoda* or *A. eriopoda x tumida* var. *tumida* (tree form or occasionally shrub form where more recently burnt) and scattered *Acacia colei* var. *colei* on pindan plains and dunes of very low relief. This is consistent with the mapped Beard Vegetation Association vegetation type: • Dampierland 750, described as Acacia thicket with eucalypt woodland over spinifex *Acacia tumida*, *Eucalyptus tectifica*, *Corymbia grandifolia*, *Triodia pungens*, *T. bitextura*. Pindan woodland (Shepherd et al, 2001). The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 99.39 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	The desktop assessment indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Excellent to Completely Degraded (Trudgen, 1991) with majority of the survey area in 'Excellent' condition (923.80 ha, 93.42%). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in D.

Characteristic	Details
Climate	The climate of the Pindanland subregion is dry hot tropical and semi-arid with summer rainfall (Graham 2003). The area typically experiences a 7-8 month dry season extending from April to November, with the wet season occurring from December to March.
Landform	The Pindanland subregion of Dampierland bioregion contains three land systems of Yeeda (sandplains with red and yellow sands) and Wanganut (low-lying sandplains and dune fields with drainage formations) supporting pindan *Acacia* shrublands with emergent eucalypt trees and Carpentaria (coastal flats and associated sandy margins and dunes, with saline sands and muds supporting paperbark thickets, samphire meadows, and extensive bare mud flats with fringing mangrove forests).
Soil description	According to spatial data, the soil is mapped as Wanganut System (335Wa), described as sandplains and linear dunes supporting pindan woodlands with acacias and bloodwoods and curly spinifex- ribbon grass, and broad low-lying swales supporting bloodwood-grey box woodlands with curly spinifex-ribbon grass (DPIRD, 2019).
Land degradation risk	Soil is mapped as sandplain/dune and is not identified as being within a wind erosion risk area (DPIRD-016). All of the mapped land degradation risk factors is mapped as being low.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no waterbodies within the application area. The closest mapped waterbody is 2.7km southwest of application area + 3km west of application area – inland flat.
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Broome Groundwater Area as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RiWI Act). Proposed clearing is 130m from Priority 1 PDWSA - Broome Water Reserve. The groundwater salinity level is mapped as less than 500 milligrams per litre.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified 21 conservation significant flora species in the local area. Two priority three (17 individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome and 2 individuals of *Glycine pindaniea*) and one priority two flora (six individuals of *Corymbia paractia*) were identified within the application area (GHD, 2024).
Ecological communities	No Threatened Ecological Community was found within the application area. The closest Threatened Ecological Community was Roebuck Bay mudflats 4.5km away from application area. Two occurrences of the Relict Dune System Minyiuru (Mangarr – *Sersalisa sericea*) priority 1 Priority Ecological Community were identified 900 and 800 metres from the application area.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified 112 conservation significant fauna in the local area (50 kilometres radius). Twelve conservation significant fauna considered likely to occur. The closest record is a bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*) recorded 30 metres from the application area.

B.2. Flora analysis table

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

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Jacquemontia sp. Broome (A.A. Mitchell 3028)	P1	Y	Y	Y	0.12
Terminalia kumpaja	P3	Y	Y	Y	0.73
Glycine pindanica	P3	Y	Y	Y	1.29
Corymbia paractia	P2	Y	Y	Y	1.97

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Aphyllodium glossocarpum	P3	Y	Y	Y	4.24
Acacia monticola x tumida var. *kulparn*	P3	Y	Y	Y	8.59
Polymeria sp. Broome (K.F. Kenneally 9759)	P3	Y	Y	Y	9.17
Bonamia oblongifolia	P3	Y	Y	Y	33.37

B.3. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna 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)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Tiliqua scincoides intermedia (Northern Blue-tongue Skink)	CR	Y	Y	0.5	NA	Y
Chloebia gouldiae (Gouldian Finch)	EN	Y	Y	NA	NA	Y
Apus pacificus (Fork-tailed Swift)	MI	Y	Y	4.1	87	Y
Macrotis lagotis (Bilby)	VU	Y	Y	0.01	307	Y
Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis Northern Brush-tailed Possum)	VU	Y	Y	0.3	76	Y
Falco hypoleucos (Grey Falcon)	VU	Y	Y	7.75	10	Y
Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)	OS	Y	Y	4.1	7	Y
Pandion haliaetus (Osprey)	MI	Y	Y	3.91		Y
Ozimops cobourgianus (Northern coastal free-tailed bat)	P1	Y	Y	0.01	13	Y
Saccolaimus saccolaimus nudicluniatus (Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat)	VU	Y	Y	0.5	NA	Y
Lerista separanda (Dampierland Plain Slider)	P2	Y	Y	11.6	6	Y
Simoselaps minimus (Dampierland Burrowing Snake)	P2	Y	Y	11.6	9	Y

