

# **Clearing Permit Decision Report**

# Application details and outcomes

# 1.1. Permit application details

Permit number: 11114/1

Permit type: Purpose Permit

Applicant name: Monger Exploration Pty Ltd

**Application received:** 6 June 2025 **Application area:** 95 hectares

Purpose of clearing: Mineral production and associated activities

Method of clearing:Mechanical RemovalTenure:Mining Lease 25/366Location (LGA area):City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Colloquial name: Lucky Strike Project

# 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Monger Exploration Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 95 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 113 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Monger Exploration, 2025). The project is located approximately 38 kilometres east of Kambalda, within the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the development of a greenfield mining operation at the Lucky Strike Project, which includes an open pit, ROM pad, waste dump, roads and laydown areas (Monger Exploration, 2025).

# 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision: Grant

**Decision date:** 28 October 2025

**Decision area:** 95 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 A), relevant datasets (Appendix F), the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the results of a fauna and habitat survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that may contain critical habitat for western rosella (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*),
   ABAB (*Ogyris petrina*) and inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*);
- the increased risk of fauna injury or mortality; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind and 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;
- a fauna management (western rosella) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify hollow trees suitable for habitation by this species, and no clearing within 10 metres of identified hollow trees;

- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify
  potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host
  plants;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion.

# 2. Legislative context

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

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 510 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)
- Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA) (CALM Act)
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- Mining Act 1978 (WA)
- Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (RIWI Act)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

# 3. Detailed assessment of application

# 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant submitted the following avoidance and minimisation measures:

- the size and scale of clearing is proportional to the mine design;
- avoid clearing large habitat trees;
- where possible, trees will be left to provide shade near offices, workshops, parking areas, along road verges and between facilities;
- no watercourses or drainage lines are to be impacted by the proposed clearing;
- no threatened or priority species are to be impacted by the proposed clearing; and
- efforts to control and minimise weed and feral animal populations will be implemented as required (Monger Exploration, 2025).

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

# 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora and fauna). 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.

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### 3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principle (a)

### Assessment

### Conservation significant flora

There are records of 28 priority flora and no threatened flora in the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area) (GIS Database). Of these 28 flora taxa, only one (*Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera*) was determined to be possibly occurring within the application area, due to the presence of suitable habitat (Botanica, 2025; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). All other species are considered unlikely to occur within the application area (Appendix A.3).

### Eremophila arachnoides subsp. tenera

*Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera*, Priority 3, inhabits salmon gum woodlands over clay loam soils (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Vegetation association CLP-EW1, matches this description (Botanica, 2025; Appendix D). Therefore, suitable habitat for this taxon likely occurs within the application area.

Of the 18 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera* records, 17 are located within a 60 kilometre radius of each other, east of Kalgoorlie in the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions (GIS Database). These records were collected between 1997 and 2025, with the majority being collected in 2019 (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). The application area is at the southern extent of this distribution, with the nearest records being located approximately 12 kilometres north-northwest of the site (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). The remaining record is located northeast of Laverton within the Great Victoria Desert bioregion, and was recorded in 2010 (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database).

The survey by Botanica (2025) was a reconnaissance survey, and did not include searches for *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera* (EPA, 2016). Given this, as well as the presence of suitable habitat, nearby records, and the location of the application area within the taxon's known extent of occurrence, *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera* is considered likely to occur within the application area (Botanica, 2025; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998–; GIS Database). However, as suitable habitat is widespread in the surrounding region and the application area has been degraded by mining activities, access roads, and historical impacts, the proposed clearing of suitable habitat is unlikely to be significant for the conservation of *Eremophila arachnoides* subsp. *tenera* (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).

#### Conclusion

There are no conservation significant flora likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

#### Conditions

No flora management conditions required.

