GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11100/1
Permit Holder:	Shire of Esperance
Duration of Permit:	From 5 February 2026 to 5 February 2031

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

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of road safety upgrades.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 1509 on Deposited Plan 34310 (Crown Reserve 32337), East Munglinup

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 0.52 hectares of *native vegetation* within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 of Schedule 1.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

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

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

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

5. Weed and dieback management

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

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

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

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

6. Flora management – pre-clearance survey

(a) Prior to undertaking any *clearing* authorised under this permit within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *botanist* to conduct a *targeted flora survey* of the areas to be cleared for the presence of *Corysanthes limpida*.

(b) Where *Corysanthes limpida* individual(s) are identified under condition 6(a), the permit holder must not cause or allow:
  (i) clearing within 20 metres of the identified *Corysanthes limpida* individual(s), unless approved by the *CEO*; and
  (ii) clearing of the identified *Corysanthes limpida* individual(s), unless approved by the *CEO*.

(c) Where *Corysanthes limpida* individual(s) are identified under condition 6(a) of this permit, the permit holder must include the following in a report submitted to the *CEO* within three months of undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit:
  (i) the number of individuals identified;
  (ii) the date each individual was identified;
  (iii) the location of each *Corysanthes limpida* individual, identified under condition 6(a), either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the aerial extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;
  (iv) the name of the *botanist* that undertook clearance surveys under condition 6(a) of this permit; and
  (v) the methodology used to survey the permit area.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

7. Records that must be kept

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

Table 1: Records that must be kept

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

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 4; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* and *dieback* in accordance with condition 5.
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 6	(a) date of the *targeted flora survey* (b) actions taken to avoid the clearing of *Corysanthes limpida*; (c) actions taken to demarcate each *Corysanthes limpida* individual recorded and their relevant buffers; and (d) a copy of the botanist's report in accordance with condition 6(c).

8. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 7 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
botanist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent and has a minimum of two (2) years' work experience in Western Australian flora identification and undertaking flora surveys native to the bioregion being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the *CEO* as a suitable environmental specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid flora licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
dieback	means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.

Term	Definition
targeted flora survey	means a field-based investigation, including a review of established literature, of the biodiversity of flora and vegetation of the permit area, focusing on habitat suitable for flora species that are being targeted and carried out during the optimal time to identify those species. Where target flora is identified in the permit area, the survey must also include a minimum of a 10 metre radius of the surrounding areas to place the permit area into local context.
weeds	means any plant – (a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS

