

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11093/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	14 May 2025
Application area:	950 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 58/30, 58/60, 58/78, 58/79, 58/80, 58/81, 58/119, 58/120, 58/121, 58/136, 58/147, 58/173, 58/174, 58/180, 58/186, 58/187, 58/192, 58/193, 58/194, 58/201, 58/205, 58/210, 58/233 and 58/273 General Purpose Lease 58/8
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Mount Magnet
Colloquial name:	Mount Magnet Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd (MMG) proposes to clear up to 950 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 2,658 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (MMG, 2025). The project is located approximately 400 metres from Mount Magnet, within the Shire of Mount Magnet (GIS Database; Section 1.5).

The application is to allow for the expansion of the Eridanus open pit, construction of a new tailings storage facility (TSF), construction of wind turbines, expansion and cutbacks of a number of existing open pits and ancillary infrastructure such as roads, pipelines and powerlines (Ramelius Resources, 2025b).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	4 November 2025
Decision area:	950 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a fauna survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to allow for the expansion of the Eridanus open pit, construction of a new tailings storage facility (TSF), construction of wind turbines, expansion and cutbacks of a number of existing open pits and ancillary infrastructure such as roads, pipelines and powerlines (Ramelius Resources, 2025b).

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 native vegetation potentially representative of the Austin Land System PEC;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*);
- the loss of southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) breeding habitat (active nests);
- the increased risk of fauna injury or mortality;
- the removal of conservation significant flora;

- the clearing of riparian vegetation; and
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion.

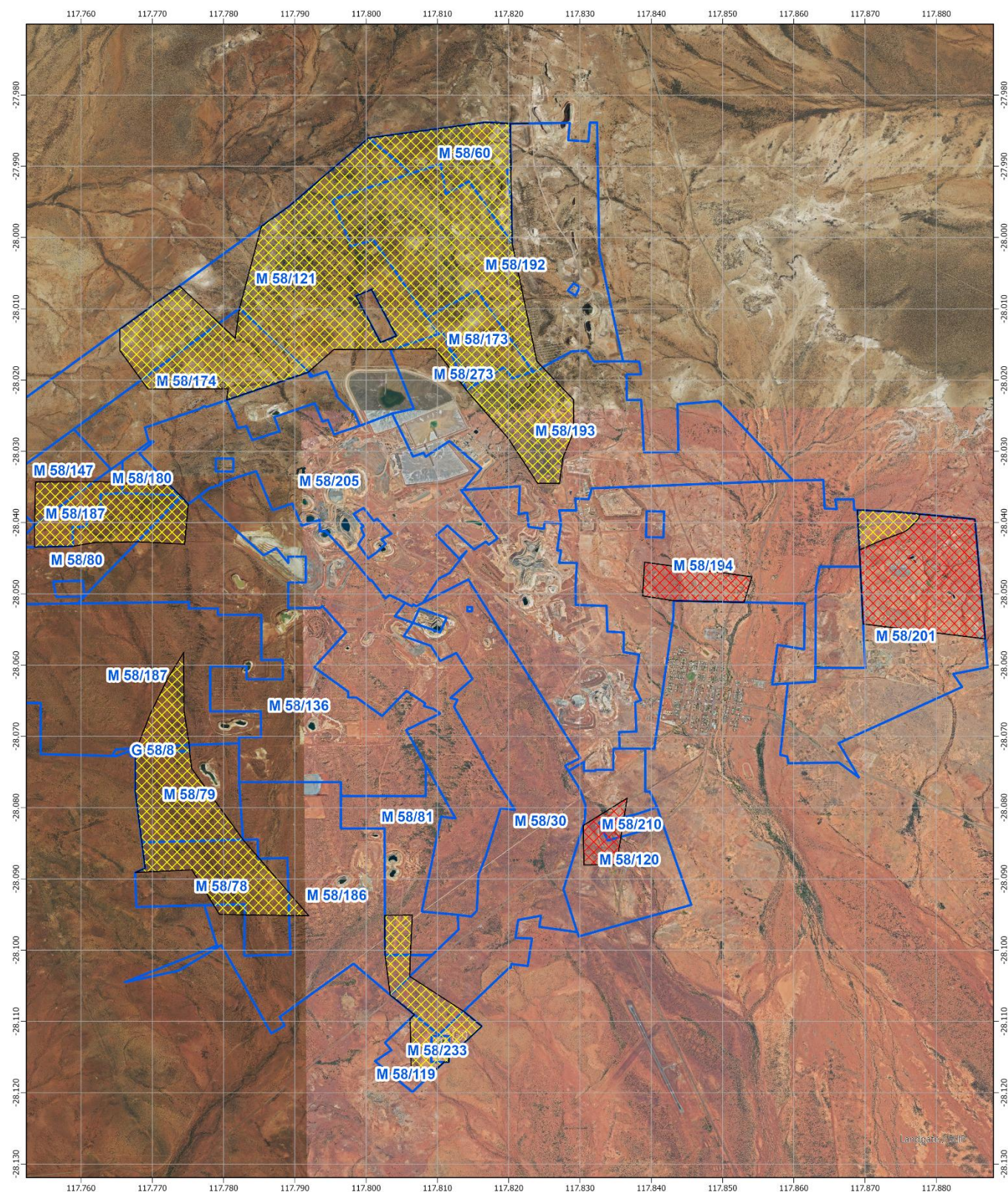
After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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;
- clearing restrictions to minimise clearing in the mapped extent of the Austin Land System PEC;
- conduct a pre-clearance survey for *Egernia stokesii badia* habitat and individuals;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- engage a botanist to conduct a targeted flora survey for the presence of threatened and priority flora prior to clearing and maintain a 50 metre buffer of identified threatened flora and a 10 metre buffer of identified priority flora;
- flora management (avoid identified priority flora with a buffer of ten metres);
- where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