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains conservation significant flora, fauna and habitat features, and therefore comprises a level of biodiversity: • Flora: Seventeen individuals of *Polymeria* sp. Broome (Priority 3), two individuals of *Glycine pindanica* (Priority 3), and six individuals of *Corymbia paractia* (Priority 2) occur within the clearing footprint. • Habitat: The clearing footprint contains one hollow-bearing tree and vegetation that provides foraging and movement habitat for conservation significant fauna. The 2.4 hectares of native vegetation	At variance	Yes

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
proposed to be cleared occurs within habitat utilised by two vulnerable fauna species, including the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), as well as several priority fauna species. While the clearing footprint forms part of the broader habitat mosaic for these species, it represents a small and linear disturbance within an extensive area of contiguous habitat in the surrounding landscape. Notwithstanding the above, the extent of proposed clearing is limited and linear, and the identified biodiversity values can be appropriately managed through targeted avoidance, minimisation and fauna and flora management conditions applied to the clearing permit.		
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 application area contains habitat features utilised by conservation significant fauna. This includes one hollow-bearing tree that provides potential nesting or roosting habitat for arboreal mammals and bats, and vegetation that contributes to foraging, movement and shelter habitat. The 2.4 hectares of native vegetation proposed to be cleared occurs within habitat utilised by two vulnerable fauna species, including the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*), as well as several priority fauna species. While the clearing footprint forms part of the broader habitat mosaic for these species, it represents a small and linear disturbance within an extensive area of contiguous habitat in the surrounding landscape. Potential impacts to fauna habitat can be appropriately managed through targeted avoidance, staged clearing, fauna spotter supervision, protection of hollow-bearing trees where practicable, and species-specific management conditions applied to the clearing permit.	At variance	Yes
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain flora species indicative of threatened flora. However, it does contain the priority flora species *Corymbia paractia*, which is currently under review for potential listing as a threatened species (DBCA, 2025).	Not likely to be at variance	Yes
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The closest Threatened Ecological Community is the Roebuck Bay mudflats, located approximately 4.5 kilometres from the application area.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The application area is located within an extensive tract of native vegetation in the Dampierland bioregion. Spatial data indicates that approximately 99.39 per cent of the original native vegetation remains within the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the proposed clearing). Given the high retention of native vegetation in the surrounding landscape, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered significant as a remnant in an area that has been extensively cleared.	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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: The proposed clearing area is not within any mapped conservation areas. The closest conservation area is DBCA legislated land and waters Section 5 (1)(h) reserve, located 700 metres and Public Drinking water source area protection P1 area 150 metres from the application area. The proposed clearing will not have a significant impact on this conservation area.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded in the application area, the proposed clearing is not growing in association with an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: All of the mapped land degradation risk factors is mapped as being low. Noting soil is mapped as sandplain/dune and is not identified as being within a wind erosion risk area (DPIRD-016), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: The application area does not overlap with any surface water areas; however, the application area overlaps the RIWI Act Broome Groundwater Area. Since the proposed clearing will not include groundwater disturbance, it is unlikely to impact groundwater quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Given no waterbodies are recorded in the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not at variance	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 information excerpts (GHD, 2024)