JBurton

Jessica Burton
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

13 January 2026

Schedule 1

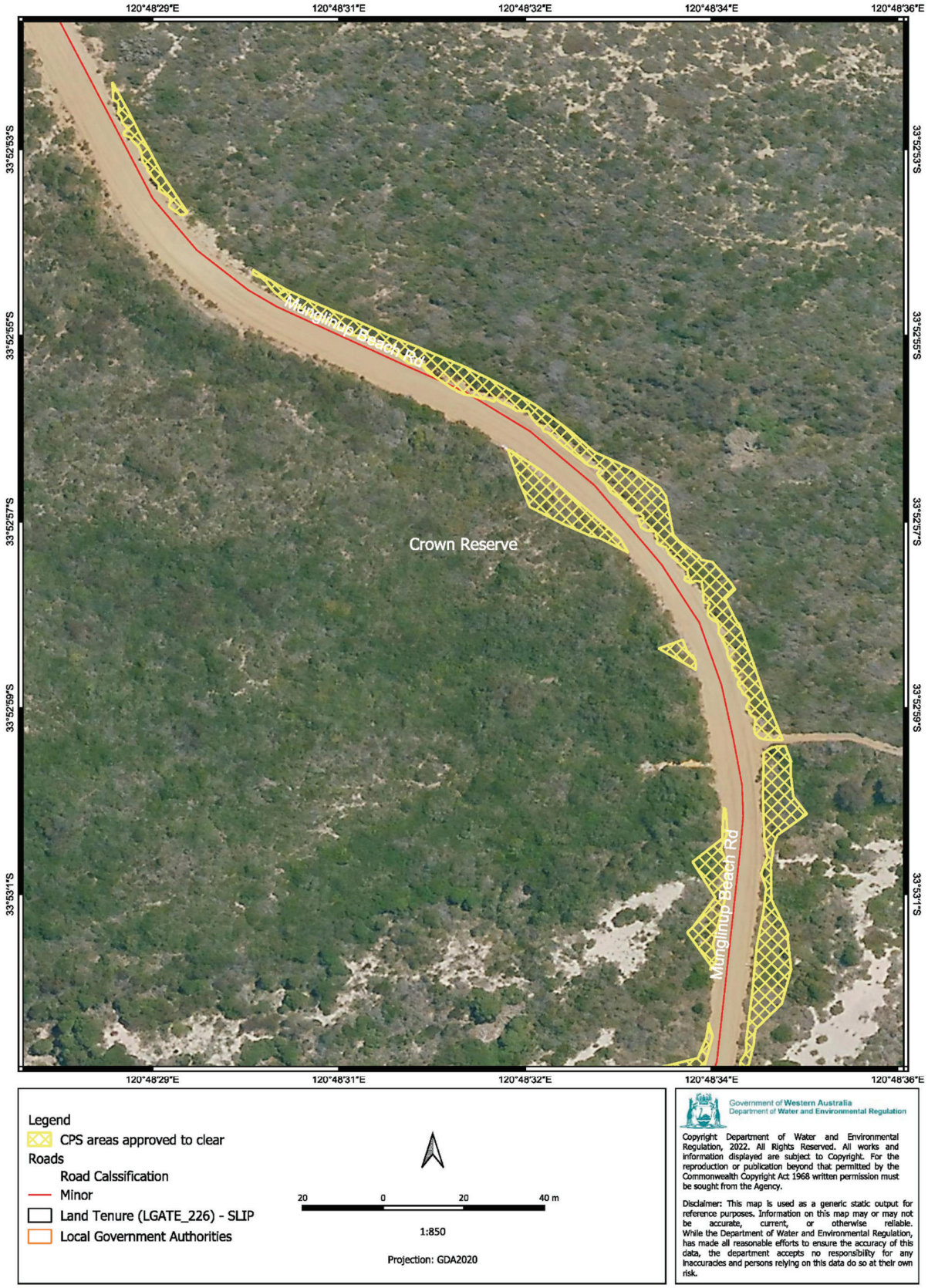

Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)

Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)