1.5. Site map

Site maps of proposed clearing are provided in Figures 1 and 2 below.



LEGEND

- CPS 11093/1 Application Area
- CPS 11093/1 Restricted Clearing Area
- Mining Act Tenure

GCS: GDA2020
Datum: GDA2020
Map Units: Degree

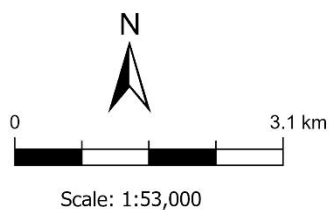
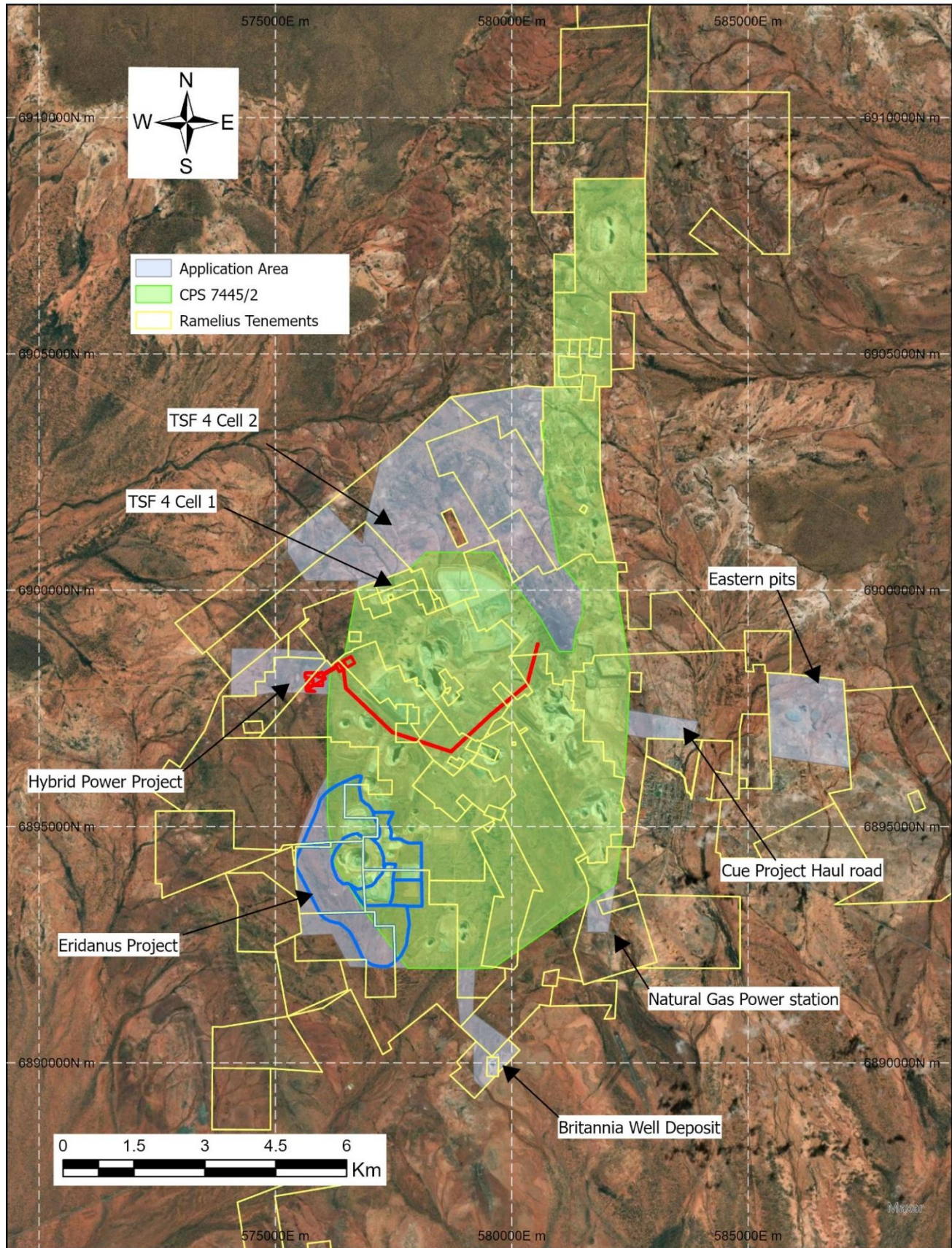


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The red and yellow cross-hatched areas indicate the application area. The red cross-hatched area indicates the mapped extent of Austin Land System PEC within the application area, where clearing is restricted to 100 hectares.