Vegetation type	Vegetation Type Description	Extent (ha) and proportion of individual survey area (%)	Sampling sites	Photograph
VT05	Pindan on plains and dunes of low relief Variable from low open forest to open woodland (*Corymbia greeniana, C. zygophylla* and/or *C. flavescens*) with *Acacia eriopoda* or *A. eriopoda* x *tumida* var. *tumida* (tree form or occasionally shrub form where more recently burnt) and scattered *Acacia colei* var. *colei* over scattered low mixed trees (*Ficus aculeata* var. *indecora, Gardenia pyriformis* subsp. *keartlandii, Brachychiton diversifolius* subsp. *diversifolius, Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* and others) over sparse mid shrubs (*Dodonaea hispidula* var. *arida* and *Dolichandrone occidentalis* and *Acacia adoxa* var. *subglabra* (sometimes dense) over sparse to open low shrubs of *Corchorus sidoides* subsp. *sidoides* (+/- Waltheria indica) over a tall forbland of *Trichodesma zeylanicum* var. *latisepalus* (+/- *Pterocaulon intermedium*) over hummock grassland to open hummock grassland of *Triodia caelestialis* over tussock grassland to sparse tussock grassland of *Chrysopogon pallidus* (+/- *Sorghum plumosum, Aristida* sp., *Eriachne obtusa*) on plains and dunes of very low relief.	**Broome** 908.73 ha (91.90%) Site F (454.85 ha) Site F Connection (16.75 ha) Site G (222.82 ha) Site G-H Connection (20.35 ha) Site H (193.97 ha)	BR01, BR02, BR03, BR04, BR05, BR07, BR08, BR16, BR17, BR18, BR19, BR20, BR21, BRR01, BRR02, BRR10, BRR12, BRR14, BRR15	
Cleared road-verge and drains with regrowth	Regularly cleared/graded road verges, drains and infrastructure corridors that support regrowth of native forbs and grasses	**Broome** 21.69 ha (2.19%) Site F (2.56 ha) Site F Connection (16.43 ha) Site G H Connection (2.70 ha)	No site	

Rehabilitation	Tracks and laydown area that has been ripped and regrowing with native species	**Broome** 0.71 ha (0.07%) Site F (0.65 ha) Site F Connection (0.07 ha)	No site	

Habitat Type	Description	Extent (ha) and proportion of survey area (%)	Representative Images
Broome			
1 – Pindan shrubland	Variable from low open forest to open woodland (*Corymbia greeniana*, *C. zygophylla* and/or *C. flavescens*) with *Acacia eriopoda* or *A. eriopoda* x *tumida* var. *tumida* (tree form or occasionally shrub form where more recently burnt) and scattered *Acacia colei* var. *colei* on pindan plains and dunes of very low relief. **Significant fauna** Gouldian Finch (EN/P4) is known to occur locally, may forage on seed of grasses when seasonally available within the survey area. The woodland habitat throughout the survey has a paucity of suitable nesting/breeding habitat, however may lack nearby water sources, therefore may be seasonal use only. The Fork-tailed Swift (MI) was recorded in large numbers (150) in this habitat type, flying overhead and foraging aerially. The Grey Falcon (VU) is likely to occur as there are records of species present in the region. The Peregrine Falcon (OS) is known to occur locally, and the pindan shrubland habitat within the study area represents suitable foraging habitat, although lacks suitable breeding habitat. Osprey (MI) has previously been recorded in the nearby area occupying a nest and is therefore likely to occur. Bare-rumped Sheathtail Bat (VU) was recorded with a Definite call reading. Bilby (VU) was recorded active in the survey area.	908.73 ha (91.90%) Site F (454.85 ha) Site F Connection (16.75 ha) Site G (222.82 ha) Site G-H Connection (20.35 ha) Site H (193.97 ha)	
	Northern Brush-tail Possum (VU) was recorded on camera and suitable habitat is present. Habitat appears suitable; sandplain with tussock and hummock grasses and sparse shrubland for the Northern Short-tailed mouse (P4). Suitable habitat is present for the Dampierland Plain Slider (P2) within survey areas, namely low elevation ancient dunes supporting shrubland. Suitable habitat is present for the Dampierland Burrowing Snake (P2) within survey areas, namely low elevation ancient dunes supporting shrubland. Northern Blue-tongue Skink (CR) recorded within all Sites (F,G,H) during the survey. **Habitat value** High		

5 - Scattered plantings and native trees	Planted native *Corymbia/Eucalyptus* trees over weeds on maintained road verge **Significant fauna** This may provide marginal habitat and movement corridors for the Northern Brush-tail Possum (VU), Northern Blue-tongue Skink (CR), Dampierland Plain Slider (P2) and Dampierland Burrowing Snake (P2). **Habitat value** Low	4.59 ha (3.28%) Site F Connection (3.94 ha) Site F (0.65 ha)	
6 - Degraded and cleared areas	Regularly cleared/graded road verges, drains and infrastructure corridors that support regrowth of native forbs and grasses **Significant fauna** Nil **Habitat value** Nil	7.97 ha (0.81%) Site F (3.66 ha), Site F Connection (3.42 ha) Site G H Connection (0.89 ha)	

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)

- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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