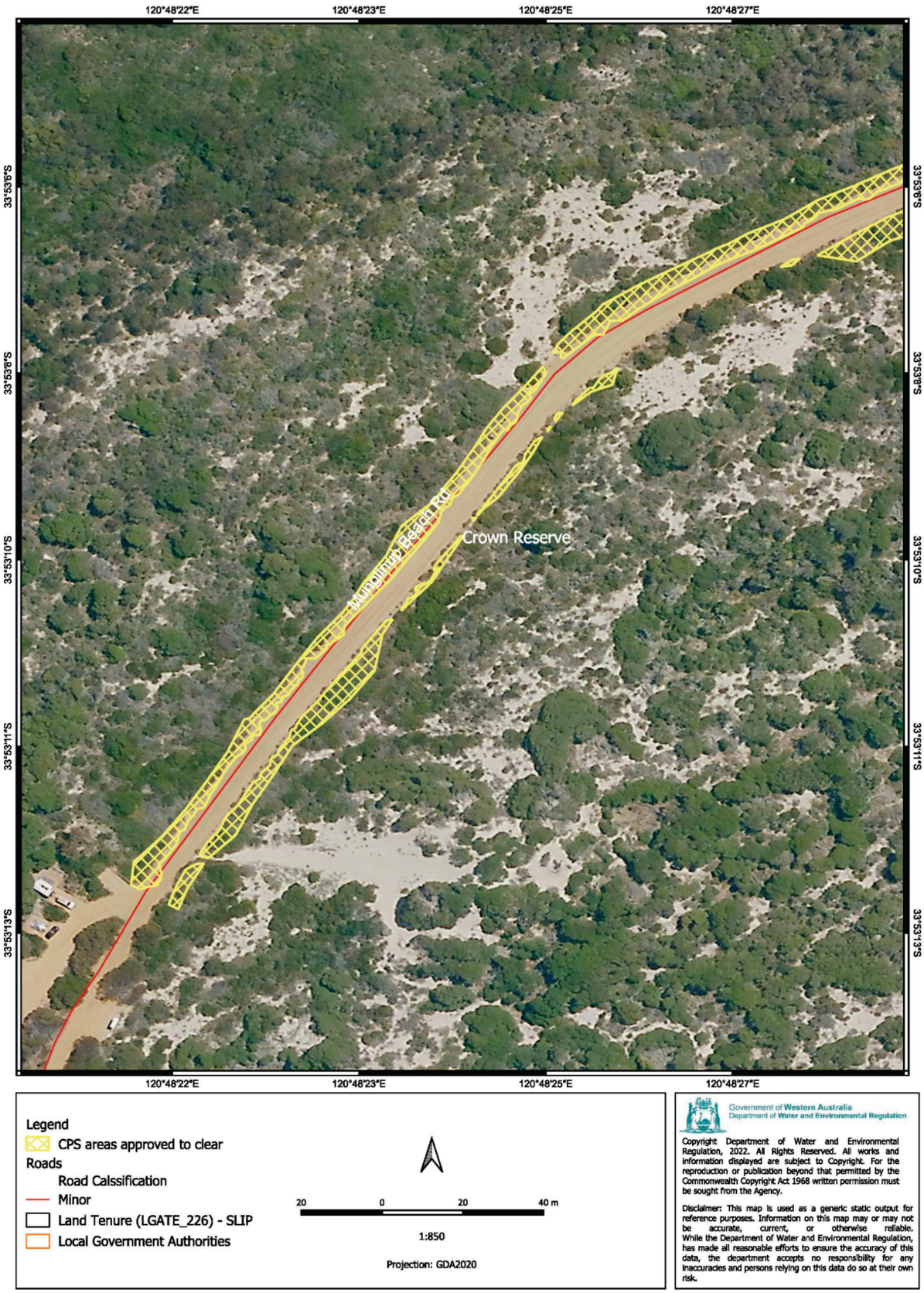

Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the areas within which clearing may occur (cross-hatched yellow)

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 11100/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Shire of Esperance
Application received:	29 May 2025
Application area:	0.52 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Road safety upgrades
Method of clearing:	Mechanical clearing
Property:	Lot 1509 on Deposited Plan 34310 (Crown Reserve 32337)
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Esperance
Localities (suburb/s):	East Munglinup

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The proposal is to clear native vegetation along an approximately 850-metre stretch of Munglinup Beach Road for road safety upgrades (see Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3, Section 1.5).

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	13 January 2026
Decision area:	0.52 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for:

- the site characteristics (see Appendix A),
- relevant datasets (see Appendix E.1E.1),
- the findings of a flora, fauna, vegetation and environmental considerations survey (see Appendix D),
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B),
- relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3.3).

The Delegated Officer took into consideration the purpose of the project is for public road upgrades to improve road safety.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- potential indirect impacts to priority flora that may be present near the application area,
- potential indirect impacts to a mapped Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC patch, and
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the above impacts can be appropriately managed through conditions on the clearing permit.

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

- undertake avoid and minimise measures to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback,
- undertake a pre-clearance survey for the presence of *Corysanthes limpida*, and avoidance of any identified individuals by a 20-metre buffer.

