

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	10966/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	BML Ventures Pty Ltd
Application received:	15 February 2025
Application area:	20 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 16/130 Mining Lease 16/168
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Phillips Find Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

BML Ventures Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 20 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 71 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 41 kilometres northwest of Coolgardie, within the Shire of Coolgardie.

The application is to allow for the recommencement of open pit mining within the Phillips Find Project including an open pit cutback, expansion of the existing Waste Rock Landform and establishment of a mine camp (BML, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	24 July 2025
Decision area:	20 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now 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), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (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;
- the loss of Southern whiteface breeding habitat (active nests); and
- potential land degradation in the form of erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing 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;

- If clearing between 1 July and 31 October (Southern whiteface breeding season), conduct an inspection to identify active nests; and
- commence operations no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, 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

A supporting document was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that operational management strategies will be adopted to stop the spread of weeds (BML, 2025b). These strategies are listed below:

- Materials (i.e. soil) should not be removed from sites for reuse where weed infestations are evident without prior spraying;
- require as a Site condition that all earthmoving equipment and vehicles are washed down prior to the initial transport to site and are soil free;
- existing infestations in the general project area and stockpiles will be brought to the attention of the Mine Management for action;
- undertake progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas, (where feasible) to assist in reducing weed spread by promoting competition from local native species; and
- mine personnel are made aware of weed issues through the Site Induction Programme.

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles (Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene, and staged clearing management conditions. Additionally, a fauna management condition has been placed on the clearing permit to avoid and mitigate impacts to the Southern whiteface.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 7 March 2025 by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE) inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group (Marlinyu Ghoorlie). The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on the Southern whiteface, which is 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan 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

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 surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Eastern Goldfields subregion (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest mapped conservation area is the ex-Credo pastoral lease located approximately 12 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt; and 936: Medium woodland; York gum & yate (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation reconnaissance survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS) during December, 2022. Five major vegetation groups were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus ravida</i> woodland • <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> over <i>Acacia acuminata</i> thicket • Mixed <i>Eucalyptus</i> over mixed <i>sclerophyll</i> shrubland on undulating hills • <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> shrubland • <i>Eucalyptus lesouefii</i> woodland <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix D.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The vegetation survey (NVS, 2024) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Completely Degraded to Very Good (Keighery, 1994) condition</p> <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>
Climate	The application area is located in an arid zone (BoM, 2016) with an annual average rainfall of 270.7 millimetres (Coolgardie) (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	The soils in the application area are mapped as red loamy earth, calcareous loamy earth, friable non-cracking clay, and red deep sand (DPIRD, 2025).
Land degradation risk	<p>The application area falls within the Coolgardie, Graves, and Illaara land systems (DPIRD, 2025). These systems are described below (Waddell and Galloway, 2023):</p> <p>Coolgardie land system: Uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands. Where not protected by a stony mantle, footslopes and valley floors are susceptible to water erosion, particularly where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or the soil surface is disturbed.</p> <p>Graves land system: Basalt and greenstone low hills, supporting acacia shrublands and/or eucalypt woodlands with saltbush and bluebush understoreys. Stony mantles and moderately dense vegetation mean this land system is generally not prone to erosion, unless the protective mantle is disturbed, which most often occurs with construction of exploration tracks and drill pads. Alluvial plains in valley floors are susceptible to water erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, or the soil surface is disturbed.</p> <p>Illaara land system: Low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga–casuarina shrublands. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion.</p>
Hydrography	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no waterbodies or watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located in the Goldfields Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act and has a mapped groundwater salinity of 14,000-35,000 milligrams per litre totally dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).
Flora	No Priority or Threatened flora species have been recorded in the application area (NVS, 2024; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Priority or Threatened Ecological Communities (NVS, 2024; GIS Database). The closest record is of the Priority 3 Emu Land System Ecological Community, located approximately 48 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No Priority or Threatened fauna species have been recorded in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS Database).

Characteristic	Details
Fauna habitat	<p>A fauna reconnaissance survey was conducted over the application area by Terrestrial Ecosystems during December, 2024. Four broad fauna habitats were recorded within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixed shrubland Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubs Salmon Gum woodland Goldfields Blackbutt woodland <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix D.</p>

A.2. Fauna analysis table

Likelihood of occurrence of conservation significant fauna species in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Species	Status under Commonwealth EPBC Act	DBCAs Schedule / Priority	Comment
Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Highly unlikely to be in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is very low.
Southern Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	It may be present in the project area. As it is a mobile species, the project's potential impact on this species is low.
Grey Falcon <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Unlikely to be seen in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
Malleefowl <i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	No mounds were present in the project area, and no Malleefowl or their tracks were recorded during the site assessment. Thus, the potential impact on this species is low.
Chuditch <i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Vulnerable	Vulnerable	Unlikely to be seen in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i>	Migratory	Migratory	It may be seen very infrequently in the region, however, development is unlikely to impact this species.
Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Migratory	Migratory	Highly unlikely to be seen in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>		OS	It may be seen very infrequently in the region, however, development is unlikely to impact this species.
Central Long-eared Bat <i>Nyctophilus major tor</i>		Priority 3	It may be present in the project area.
Western Rosella <i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i>		Priority 4	Unlikely to be seen in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
Southern Death Adder <i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>		Priority 3	Unlikely to be seen in the project area, so the potential for impact on this species is low.
Woma <i>Aspidites ramsayi</i>		Priority 4	Unlikely to be in the project area

OS – Species otherwise in need of special protection.