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

### <u>Assessment</u>

### Western rosella (inland)

Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*), Priority 4, inhabits drier eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), flooded gum, salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*), tall mallee and rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) (Birdlife Australia, 2017; DEC, 2009). The species nests in tree hollows, and prefers *Casuarinas* for foraging (Garnett & Crowley, 2000b). The taxon has a widespread distribution, across the Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions (DEC, 2009).

As the nearest record is located 4 kilometres from the application area, was recorded in 2008, and that salmon gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) and *Casuarina sp.* occur within the application area, it is likely that the species would occur (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database). Additionally, the Botanica (2025) habitat assessment states that taller trees within the application area may be suitable for hollow nesting avifauna (Appendix E).

Although more commonly recorded to the west of the application area, in the southwestern Great Western Woodlands and Wheatbelt, the Great Western Woodlands is an important area for the species, due to extensive habitat loss in the Wheatbelt (Fox et al., 2016). Woodlands with mature trees provide critical habitat for the species, with presence of tree hollows for breeding being a limiting factor for the species (Fox et al., 2016). Therefore, it is recommended that hollow availability is assessed and hollows retained for the conservation of this species (Fox et al., 2016).

# Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB)

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*), Critically Endangered, is threatened by clearing and habitat degradation (DBCA, 2025b). The ABAB has an obligate association with a sugar ant *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*, so critical breeding habitat for ABAB are areas which have colonies of the host ant (DBCA, 2025b). The host ant creates nests at the base of smooth-barked Eucalyptus trees (DBCA, 2025b). *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum) is a known ABAB host ant habitat tree and is a characteristic species of the CLP-EW1 vegetation association, which occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025; DBCA, 2025b). As there is suitable habitat for the host ant within the application area, it is considered that ABAB could occur.

# Inland hairstreak

Inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*), Priority 2, is a butterfly species known from the Goldfields region (DBCA, 2025a). Preferred habitat for inland hairstreak consists of open woodland with flowering shrubs such as those from the *Senna*, *Eremophila*, *Scaveola* and *Maireana* genera (Eastwood et al., 2023). The biological survey by Botanica (2025) indicates that over the survey area, *Eremophila* and *Maireana* represent the dominant genera. *Jalmenus aridus* larvae occur on two known hostplants, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* (Eastwood et al., 2023). *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* was recorded in all three vegetation associations mapped to occur within the application area, and *Acacia tetragonophylla* was recorded in the survey area, in vegetation associations occurring outside of the application area (Botanica, 2025).

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Given the host plant *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* occurs within the application area, and the application and surrounding area meets the requirements for suitable habitat, a survey is required to determine whether the inland hairstreak is present within the application area (Eastwood et al., 2023).

### Malleefowl

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, occur within arid and semi-arid woodlands (CALM, n.d.). The nearest malleefowl record is 23 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). As breeding habitat for malleefowl requires a sandy substrate, a dense shrub layer, and abundant leaf litter, malleefowl are unlikely to nest within the application area (CALM, n.d.; DCCEEW, 2024). This is due to the application area consisting of clay-loam soils, and habitat consisting of mostly open woodlands with limited leaf litter (Botanica, 2025; Appendix E). Malleefowl may pass through the application area during dispersal.

### Chuditch

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), Vulnerable, previously occurred throughout arid and semi-arid Australia, but is now restricted to south-west Western Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Within their current range chuditch occur within jarrah forests and woodlands in south-western corner of Western Australia, woodlands, mallee shrublands and heaths along the south coast of Western Australia east to Ravensthorpe, and drier woodlands and mallee shrubland within the Wheatbelt and Goldfields region (DEC, 2012). The application area is located at the edge of this species known distribution and suitable habitat range (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Additionally, the only known record of the species in the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area), was recorded in 1974 (GIS Database). It is unlikely that chuditch occurs within the application area.

### Western grasswren

Western grasswren (*Amytornis textilis*), Priority 4, was once widespread across arid Australia (Garnett & Crowley, 2000a). However, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the western grasswren experienced a major range contraction, and is now limited to the Shark Bay area (Garnett & Crowley, 2000a). As this taxon is regionally extinct, and the most recent local record is from 1908, this taxon is considered unlikely to occur within the application area (Botanica, 2025; Garnett & Crowley, 2000a; GIS Database).