CPS 11093/1



Mt Magnet NVCP application - Purpose Mining



Author: Ramelius Resources

Drawn By: CD

Date: July 2025

Projection: GDA 2020 Zone 50

Drawing No: Clearing Permit

Figure 2. Map of the application area. The grey area indicates the area applied to clear under CPS 11093/1. The green area indicates the area within which clearing can occur under CPS 7445/2. Proposed land uses are labelled. The red outline represents the Hybrid Power Project footprint, and the blue outline represents the Eridanus Project footprint.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has designed the proposed clearing permit boundary to limit unnecessary clearing by utilising existing disturbed areas and considering proximity and access to existing infrastructure (MMG, 2025; Ramelius Resources, 2025b).

Additionally, the applicant has committed to the following:

- following the Ramelius Vegetation Clearing and Ground Disturbance Management Plan;
- following the MMG Clearing and Ground Disturbance procedure;
- following the MMG Weed Management Procedure, as environmental management measures;
- conducting clearing no more than three months in advance of mining activities; and
- clearing no more than 100 hectares within the mapped extent of the Austin Land System PEC (MMG, 2025; Ramelius Resources, 2025b; Appendix A).

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 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 identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (ecological communities, fauna, and flora). 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 (ecological communities) - Clearing Principle (a)

Assessment

Approximately 379 hectares of the application area is mapped within the 'Austin Land System' (Priority 3) Priority Ecological Community (PEC) (shown in Figure 1 of Section 1.5) (GIS Database). The Austin Land System PEC requires conservation of its saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga (DBCA, 2023a).

Of the eight sample sites within the mapped area of the Austin Land System PEC, all of them have multiple halophytic species, with all but one having a shrub layer dominated by chenopod species, and five of the sites have at least one mulga species (Botanica, 2025; Maslin & Reid, 2012; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The sites have been described as gravelly and occur on plains, slopes and drainage depressions (Botanica, 2025). As this description matches that of the Austin Land System PEC, it is likely that the Austin Land System PEC occurs within the application area (DBCA, 2023a).

Based on this information, the applicant has committed to limit clearing within the mapped extent of this PEC to 100 hectares (Section 3.1; Appendix A).

The Lake Austin Land System PEC is mapped over approximately 22,590 hectares (GIS Database). The clearing of up to 100 hectares within the mapped extent of this PEC will result in the removal of 4.0 percent of the total Austin Land System PEC mapped area, and 13.2 percent of the extent of the intercepted occurrences, which is not considered a significant impact. However, any future expansions of this project need to consider cumulative impacts to the PEC.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will not result in significant impacts to the Austin Land System PEC, provided the applicant does not exceed their proposed impact. To ensure the proposed impact is not exceeded, a restricted clearing condition will be required on the clearing permit.

Conditions

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

- clearing restrictions to minimise clearing in the mapped extent of the Austin Land System PEC.

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

Assessment

Habitats within the application area have been described by Botanica (2025) and Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025). Based on the occurrence of these habitats, the following species have potential to occur within the application area and require further discussion.

Reptiles

The western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*), Endangered, occurs in the semi-arid area between Shark Bay and Minnivale and east to Cue (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The species inhabits refugia and can be found among rocky outcrops and stony hills, where it shelters in crevices or under boulders (Cogger, 2018; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; SEWPAC, 2011; Wilson & Swan, 2021). Rocky outcrop and rocky hill habitats have been identified within the application area, and these habitats contain rocky refugia suitable for reptiles, and potentially the western spiny-tailed skink (Botanica, 2025; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). As potentially suitable habitat occurs, and the application area is within the species' distribution, the western spiny-tailed skink possibly occurs. This species is generally difficult to detect, with trapping and searching around shelter sites over a long duration required for best results (SEWPAC, 2011). However, the species can be more readily detected by its latrine sites, where faecal matter can be located outside of shelter sites (Cogger, 2018; How et al., 2023). As basic fauna surveys, the assessments conducted by Botanica (2025) and Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) are unlikely to have been suitable for species detection, as the species was not targeted (EPA, 2020). All populations of the *Egernia stokesii* "black form", which is the form that occurs near the application area, are considered significant due to being geographically restricted (DEC, 2012). As surveys have been inadequate to detect the western spiny-tailed skink, further surveys are required to adequately assess the impact to this species.

The gilled slender blue-tongue (*Cyclodomorphus branchialis*), Vulnerable, is found in the mid-west region of Western Australia between Murchison and Irwin Rivers and extending inland to the Mt Magnet area (Shea & Miller, 1995). The species is a ground-dwelling lizard with a nocturnal habitat, sheltering by day below low vegetation, leaf-litter, and under fallen timber and beneath rocks (Cowan et al., 2018; Shea & Miller, 1995). The species has been recorded approximately 1.4 kilometres from the application area in 2005 (GIS Database). Habitat for this species occurs within the application, but due to the age of nearby records and lack of a targeted survey it is unknown whether the species occurs (Botanica, 2025). According to Botanica (2025), habitats within the study area are marginal or degraded, however, to reduce fauna fatality of this species, a clearing condition (slow direction clearing) should be implemented.