1.5. Site maps

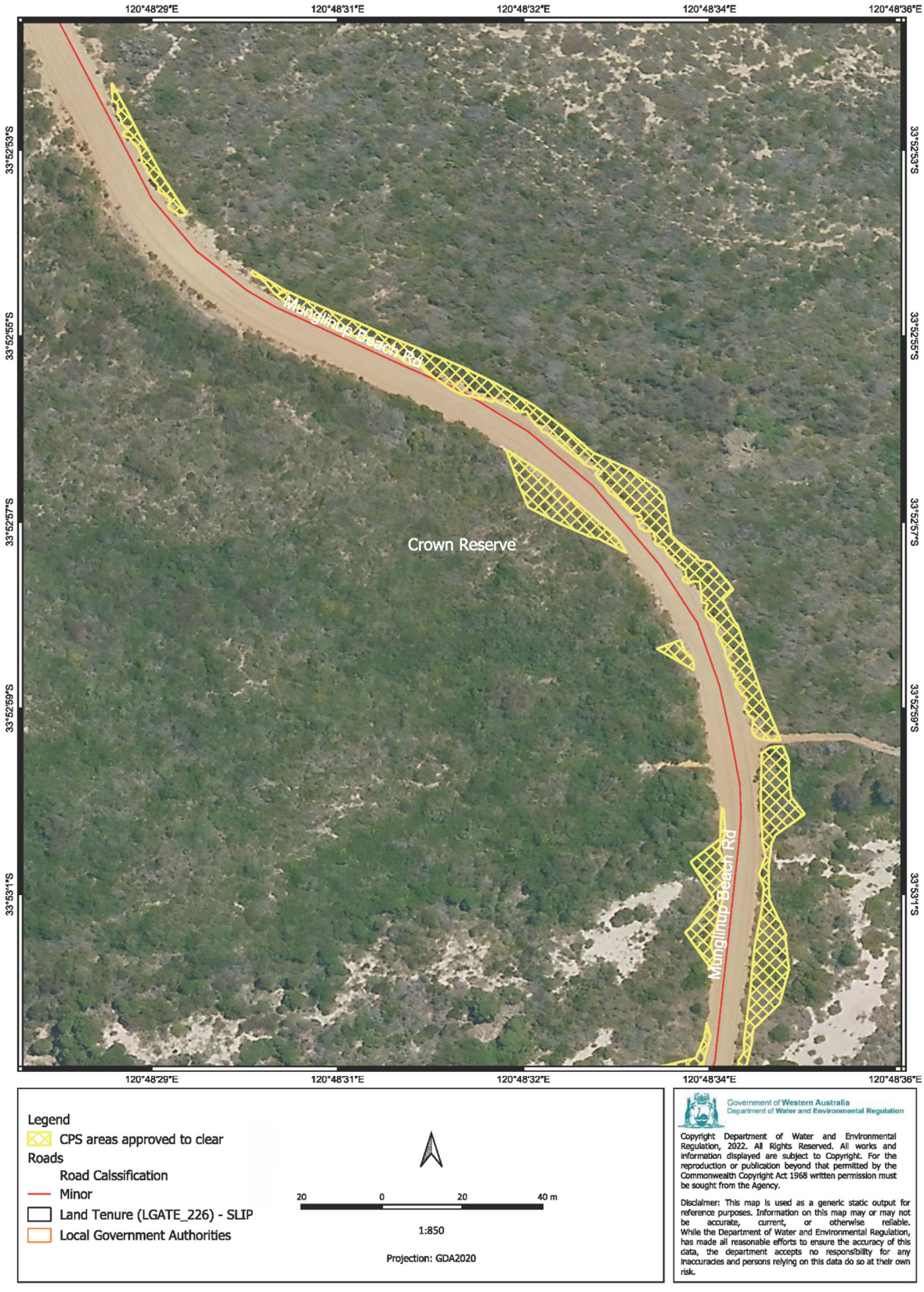

Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

Figure 2 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

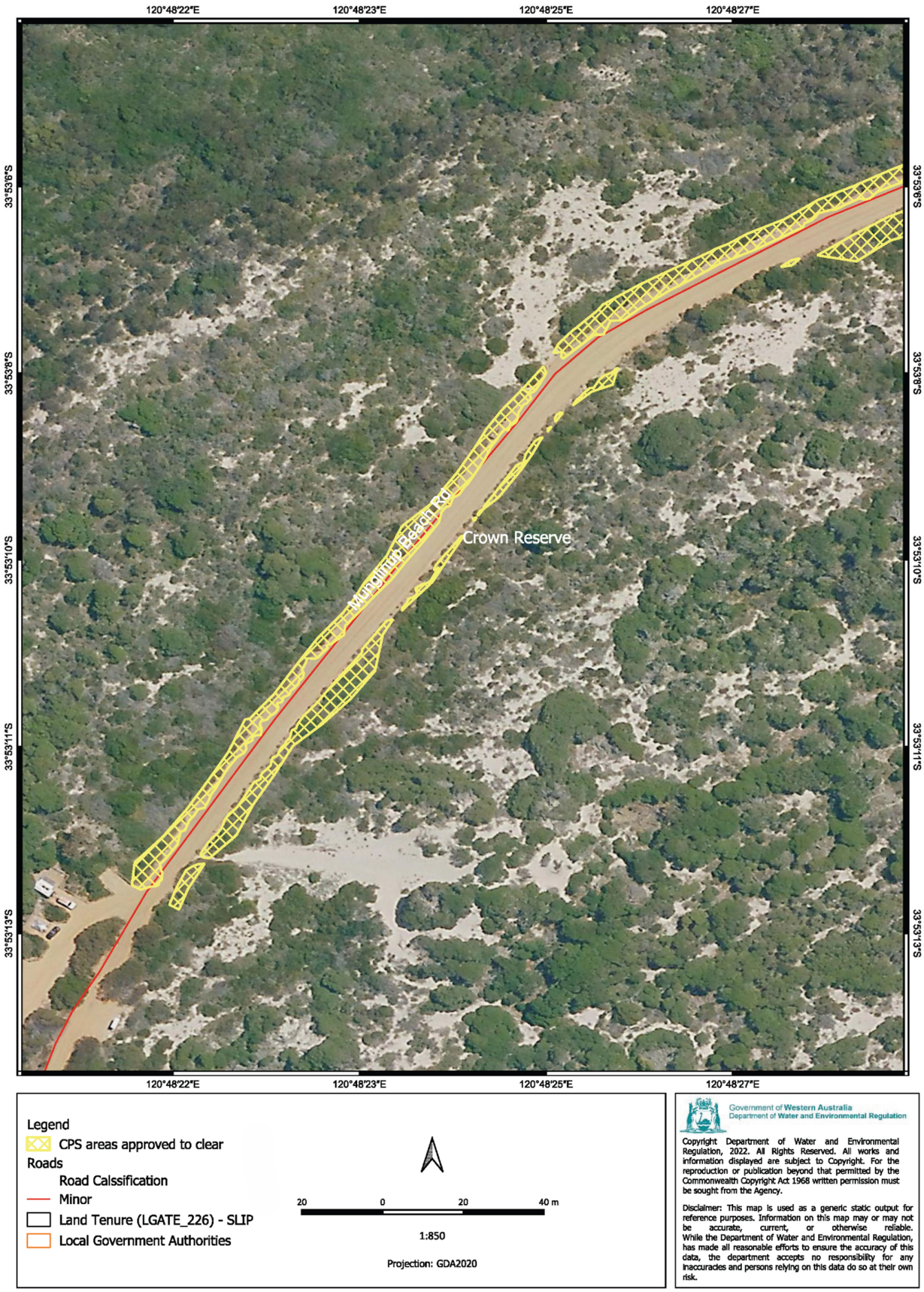

Figure 3 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

2 Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant submitted supporting information (Shire of Esperance, 2025a) indicating clearing for the road upgrade project has been minimised where possible, noting earthworks will be required as the works are to be undertaken over coastal dunes. The proposed road upgrades will address safety concerns from the narrow nature of the road, as it is heavily trafficked in peak tourist season by cars and caravans (Shire of Esperance, 2025b).

The applicant provided a Construction Environmental Management Plan with measures that will be implemented to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed clearing (Shire of Esperance, 2025c), including:

- The application area will be demarcated prior to works beginning to ensure adherence to the authorised clearing boundary,
- cleared vegetation will be mulched and left in place until earthworks begin to reduce erosion risk,
- ground disturbance will be restricted during high winds to reduce dust.

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 (see Appendix A) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles (see Appendix B) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna, biodiversity and threatened ecological community). 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 (fauna) and significant remnant vegetation - Clearing Principles (a), (b) and (e)

Assessment

A fauna likelihood assessment was conducted based on:

- the preferred habitat and vegetation types of conservation significant fauna species recorded in the local area (20-kilometre radius from the application area),
- the site characteristics (see Appendix A), and
- known species distribution.

The likelihood analysis identified eight conservation significant fauna species which may occur in the application area (see Appendix A.3.). Of these, one species was considered likely to occur: Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*; EN).

Carnaby's cockatoo (EN)

Habitat critical for the recovery of Carnaby's cockatoo (CBC) includes foraging habitat (including remnant patches of vegetation), night roosting habitat and nesting trees for breeding (DAWE, 2022). Suitable breeding habitat includes trees with a suitable nest hollow or of a suitable diameter at breast height (DBH) to develop a nest hollow (DAWE, 2022). Night roosting sites are often located near food and water resources.