### Conclusion

### Western rosella (inland), arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) and inland hairstreak

These species are considered as likely or possible to occur based on known habitat preferences and distribution. Further survey effort is required to determine whether critical habitat for these species occurs within the application area (DBCA, 2020; Eastwood et al., 2023; Fox et al., 2016).

#### Malleefowl

The proposed clearing of suitable malleefowl dispersal habitat is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of this species. However, mechanical clearing increases the risk of fauna injury or mortality.

### Chuditch and western grasswren

These species are unlikely to occur within the application area and are therefore unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB), malleefowl, 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:

- a fauna management (western rosella) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify
  hollow trees suitable for habitation by this species, and no clearing within 10 metres of identified hollow trees;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential
  critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify
  potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host
  plants; and
- slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

# 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 (WC2020/005 - Kakarra Part A) 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 no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2025). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB), malleefowl, 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

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Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

 A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan / 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

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# Appendix A. Site characteristics

# A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details			
Local context	The application area is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is part of the Great Western Woodlands (GIS Database). It is located within the Eastern Goldfield subregion of the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database).			
	The application area is within the Mt Monger Pastoral Lease (GIS Database). It is also surrounded by predominantly goldmining operations (GIS Database). Approximately 99 percent of the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area) remains uncleared (GIS Database).			
Ecological linkage		ot considered a significant ecological linkage. The vegetation the application area and the majority of the region remains uncleared		
Conservation areas	Database). The nearest le	ot located within any DBCA legislated conservation areas (GIS egislated conservation area is the Randell Timber Reserve, located res northeast of the application area (GIS Database).		
Vegetation description	association:	olication area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation edwood etc. <i>E. salubris</i> , <i>E. oleosa</i> ) (GIS Database).		
	A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica (2025) on 15 March 2025. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area:  CLP-EW1 (Eucalypt open woodlands);  CLP-EW4 (Eucalypt woodlands);  CLP-COW1 (Other shrublands); and  disturbed areas (Botanica, 2025).			
	provided in Appendix D.	The full descriptions and representative photographs of these vegetation associations are provided in Appendix D.		
Vegetation condition	<ul> <li>The vegetation survey (Botanica, 2025) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good to degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition, described as:         <ul> <li>Good - Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it.</li> <li>Degraded - Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</li> </ul>			
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion is described as arid to semi-arid, with the nearest weather station (Woolibar) recording an average rainfall of approximately 255 millimetres per year (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002).			
	The application area is mapped at elevations of 290 to 300 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database). Land system mapping broadly describes the application area plains and dunes (DPIRD, 2025).			
Soil description	The soils within the applic	cation area are broadly mapped as the following (DPIRD, 2025):		
	System	Description		
	Lakeside land system (265Ls)	Sandplains with occasional sand dunes and prominent claypans, supporting mallee eucalypts and spinifex.		
	Lefroy land system (265Lf)	Salt lakes and fringing saline plains, sandy plains and dunes with chenopod low shrublands.		
	Woolibar land system (265Wo)	Gently undulating calcareous gravelly plains, supporting bluebush shrublands and eucalypt woodlands.		
	Soils systems within the application area represent part of the Kambalda zone of the Province (DPIRD, 2025; Tille, 2006).			
Land degradation risk	The Lakeside land system is susceptible to wind erosion when stabilising perennial vegetation cover is reduced (Waddell & Galloway, 2023).			