Birds

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), Vulnerable, occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (DCCEEW, 2023). These areas are usually dominated by *Acacias* or *Eucalypts* on ranges, foothills, lowlands and plains (DCCEEW, 2023). Southern whiteface has been recorded in the fauna survey by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) less than three kilometres from the application area. Suitable habitat occurs within the application area, so southern whiteface is likely to occur (Botanica, 2025; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). Habitat used for breeding is considered critical for southern whiteface conservation, and should not be cleared (DCCEEW, 2023).

The grey falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*), Vulnerable, is a nomadic species occurs at low densities across inland Australia (BirdLife International, 2022). It inhabits timbered plains, particularly *Acacia* shrublands near tree-lined watercourses (BirdLife International, 2022; Garnett & Crowley, 2000). Suitable habitat for the grey falcon occurs within the application and the species has been recorded approximately 100 metres from the application area, therefore the grey falcon possibly occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). As the species is wide-ranging, and suitable habitat is abundant in the surrounding area, impacts to this species due to the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant.

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Other Specially Protected, is a migratory species. Within their global range, peregrine falcons can be found in a variety of habitats, including mountains, forests, cities, valleys, deserts, and coastlines (Australian Museum, 2019; NWF, n.d.). As suitable habitat occurs, and the species has been recorded approximately 800 metres from the application area, peregrine falcons possibly occur within the application area to disperse or forage (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). As the species is wide-ranging, and suitable habitat is abundant in the surrounding area, impacts to this species due to the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant.

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, occur within arid and semi-arid woodlands (CALM, n.d.). The nearest malleefowl record is approximately 6.4 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). As breeding habitat for malleefowl requires a dense canopy layer and sufficient leaf litter, malleefowl are unlikely to nest within the application area (CALM, n.d.; DCCEEW, 2024). This is due to the habitat within the application area consisting of a mostly open canopy with low leaf litter levels (Botanica, 2025). Malleefowl may pass through the application area during dispersal, however targeted searches were conducted for malleefowl tracks, and no evidence of malleefowl was found within the survey area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). Therefore, it is considered that malleefowl is unlikely to occur (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*), loss of habitat that is suitable for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nesting, and increased risk of fauna injury or mortality.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna and their habitats can be managed by imposing the below conditions on the granted clearing permit.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*), southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- conduct a pre-clearance survey for *Egernia stokesii badia* habitat and individuals;
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests; and
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

3.2.3. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principle (a)

Assessment

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica (2025) over the periods 25 to 28 May 2024, 8 November 2024 and 16 December 2024. The survey consisted of 40 quadrats over an area of approximately 8,357 hectares (Botanica, 2025). The sampling intensity equates to one quadrat for approximately every 210 hectares. This intensity of the survey is considered to be low effort for the purpose of a detailed survey (EPA, 2016).

Based on the presence of local records and the availability of suitable habitat within the application area, the following flora species are known to occur or have the potential to occur and require further discussion.

Species recorded within the application area

Two *Acacia lapidosa* (Priority 1) populations have been recorded within the application area in 1993 and 1999 (GIS Database). These were recorded on rocky diorite country (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). These sites were visited during the Botanica (2025) survey, as well as during August 2024, and the taxon was not identified (Botanica, 2025). The flowering season of this species is not confirmed, and it is possible that flowering and fruiting in this species is dependent on the timing and intensity of rainfall events (Maslin, 2014). Therefore, the likelihood of detection in the survey by Botanica (2025) is unknown. As *Acacia lapidosa* is known from 11 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records, is restricted to the Murchison bioregion, and six of these 11 records occur within 50 kilometres of the application area, the clearing within the application is likely to be a significant impact to the species on a local and regional scale, if the species is confirmed to occur within the application area.

Alyxia tetanifolia (Priority 3) has been recorded in one location within the application area during the Botanica (2025) survey. This was a population of approximately 100 plants, observed on a rocky hill (Botanica, 2025). The species is known from 14 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records, with three of these records within the application area (GIS Database). Botanica (2025) searched all record locations within the survey area and only observed the one population. As the species is perennial and flowers May to November, it should have been detectable at the time of survey (ALA, n.d.b; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The clearing of 100 plants may be significant to the species at a local scale, as it represents the entire known population within the application area.

Ptilotus beardii (Priority 3) has been recorded in one location within the application area during the Botanica (2025) survey. It was detected during the November inspection (Botanica, 2025). This species can be distinguished from other *Ptilotus* species occurring within the application by its spreading habit (Benl, 1979; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Therefore, it should have been identifiable in the survey of the entire application area. As this occurrence constitutes a minor range extension, with the nearest records over 50 kilometres north and west of the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to be a significant impact to the species on a local scale.