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is not likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity given no conservation significant flora, fauna, or ecological communities have been recorded in the application area (NVS, 2024; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS Database). Vegetation within the application area is considered to be of low biological diversity and is well represented outside of the survey area (BML, 2025b).</p> <p>One weed species (<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>*) was recorded in the application area. This species is not considered a Declared Pest or a Weed of National Significance under the BAM Act (NVS, 2024). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The Southern whiteface, peregrine falcon and central long-eared bat are the only conservation significant species of fauna potentially present in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). The direct impacts from the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant as all three species are considered to be widespread and will readily move if disturbed. While direct impacts are not likely to be significant for these species, removing or destroying a Southern whiteface active nest could be considered a significant impact; therefore, if vegetation clearing is to be undertaken during the breeding season (July to October), then there needs to be a check that no Southern whiteface active nests will be impacted (DCCEE, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).</p>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There have been no Threatened flora species recorded in the application area (NVS, 2024; GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened Ecological Communities (NVS, 2024; GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Coolgardie Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 97 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Coolgardie Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The application area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 468 and 936 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 96 per cent of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remains uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>"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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any known or mapped conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Two out of the three land systems mapped in the application area are susceptible to erosion. Noting the location of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.</p> <p>A staged clearing condition will be placed on the clearing permit to prevent cleared areas from being exposed for a prolonged period of time.</p>	At variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded in the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.

Condition	Description
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation



Figure 1. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* and *Eucalyptus ravidia* woodland.



Figure 2. *Eucalyptus griffithsii* over *Acacia acuminata* thicket.



Figure 3. Mixed *Eucalyptus* over mixed sclerophyll shrubland on undulating hills.



Figure 4. *Acacia quadrimarginea* shrubland.



Figure 5. *Eucalyptus lesouefii* woodland.



Figure 6. Mixed shrubland habitat.



Figure 7. Salmon gum woodland habitat.



Figure 8. Goldfields Blackbutt woodland habitat.

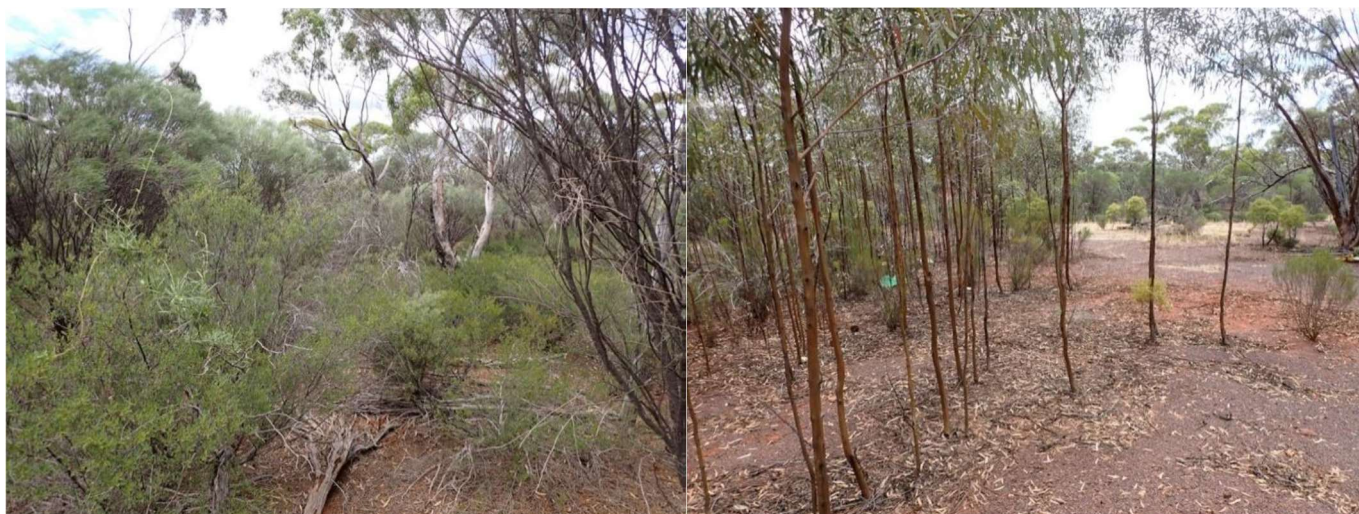


Figure 9. Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed shrubs habitat.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

E.2. References

- BML Ventures Pty Ltd (BML) (2025a) Clearing permit application form, CPS 10966/1, received 15 February 2025.
- BML Ventures Pty Ltd (BML) (2025b) Clearing Permit Application Supporting Document – Phillips Find Gold Project. Prepared for the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, February 2025.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2016) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Classification Maps. Bureau of Meteorology. http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/climate-classifications/
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Coolgardie Station. Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 16 July 2025).
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2023) Conservation Advice for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface).
- Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. <https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS> (Accessed 16 July 2025).
- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. <https://dpiird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f> (Accessed 16 July 2025).
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf>
- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (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>
- Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.
- Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS) (2024) Reconnaissance Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Phillips Find Project Area – December 2024. Prepared for BML Ventures Pty Ltd.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) Basic and Targeted Fauna Survey and Assessment – Phillips Find Project Area. Prepared for BML Ventures Pty Ltd.
- Waddell, P.A. and Galloway, P.D. (2023) 'Land systems, soils and vegetation of the southern Goldfields and Great Western Woodlands of Western Australia', Technical bulletin 99, vol 2, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australian Government.

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)

DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species**SP Specially protected species**

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species**P Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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