The Shire's field survey (Shire of Esperance, 2025b) indicates suitable foraging habitat for CBC is present in the application area in low densities, comprising of scattered and sparse occurrences of *Eucalyptus pleurocarpa* and *Hakea nitida*. The Shire identified a high proportion of proteaceous species in the vegetation north of the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2025b) which is likely to provide higher quality foraging habitat for CBC. A roost site has been recorded 30 metres from the application area.

Noting the distance to the nearest recorded roost site, and that a CBC has been recorded in the application area, CBC are likely to be transient visitors to the application area. Given the limited extent of foraging habitat in the application area, the location along an existing road, and the extent of native vegetation surrounding the application area and remaining in the local area, the application area is not considered to provide a significant foraging resource for CBC.

Transient visitors

Other fauna which may be transient visitors to the application area are listed in Appendix A.3. Given the small extent of clearing proposed, that it is along an existing road, and the extent of surrounding intact habitat, the vegetation in the application area is not likely to provide significant habitat for these species.

Ecological linkage

The application area is within Strategic Zone A of the South Coast Macro Corridor ecological linkage (Wilkins, et al., 2006). Strategic Zone A contains areas that potentially form the most strategic link between major protected areas (Wilkins, et al., 2006). Given the small extent and linear nature of the application area, and that it is along an existing road, the proposed clearing is unlikely to alter the functioning of the mapped ecological linkage.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the application area is unlikely to provide significant habitat for fauna. The management measures specified below are sufficient to manage the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna habitat.

Conditions

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

- avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback to adjacent vegetation.

3.2.2. Biological values (flora and threatened ecological communities) - Clearing Principles (a) and (d)

Assessment

Flora

A flora likelihood assessment was conducted based on habitat and soil preferences, vegetation in the application area, and known species distribution. The assessment identified one conservation significant flora species which may occur: *Corysanthes limpida* (P4).

Corysanthes limpida

A known *C. limpida* population has been mapped approximately 40 metres from the application area. A field survey by the Shire (Shire of Esperance, 2025b) identified orchid leaves consistent with *C. limpida* approximately 1.5 metres from the application area. As the plants were not flowering, the individuals could not be identified to species level (Shire of Esperance, 2025b). The proposed clearing will not directly remove the potential *C. limpida* individuals.

The proposed clearing is likely to have an indirect impact on the potential *C. limpida* individuals through increased edge effects and risk of the introduction and spread of weeds. The management measures specified below are considered sufficient to mitigate indirect impacts of the proposed clearing on the potential *C. limpida* individuals.

Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC

The application area is within a mapped occurrence of the federally listed Proteaceae dominated kwongkan shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia threatened ecological community (Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC).

The key diagnostic characteristics for the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC include Proteaceae species having 30% or greater cover across all layers where they occur (Department of the Environment, 2014). Two Proteaceae species were identified in the application area in the Shire's field survey (Shire of Esperance, 2025b). These species were present in the northern portion of the application area in low densities (Shire of Esperance, 2025b).

The Shire identified a high proportion of Proteaceous species in the vegetation north of the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2025b). This area is part of a mapped TEC occurrence and may be representative of the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC. Given this, the northern portion of the application area may form part of a TEC patch or part of the buffer zone for the patch. The buffer zone around a TEC patch acts as a barrier to protect the integrity of the patch. For the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC, a minimum buffer zone of 30 metres is recommended (Department of the Environment, 2014).

Given the thin, linear nature of the proposed clearing, that it is along an existing road, and noting the extent of intact vegetation within the mapped TEC patch, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly alter the functioning of the potential TEC patch.

The Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC is vulnerable to impacts of dieback infestation (Department of the Environment, 2014). Appropriate hygiene measures will be undertaken to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of dieback into adjacent vegetation.

The remainder of the application area does not contain Proteaceae species and is not representative of the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC.

Conclusion

Given the above, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the functioning of the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC if present nearby. Indirect impacts to adjacent vegetation, including potential *Corysanthes limpida* individuals, are considered manageable subject to the below conditions.