Acacia burrowsiana (Priority 3) was observed in four locations within the survey area, with two of these locations occurring within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). Nine individuals have been discovered outside of the application area and ten have been recorded inside of the application area (Botanica, 2025). The proposed clearing would impact up to 53 percent of the known local population. The other locations within the survey area are located within the adjacent active clearing permit, CPS 7445/2 (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). As the entire known local population is located within clearing permit areas, the potential clearing of this species may be significant at a local level.

Species likely to occur within the application area

Tribulus adelacanthus (Priority 3) inhabits rocky hillslopes and plains (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than 200 metres from the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance from the nearest record, and as suitable habitat occurs within the application area, it is considered likely to occur (Botanica, 2025). This species is known from 19 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Murchison and Gascoyne bioregions, with none of these located within the conservation estate. Given this, the proposed clearing may be significant to the species at a local and regional level, if the species occurs undetected within the application area.

Ptilotus luteolus (Priority 3) inhabits rocky or clay-loam soils on rocky or gravelly slopes (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than 800 metres from the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance from the nearest record, and as suitable habitat occurs within the application area, it is considered likely to occur (Botanica, 2025). Given the species is known from 20 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from multiple bioregions, and has multiple populations within the conservation estate, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Dodonaea amplisemina (Priority 4) inhabits red-brown clayey sand on rocky hills (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The nearest record of this species is less than 800 metres from the application area (GIS Database). Given the distance from the nearest record, and as suitable habitat occurs within the application area, it is considered likely to occur (Botanica, 2025). Given the species is known from 40 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from multiple bioregions, and has multiple populations within the conservation estate, it is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

Species possibly occurring

In addition to the above listed species, the following species are considered possibly occurring based on the presence of suitable habitat and the distance from nearby records:

- *Stenanthemum mediale*;
- *Petrophile pauciflora*;
- *Grevillea inconspicua*;
- *Acacia speckii*;
- *Goodenia neogoodenia*;
- *Millotia depauperata*;
- *Baeckea* sp. London Bridge (M.E. Trudgen 5393);
- *Euryomyrtus recurva*;
- *Acacia subsessilis*;
- *Rhodanthe uniflora*; and
- *Cyanicula fragrans* (Appendix B.3).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in potentially significant impacts to occurring and potentially occurring conservation significant flora.

Due to the low survey effort for the size of the survey area and the lack of a targeted flora survey, it is considered that impacts to priority flora species cannot be adequately assessed.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by conducting a targeted survey for threatened and priority flora, and erecting relevant buffers to reduce the impact to detected individuals.

Conditions

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

- prior to any clearing, a botanist shall be engaged to conduct a targeted flora survey for the presence of priority flora. The species will be flagged and an appropriate buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals; and
- flora management (avoid identified priority flora with a buffer of ten metres).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 29 August 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2015/001 - Badimia People) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are eight registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance (Place 4417, Place 4450, Place 4453, Place 5276, Place 15768, Place 15769, Place 15776 and Place 18155) 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 western spiny-tailed skink (*Egernia stokesii badia*), southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), and their habitats which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
On 22 September 2025, the applicant provided a map of the application area including the intended uses of areas proposed to be cleared.	The site map is provided in Figure 2 of Section 1.5, and has been considered in the assessment of clearing principle (i).
On 15 October 2025, the applicant committed to limit clearing within the mapped extent of the Austin Land System PEC (shown in Figure 1 of Section 1.5) of to 100 hectares, as an additional avoidance and minimisation measure.	This is an avoidance and minimisation measure provided in Section 3.1, has been discussed in Section 3.2.1, and has been considered in the assessment of clearing principle (a).
On 22 October 2025, the applicant provided an additional fauna survey in support of this application.	This survey is considered in the assessment of clearing principle (b).

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is part of the Eastern Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The proposed clearing area adjoins an existing Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd native vegetation clearing permit, CPS 7445/2 (Ramelius Resources, 2025b; GIS Database). Both clearing permits are part of the Mount Magnet Gold Project (Ramelius Resources, 2025b). The CPS 11093/1 application area is surrounded by mainly gold mining operations (GIS Database). Spatial data indicates the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	The application area is not considered a significant ecological linkage. The vegetation immediately surrounding the application area and the majority of the region remains uncleared (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not located within any DBCA legislated conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is the Lakeside Conservation Park, located approximately 38 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: 202: Scrub, open scrub or sparse scrub; wattle, teatree & other species; 312: Saltbush & bluebush; and 313: Saltbush and bluebush with scrub or open scrub; mulga, other wattle (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica (2025) over the periods 25 to 28 May 2024, 8 November 2024 and 16 December 2024. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area: • CLP-AFW1 (Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var <i>ramulosa</i> over sparse low shrubland of <i>Eremophila punicea</i> and <i>E. compacta</i> on clay loam plain); • CLP-AOW1 (Low open woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia acuminata</i> over sparse low shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Eremophila compacta</i> on clay loam plain); • CLP-CS1 (Low open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i>, <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> and <i>Maireana triptera</i> on clay loam plain); • DD-AFW1 (Low open forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over low open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Eremophila punicea</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Atriplex bunburyana</i> and <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> in drainage depression); • DD-AOW1 (Low open woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> over low open shrubland of <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> in drainage depression); • DD-EW1 (Mid open forest of <i>Eucalyptus striatocalyx</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Melaleuca leiocarpa</i>, <i>Eremophila pantonii</i> and <i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Tecticornia disarticulata</i>, <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> and <i>Maireana triptera</i> in drainage depression); • RH-AFW1 (Low open forest of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid shrubland of <i>Thryptomene decussata</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> on rocky hill); • RH-AOW1 (Low open woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> over mid sparse shrubland of <i>Thryptomene decussata</i> over low sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila clarkei</i> on rocky hill);

