Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11093/2
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Mt Magnet Gold Pty Ltd
Application received:	11 December 2025
Application area:	950 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	General Purpose Lease 58/8 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, 58/273 and 58/375
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 2,670 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).

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).

Clearing permit CPS 11093/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 4 November 2025 and was valid from 27 November 2025 to 26 November 2030. The permit authorised the clearing of up to 950 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 2568 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities.

On 11 December 2025, the permit holder applied to amend CPS 11093/1 to increase the permit boundary by 12 hectares, add M 58/375 to Condition 1 and remedy the administrative error of not including General Purpose Lease 58/8 on Condition 1 of the permit, to facilitate the cutback of the Eridanus Pit (Ramelius Resources, 2025c).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	30 April 2026
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 51KA(1) and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey and a fauna survey, 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 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 Priority Ecological Community (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.

The assessment has not changed since the assessment for CPS 11093/1. The Delegated Officer determined that the proposed increase of the permit boundary by 12 hectares, to a total of 2,670 hectares, is not likely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The delegated officer has decided to grant the amended clearing permit with the same management conditions as per CPS 11093/1.

1.5. Site map

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

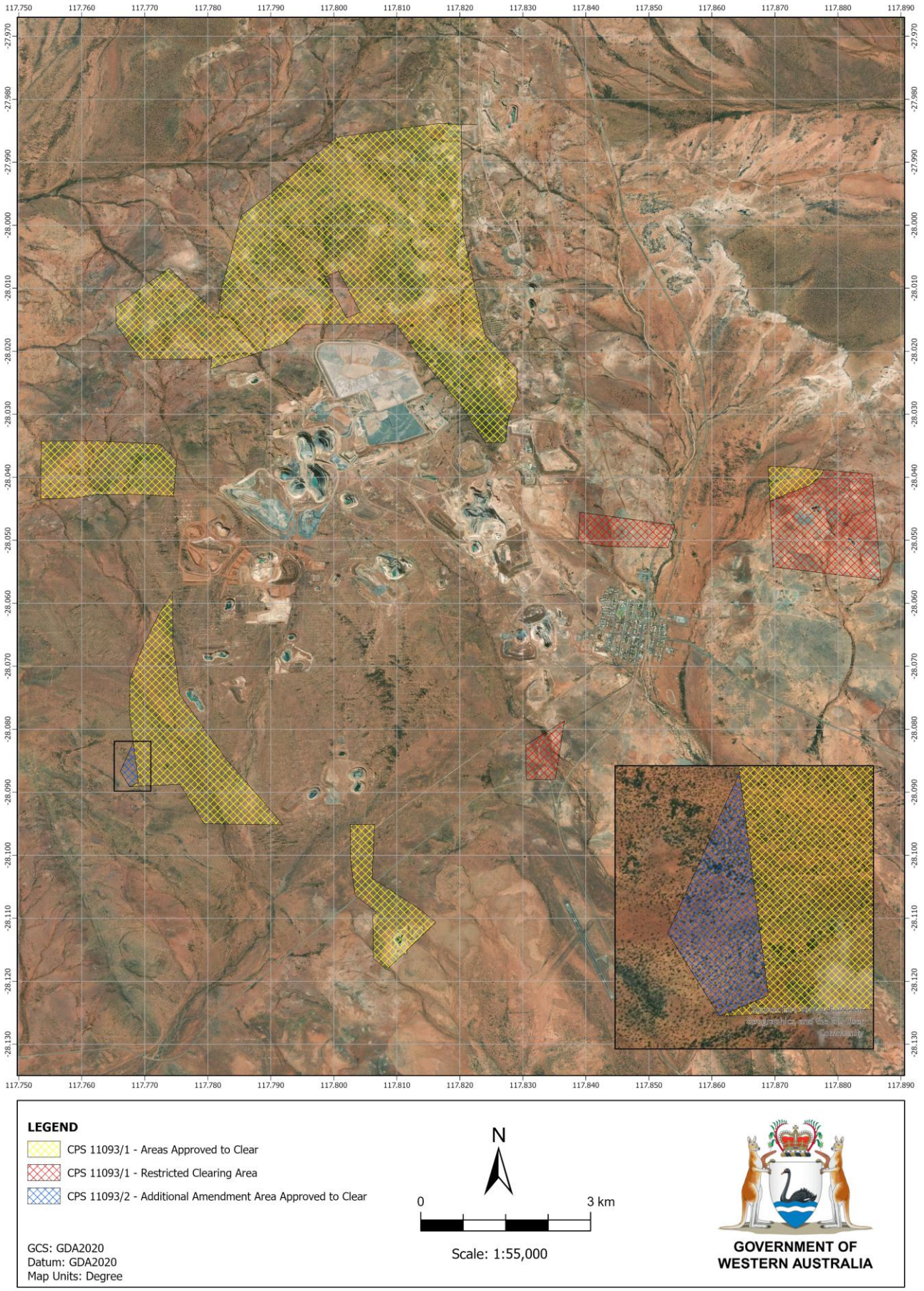

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area cross-hatched area indicates the previous permit area (CPS 11093/1) and the blue cross-hatched area indicates the additional area included as part of this application (CPS 11093/2).