Conditions

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

- avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback to adjacent vegetation,
- undertake a pre-clearance survey for the presence of *Corysanthes limpida*, and avoidance of any identified individuals by a 20-metre buffer.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

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

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The application area is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia, located approximately 300 metres from the coastline. Spatial data indicates the local area (20-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 35 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	The application area is mapped within Strategic Zone A of the South Coast Macro Corridor and is approximately three kilometres from the mapped South Coast Ecological Linkage.
Conservation areas	The application area does not intersect a mapped conservation area. The closest mapped conservation area is Lake Shaster Nature Reserve, located 630 metres from the application area.
Vegetation description	A field survey (Shire of Esperance, 2025b) indicates the vegetation within the application area consists of scattered *Melaleuca lanceolata* over *Acacia cyclops* dominated mixed shrubland. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type: • Fanny Cove (42), which is described as wattle, teatree and other species Acacia spp. Melaleuca spp. (Shepherd et al, 2001). The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 95.82 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
Vegetation condition	The field survey (Shire of Esperance, 2025b) indicates the vegetation within the application area is in Good to Excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	Available databases indicate the application area receives a mean annual rainfall of 550 to 600mm. The application area ranges in altitude from 5 to 25 metres above sea level.
Soil description	The soil is mapped as Tooregullup 2 Subsystem (245To_2) which is described as calcareous uniform sands and sandy loams, often peaty, occur on open swales.
Land degradation risk	The application area has a medium wind erosion, water repellence, and phosphorous export risk (DPIRD, 2025).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicate the application area does not intersect a waterbody. The nearest mapped waterbody is Oldfield Estuary Suite, a conservation class wetland one kilometre from the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is not located within an area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The groundwater salinity level (total dissolved solids) is mapped as 7000 to 14000 milligrams per litre.
Flora	The desktop assessment identified seven conservation significant flora species within the local area, comprising two threatened and five priority flora species. The closest record is the Priority 4 species *Corysanthes limpida*, recorded approximately 40 metres from the application area.
Ecological communities	The application area is within a mapped occurrence of the Proteaceae dominated kwongkan shrublands of the southeast coastal floristic province of Western Australia (Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland) threatened ecological community.
Fauna	The desktop assessment identified 23 conservation significant fauna species recorded within the local area. A *Zanda latirostris* (Carnaby's cockatoo) individual has been recorded within the application area.

Characteristic	Details
	The application area is within the mapped distribution of Carnaby's cockatoo. The closest recorded roost site is 30 metres from the application area. The application area is outside the known breeding zone for Carnaby's cockatoo.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Esperance Plains	2,899,940.66	1,494,450.87	51.53	822,666.27	28.84
Vegetation complex*					
Fanny Cove (42)	108,093.82	103,579.48	95.82	70,178.07	65.44
Local area					
20km radius	59,721.53	21,107.21	35.34	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*)	EN	Y	Y	0.00
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)	MI	Y	Y	0.10
Fork-tailed swift (*Apus pacificus*)	MI	Y	Y	2.15
Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*)	VU	Y	Y	2.21
Tammar wallaby (*Notamacropus eugenii derbianus*)	P4	Y	Y	9.09
Western brush wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*)	P4	Y	Y	10.21
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	VU	Y	Y	18.10
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	OS	Y	Y	18.24

EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority, MI: migratory, OS: other specially protected

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: Given the condition of the vegetation and that the application area forms part of a large patch of remnant vegetation, it is likely to comprise a high level of biodiversity. Noting the thin, linear nature of the application area and that it is along an existing road, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly alter biodiversity value of the surrounding vegetation.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The application area contains suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna. Given the location of the application area along an existing road, fauna species are likely present as transient visitors.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: A flora likelihood assessment was conducted based on habitat and soil preferences, vegetation in the application area, and known species distribution. The assessment did not identify suitable habitat for threatened flora species in the application area, given the extent of proposed clearing and location along an existing road.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: The application area intersects a mapped occurrence of the Proteaceae Dominated Kwongkan Shrubland TEC.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type and native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is part of a formal ecological linkage. Given the small extent and linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to alter the function of the mapped ecological linkage.	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
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:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, and the small extent and linear shape of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.		
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within or near the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are moderately susceptible to wind erosion, water repellence and phosphorous export. Noting the applicant's avoidance and minimisation measures (see Section 3.1), the extent of the application area, and that it occurs along an existing road, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given the purpose of proposed clearing and that no water courses or wetlands are recorded within or near the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding or waterlogging.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from: Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

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

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.

Condition	Description
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Biological survey information excerpts (Shire of Esperance, 2025b)

Figure 3. Representative photograph of vegetation in the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2025b).

Figure 4. Representative photograph of vegetation in the application area (Shire of Esperance, 2025b).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics

- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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