Characteristic	Details																
	• RP-AW1 (Low woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> over sparse low chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> on clay loam plain); • RS-AFW1 (Low open forest of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> over mid open shrubland of <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> on rocky slope); • RS-AOW1 (Low open woodland of <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>ramulosa</i> over mid sparse shrubland of <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana triptera</i> on rocky slope); and • Cleared (cleared areas with no vegetation) (Botanica, 2025).																
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2025) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good to very good or completely degraded (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as: • Very good (some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement); • 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); and • Completely degraded (areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.																
Climate and landform	The climate of the Murchison bioregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station (Mount Magnet Aero) recording an average rainfall of approximately 241.5 millimetres per year (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped at elevations of 410-550 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Land system mapping broadly describes the application area as gently undulating plains, hills, rises and breakaways (DPIRD, 2025; GIS Database).																
Soil description	The soils within the application area are mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2025; GIS Database): <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>System</th><th>Description</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Jundee system (273Ju)</td><td>Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy banks supporting weakly groved mulga shrublands</td></tr> <tr> <td>Violet system (273Vi)</td><td>Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gransal system (273Gr)</td><td>Stony plains and low rises based on granite supporting mainly halophytic low shrublands</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wiluna system (273Wi)</td><td>Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gabanintha system (273Ga)</td><td>Greenstone ridges, hills and footslopes supporting sparse acacia and other mainly non-halophytic shrublands</td></tr> <tr> <td>Austin system (273Au)</td><td>Saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and snakewood</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sherwood system (273Sh)</td><td>Breakaways, kaolinised footslopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	System	Description	Jundee system (273Ju)	Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy banks supporting weakly groved mulga shrublands	Violet system (273Vi)	Gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands	Gransal system (273Gr)	Stony plains and low rises based on granite supporting mainly halophytic low shrublands	Wiluna system (273Wi)	Low greenstone hills with occasional lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supporting sparse mulga and other acacia shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs	Gabanintha system (273Ga)	Greenstone ridges, hills and footslopes supporting sparse acacia and other mainly non-halophytic shrublands	Austin system (273Au)	Saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and snakewood	Sherwood system (273Sh)	Breakaways, kaolinised footslopes and extensive gently sloping plains on granite supporting mulga shrublands and minor halophytic shrublands
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Land degradation risk	Within the Gransal land system, breakaway foot slopes are highly susceptible to water erosion and alluvial plains are moderately susceptible to water erosion in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced. Disturbance of soil surface on these units and on saline stony plains is also likely to initiate soil erosion (Pringle, 1994). Within the Austin land system, clearing of vegetation within drainage tracts can lead to increased erosion (Payne et al., 1998). Disruption of natural water flows within the Jundee land system can result in erosion and water starvation (Pringle, 1994). Narrow drainage tracts in the Wiluna and Sherwood land systems are moderately susceptible to water erosion (Payne et al., 1998). Within the Violet and Gabanintha land systems, abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion over most of this land system, except where the soil surface has been disturbed. In such circumstances, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion.																

Characteristic	Details
	Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion (Mabbutt et al., 1963; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Mount Magnet Water Reserve, a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA), classified as Priority 2 under the CAWS Act (GIS Database). The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity of the permit area has been broadly mapped as being 1,000-7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered brackish (NWGA, 2023; GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 27 conservation significant flora species in the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area), 18 of which have suitable habitat within the application area (ALA, n.d.a; Botanica, 2025; Kellerman & Thiele, 2024; Maslin, 2014; 2018; Rye, 1995; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The application area intercepts the mapped area of the Austin Land System Priority 3 Priority Ecological Community (PEC) (GIS Database). The Austin Land System PEC is described as saline stony plains with low rises and drainage foci supporting low halophytic shrublands with scattered mulga and occurs mainly adjacent to lakes Austin and Annean below greenstone hill systems (DBCA, 2023a). Potential impacts to the Austin Land System PEC are discussed in Section 3.2.1. The Mount Magnet vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation (BIF)) Priority 1 PEC is located less than five kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). As the application area is not identified to contain BIF, it is unlikely that the application area contains this PEC (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). One TEC occurs in the Murchison bioregion, being the Depot Springs stygofauna community (DBCA, 2023b). This TEC has not been recorded within the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of 14 fauna species of conservation significance within the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database). The nearest record of southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>) is located outside of the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area), but may occur, based on habitat availability (BirdLife Australia, 2025b; Botanica, 2025; DCCCEW, 2023; GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	Based on vegetation and associated landforms identified during the flora and vegetation assessment, four broad scale terrestrial fauna habitats were identified as occurring within the survey area: • <i>Acacia</i> open woodland on rocky or clay-loam plain; • <i>Acacia</i> and/or <i>Eucalypt</i> woodland in drainage line; • <i>Acacia</i> woodland on rocky slope and/or rocky hill; and • Chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain (Botanica, 2025). Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) conducted a basic vertebrate fauna survey, and described the following fauna habitats within the application area: • Chenopod drainage; • Chenopod shrubland; • Disturbance; • Mesa rock outcrop; • Mulga woodland; • Mulga woodland over drainage; • Open mulga woodland; • Rock outcrop; and • Sparse mulga woodland over chenopods. Descriptions and representative photographs of these habitats are provided in Appendix E.