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

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. Management measures remain the same as the previously proposed in CPS 11093/1 (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).

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.

A review of current environmental information (Appendix A) reveals that the assessment against the clearing principles has not changed significantly from the clearing permit decision report CPS 11093/1.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit amendment application was advertised on 3 March 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2015/001 - Badimia People) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). 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.

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 Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

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 (GIS Database). Both clearing permits are part of the Mount Magnet Gold Project (Ramelius Resources, 2025b). The CPS 11093/2 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 *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia ramulosa* var *ramulosa* over sparse low shrubland of *Eremophila punicea* and *E. compacta* on clay loam plain); • **CLP-AOW1** (Low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and/or *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia acuminata* over sparse low shrubland of *Ptilotus obovatus* and *Eremophila compacta* on clay loam plain); • **CLP-CS1** (Low open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* over low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana pyramidata, Enchylaena tomentosa* and *Maireana triptera* on clay loam plain); • **DD-AFW1** (Low open forest of *Acacia incurvaneura* over low open shrubland of *Acacia tetragonophylla* and *Eremophila punicea* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of *Atriplex bunburyana* and *Maireana pyramidata* in drainage depression); • **DD-AOW1** (Low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* over low open shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* and *Maireana pyramidata* in drainage depression); • **DD-EW1** (Mid open forest of *Eucalyptus striaticalyx* over mid open shrubland of *Melaleuca leiocarpa, Eremophila pantonii* and *Exocarpos aphyllus* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of *Tecticornia disarticulata, Enchylaena tomentosa* and *Maireana triptera* in drainage depression); • **RH-AFW1** (Low open forest of *Acacia aptaneura* and/or *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid shrubland of *Thryptomene decussata* over low sparse shrubland of *Eremophila latrobei* on rocky hill); • **RH-AOW1** (Low open woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* over mid sparse shrubland of *Thryptomene decussata* over low sparse shrubland of *Eremophila clarkei* on rocky hill); • **RP-AW1** (Low woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and/or *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia grasbyi* over sparse low chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* on clay loam plain); • **RS-AFW1** (Low open forest of *Acacia aptaneura* and/or *Acacia incurvaneura* over mid open shrubland of *Acacia grasbyi* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* on rocky slope); • **RS-AOW1** (Low open woodland of *Acacia ramulosa* var. *ramulosa* over mid sparse shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia* over low sparse chenopod shrubland of *Maireana triptera* on rocky slope); and • **Cleared** (cleared areas with no vegetation) (Botanica, 2025). Only CLP-AFW1 is located within the additional amendment area (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);

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>

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 C.
Within the amendment area, the vegetation was recorded as being in very good condition (Botanica, 2025).
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>
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, 2026; 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, 2026; GIS Database).
The amendment area is between 440-430 metres Australian heigh datum (GIS Database).
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>
The soils within the application area are mapped as the following land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database):
<table>
<tr><th>System</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<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>
</table>
Only the Gransal system (273Gr) is located within the additional amendment area (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database).
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>
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. Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion (Mabbutt et al., 1963; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994).
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies</td><td>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that several minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hydrogeography</td><td>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).</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (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). The amendment area is wholly within the Mount Magnet Water Reserve (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). Within the additional amendment area, no conservation significant flora species have been recorded (Botanica, 2025; 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). 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 Threatened Ecological Community (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). The amendment area does not contain any records of conservation significant ecological communities (Botanica, 2025; 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 (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) is located outside of the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area), but may occur, based on habitat availability (BirdLife Australia, 2025a; Botanica, 2025; DCCEEW, 2023; GIS Database). Within the additional amendment area, no conservation significant fauna species have been recorded (Botanica, 2025; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; 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: • *Acacia* open woodland on rocky or clay-loam plain; • *Acacia* and/or *Eucalypt* woodland in drainage line; • *Acacia* 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. Within the additional amendment area, the fauna habitats present are mulga woodland and open mulga woodland (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,587	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)

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains 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).	At variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared 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 *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) contains records of one flora species (*Eremophila rostrata* subsp. *rostrata*) 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 *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: 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 (DBCA, 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 *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The 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 A.2).	Not at variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (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 *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given 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 (Botanica, 2025).	At variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: 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, 2026; 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.	May be at variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: 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); and • 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.	May be at variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The 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, 2026). 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 (DELWP, 2019; DPIRD, 2026; Mabbutt et al., 1963; Payne et al., 1998; Pringle, 1994).	May be at variance *(as per CPS 11093/1)*	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from

Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

C.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- 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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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986*, Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

CD **Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)**

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.

(b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.

(c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.