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Characteristic	Details
	The Lefroy land system is susceptible to water erosion, particularly where shrub cover is reduced, or natural hydrology is disrupted (Waddell & Galloway, 2023).
	The Woolibar land system is highly susceptible to water erosion when shrub cover is reduced (Waddell & Galloway, 2023; Waddell et al., 2023).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment indicated that no watercourses or waterbodies occur in the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). The application area is approximately 1.7 kilometres from an unnamed non-perennial lake, which is part of the Lefroy palaeovalley (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is not within any mapped Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) or legislated surface water areas (GIS Database). The nearest PDWSA is the Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 98 kilometres to the northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
	The application area is located within the Goldfields 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 14,000 to over 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered saline to hypersaline (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 28 priority flora and no threatened flora in the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area), with the nearest priority flora record located approximately four kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	The biological survey did not record any threatened ecological communities (TECs) or priority ecological communities (PECs) within the application area (Botanica, 2025).
	There are no TECs known to occur within the Coolgardie bioregion (DBCA, 2023).
	There is one PEC recorded within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). This is the Mount Belches Banded Iron Formation (BIF) PEC (GIS Database). As the application area is not mapped or described as BIF, it is unlikely this PEC occurs within the application area (Botanica, 2025; GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of eight conservation significant fauna species in the local area (50 kilometre radius from the application area), with the nearest record located approximately four kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).
	The desktop assessment has also considered arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) and the inland hairstreak, due to the presence of suitable habitat in the application area (Botanica, 2025; DBCA, 2025a; 2025b; Eastwood et al., 2023).
Fauna habitat	A basic fauna and habitat survey was conducted over the application area by Botanica (2025) on 15 March 2025. The following fauna habitats were recorded within the application area:  • Eucalypt (and mallee) woodland on a clay-loam plain;  • Casuarina (open) woodland on a clay-loam plain; and  • disturbed areas (Botanica, 2025).
	The full descriptions and representative photographs of these fauna habitats are provided in Appendix E.

# 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 - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	~98	2,114,349.37	16.37	
Beard vegetation associations - State						
468	592,022.32	583,902.76	~99	135,197.44	22.84	
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion						
468	583,357.71	575,360.61	~99	130,719.16	22.41	

Government of Western Australia (2019)

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# A.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).

Likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined using species habitat preferences, age and location of known records and species distribution (Botanica, 2025; 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
Eremophila arachnoides subsp. tenera	P3	Y	<12	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Eucalyptus websteriana subsp. norsemanica	P1	N	<4	Unlikely
Eucalyptus kruseana	P4	N	<10	Unlikely
Tecticornia flabelliformis	P2	N	<10	Unlikely
Calandrinia lefroyensis	P1	N	<18	Unlikely
Eucalyptus x brachyphylla	P4	N	<29	Unlikely
Melaleuca coccinea	P3	N	<30	Unlikely
Cyathostemon divaricatus	P1	N	<31	Unlikely
Xanthoparmelia xanthomelanoides	P2	N	<31	Unlikely
Ricinocarpos digynus	P1	N	<34	Unlikely
Chrysocephalum apiculatum subsp. norsemanense	P3	N	<40	Unlikely
Phlegmatospermum eremaeum	P3	N	<40	Unlikely
Prostanthera splendens	P1	N	<41	Unlikely
Austrostipa turbinata	P3	N	<42	Unlikely
Styphelia rectiloba	P3	N	<42	Unlikely
Pityrodia scabra subsp. dendrotricha	P3	N	<43	Unlikely
Tecticornia mellarium	P1	N	<43	Unlikely
Eremophila praecox	P2	N	<44	Unlikely
Austrostipa vickeryana	P3	N	<45	Unlikely
Allocasuarina eriochlamys subsp. grossa	P3	N	<46	Unlikely
Eremophila perglandulosa	P1	N	<46	Unlikely
Lepidosperma sp. Kambalda (A.A. Mitchell 5156)	P2	N	<46	Unlikely
Ptilotus rigidus	P1	N	<47	Unlikely
Eremophila xantholaemus	P1	N	<48	Unlikely
Frankenia glomerata	P4	N	<48	Unlikely
Acacia websteri	P1	N	<49	Unlikely
Thryptomene planiflora	P1	N	<49	Unlikely
Trachymene pyrophila	P2	N	<49	Unlikely

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

# A.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).

Likelihood of occurrence for these species was determined using species habitat preferences, age and location of known records and species distribution (Birdlife Australia, 2025; Botanica, 2025; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DBCA, 2025a; 2025b; DCCEEW, 2024; DEC, 2009; 2012; Eastwood et al., 2023; Garnett & Crowley, 2000a; GIS Database).