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	28,044,823	~99	293,505	1.04
Beard vegetation associations - State					

202	448,529.31	448,343.80	~99	102,759.63	22.91
312	41,502.26	39,527.97	~95	0.00	0.00
313	68,843.52	65,261.44	~95	1.79	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Murchison)					
202	339,742.69	339,641.41	~99	72,202.97	21.25
312	41,502.26	39,527.97	~95	0.00	0.00
313	68,843.52	65,261.44	~95	1.79	0.00

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

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

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (ALA, n.d.a; Botanica, 2025; Kellerman & Thiele, 2024; Maslin, 2014; 2018; Ramelius Resources, 2025a; Rye, 1995; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Acacia lapidosa</i>	P1	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Alyxia tetanifolia</i>	P3	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Ptilotus beardii</i>	P3	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Acacia burrowsiana</i>	P3	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i>	P4	Y	<1	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Ptilotus luteolus</i>	P3	Y	<1	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Tribulus adelacanthus</i>	P3	Y	<1	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.3
<i>Stenanthemum mediale</i>	P1	Y	<3	Possible
<i>Petrophile pauciflora</i>	P3	Y	<5	Possible
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	Y	<7	Possible
<i>Acacia speckii</i>	P4	Y	<8	Possible
<i>Goodenia neogoodenia</i>	P4	Y	<10	Possible
<i>Millotia depauperata</i>	P1	Y	<11	Possible
<i>Baeckea</i> sp. London Bridge (M.E. Trudgen 5393)	P3	Y	<13	Possible
<i>Euryomyrtus recurva</i>	P3	Y	<17	Possible
<i>Acacia subsessilis</i>	P3	Y	<26	Possible
<i>Rhodanthe uniflora</i>	P1	Y	<43	Possible
<i>Cyanicula fragrans</i>	P3	Y	<46	Possible
<i>Eragrostis</i> sp. Lake Carey (J. Paterson & J. Warden WB 40825)	P1	N	<9	Unlikely
<i>Philothea nutans</i>	P1	N	<16	Unlikely
<i>Dicrastylis linearifolia</i>	P3	N	<29	Unlikely
<i>Minuria</i> sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713)	P1	N	<33	Unlikely
<i>Jacksonia lanicarpa</i>	P1	N	<35	Unlikely
<i>Eremophila rostrata</i> subsp. <i>rostrata</i>	T	N	<37	Unlikely
<i>Angianthus uniflorus</i>	P1	N	<40	Unlikely

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Angianthus microcephalus</i>	P2	N	<44	Unlikely
<i>Tecticornia fimbriata</i>	P3	N	<45	Unlikely

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

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

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area and known regional records (Australian Museum, 2019; BirdLife Australia, 2025a; 2025b; Botanica, 2025; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; 2020; Cowan et al., 2018; DCCEEW, 2023; 2024; 2025; DSE, 2003; Garnett & Crowley, 2000; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; WWF Australia, 2018; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Southern whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	VU	Y	~2.8	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Grey falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucos</i>)	VU	Y	0.1	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	OS	Y	0.8	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Gilled slender blue-tongue (<i>Cyclodomorphus branchialis</i>)	VU	Y	1.4	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Western spiny-tailed skink (<i>Egernia stokesii badia</i>)	VU, EN	Y	35.9	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Malleefowl (<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>)	VU	Y	6.4	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Black-flanked rock-wallaby (<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>)	EN	N	48.8	Unlikely
Blue-billed duck (<i>Oxyura australis</i>)	P4	N	24.9	Unlikely
Night parrot (<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i>)	CR, EN	N	37.3	Unlikely
Hooded plover (<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i>)	P4	N	41.4	Unlikely
Gull-billed tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	MI	N	41.9	Unlikely
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)	MI	N	42.0	Unlikely
Curlew sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	CR, MI	N	45.3	Unlikely
Common greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	MI	N	45.3	Unlikely
Wood sandpiper (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	MI	N	45.3	Unlikely

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.” <u>Assessment:</u>	At variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.1, Section

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared contains priority flora species and suitable habitat for additional priority flora species and conservation significant fauna. A portion of the application area is mapped as the 'Austin Land System' (Priority 3) priority ecological community (PEC).		3.2.2 and Section 3.2.3, above.
<u>Principle (b):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna." <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared may contain critical habitat for the western spiny-tailed skink and southern whiteface. Other conservation significant fauna may be impacted by the proposed clearing, but are unlikely to be reliant on specific habitats within the application area.	May be at variance	Yes Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.
<u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora." <u>Assessment:</u> The local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) contains records of one flora species (<i>Eremophila rostrata</i> subsp. <i>rostrata</i>) listed under the BC Act (GIS Database). Suitable habitat for this species does not occur within the application area (Botanica, 2025; Ramelius Resources, 2025a; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). As this is the only threatened flora species in the local area, and it is unlikely to occur within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be at variance to Principle (c).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (d):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community." <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were identified during biological survey of the application area (Botanica, 2025). One TEC occurs in the Murchison bioregion, being the Depot Springs stygofauna community (DBCAs, 2023b). As this community is located approximately 210 kilometres from the application area, and is within a different palaeodrainage system, this TEC is unlikely to occur (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<u>Principle (e):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared." <u>Assessment:</u> The local area has not been extensively cleared (GIS Database). The extent of the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2).	Not at variance	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area." <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (approximately 38 kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland." <u>Assessment:</u> Given several watercourses are recorded within the application area, and the DD-AFW1 and DD-AOW1 vegetation associations grow in association with these watercourses within the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact riparian vegetation.	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<u>Condition:</u> To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: - a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and - where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> Apart from the Violet and Gabanintha land systems, the land systems mapped within the application area are moderately to highly susceptible to water erosion in drainage lines (DPIRD, 2025; Mabbutt et al., 1963; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994). Noting the extent of the application area, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation. <u>Condition:</u> To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: - a staged clearing condition to minimise erosion; - a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and - where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.	May be at variance	No
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> Part of the application area is located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) (GIS Database). The application intercepts the Priority 1 and Priority 2 areas of the Mount Magnet Water Reserve (GIS Database). Large scale clearing can have detrimental impacts to water quality (DWER, 2025). Advice provided by the DWER (2025) identifies that DWER is monitoring the cumulative impact of clearing within the reserve. The proposed clearing is unlikely to have any major impacts to water within this reserve provided approved clearing limits are not exceeded and all clearing activities are conducted in accordance with DWER and Department of Health guidelines (relevant guidelines listed below) (DWER, 2025): - WQPN 10 – Contaminant spills – emergency response plan (DWER, 2020); - WQPN 25 – Land use compatibility tables for public drinking water source areas (DWER, 2021); - WQPN 84 – Rehabilitation of disturbed land in public drinking water source areas (Department of Water, 2009); - PSC 88 – Use of herbicides in water catchment areas (Department of Health, 2006). Given the proposed clearing is for 950 hectares within the Yarramonger catchment (4,179,444 hectares), the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly alter surface or groundwater quality at a catchment scale (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses within the application area, however, the non-perennial watercourses within the application area may be impacted by the proposed clearing (GIS Database). Therefore, it is recommended that a watercourse management condition is imposed on the clearing permit to reduce likelihood of water quality deterioration at a local scale. <u>Condition:</u> To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: - avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; - a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and - where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.	May be at variance	No
<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> <u>Assessment:</u>	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The application area is intersected by several minor, non-perennial watercourses (GIS Database). Siltation is caused by soil erosion and can increase the likelihood of flooding in a waterway (CRC, 2025). As soils within the application area are susceptible to erosion when surface water flows are disrupted or vegetation cover is removed, the proposed clearing has the potential to increase the incidence or intensity of flooding (DPIRD, 2025; Mabbutt et al., 1963; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994). <u>Condition:</u> To address the above impact, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • a staged clearing condition to minimise erosion; • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation.		

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. Fauna habitats

Table adapted from Botanica (2025).

Fauna habitat	Description	Representative fauna attributes	Representative photograph
Acacia open woodland on rocky or clay-loam plain	Open <i>Acacia</i> woodland over <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland.	• Ground not particularly suitable for burrowing species. • Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting a lower avifauna assemblage. • Low vegetation density and some leaf litter supporting some small reptiles.	

<i>Acacia</i> and/or <i>Eucalypt</i> woodland in drainage line	Closed <i>Acacia</i> and/or <i>Eucalypt</i> woodland over mixed <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland.	• Ground moderately suitable for burrowing species in some areas. • Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting a good avifauna assemblage. • Moderate vegetation density and moderate leaf litter supporting some small reptiles. • Source of water after rainfall events.	
<i>Acacia</i> woodland on rocky slope and/or rocky hill	Open and/or closed <i>Acacia</i> woodland over <i>Eremophila</i> shrubland and <i>Maireana</i> chenopod shrubland	• Ground not particularly suitable for burrowing species. • Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting a lower avifauna assemblage. • Potential refuge for small fauna under rocks, for example reptile fauna.	
Chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain	Low <i>Maireana</i> and <i>Tecticornia</i> chenopod shrubland	• Ground not particularly suitable for burrowing species. • Potential refuge for small fauna under shrubs, for example reptile fauna. • Low vegetation density and leaf litter. • Chenopod shrubs provide a food source to avifauna during drought conditions.	

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- 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)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)

- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- 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, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- 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)

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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.