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Species name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat	Distance of	Likelihood of
	WA	EPBC	features? [Y/N]	closest record to application area (km)	occurrence
Western rosella (inland) ( <i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i> )	P4	-	Υ	4.0	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Malleefowl (Leipoa ocellata)	VU	VU	Υ	23.0	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Inland hairstreak (Jalmenus aridus)	P2	-	Υ	~55	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (Ogyris petrina)	CR	CR	Y	~63	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Chuditch (Dasyurus geoffroii)	VU	VU	Υ	30.7	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Western grasswren (Amytornis textilis textilis)	P4	-	Υ	41.4	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Common sandpiper (Actitis hypoleucos)	MI	MI	N	24.6	Unlikely
Red-necked stint (Calidris ruficollis)	MI	MI	N	25.3	Unlikely
Sharp-tailed sandpiper (Calidris acuminata)	MI	MI	N	35.2	Unlikely
Hooded plover (Charadrius cucullatus)	P4	-	N	47.9	Unlikely

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

Appendix B.	Assessment against the clearing princi	nlae
Appelluix D.	Assessment against the cleaning princip	DIES

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	May be at	Yes
biodiversity."	variance	Refer to Section
Assessment:		3.2.1 and Section 3.2.2, above.
The area proposed to be cleared may contain conservation significant flora and fauna.		0.2.2, 40010.
Principle (b): "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a	May be at	Yes
part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."  Assessment:	variance	Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.
The area proposed to be cleared may contain critical habitat for conservation significant fauna, namely western rosella, arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) and inland hairstreak.		
<u>Principle (c):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
There are no known records of threatened flora within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). The flora survey of the application area did not record any species of threatened flora (Botanica, 2025).		
<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."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
The survey of the application area did not detect any Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) (Botanica, 2025). Additionally, there are no TECs known to occur within the Coolgardie bioregion (DBCA, 2023). Therefore, TECs are unlikely to occur within the application area.		

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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."	Not at variance	No
Assessment:		
The extent of 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). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.		
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."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
Given the distance (approximately 13 kilometres) to the nearest conservation areas, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).		
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."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact any vegetation growing within association with a watercourse or wetland (GIS Database).		
Principle (g): "Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."	May be at variance	No
Assessment:		
The mapped land systems are susceptible to wind and water erosion, when vegetation cover is reduced (DPIRD, 2025; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; Waddell et al., 2023). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation.		
Condition:		
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.		
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."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
Given no watercourses or waterbodies occur within the area proposed to be cleared and the amendment application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or underground water quality (GIS Database).		
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."	Not likely to be at variance	No
Assessment:		
Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging (GIS Database).		

# 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.

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

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

Table adapted from Botanica (2025)

Landform	Vegetation group	Code	Vegetation type	Photo
Clay-loam plain	Eucalypt Open Woodlands	CLP- EW1	Low open woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ E. lesouefii over tall shrubland of Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia/ Acacia colletioides and sparse low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain	
Clay-loam plain	Eucalypt Woodlands	CLP- EW4	Low woodland of Eucalyptus Iongicornis over low open woodland of Casuarina pauper and low to mid shrubland of Templetonia egena, Acacia donaldsonii, Alyxia buxifolia, Cratystylis conocephala, Olearia muelleri, Scaevola spinescens on clay-loam plain	

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Clay-loam CLP-Other Low woodland of Shrublands COW1 plain Casuarina pauper over mid open chenopod shrubland of Atriplex nummularia subsp. spathulata/ Maireana sedifolia on clay-loam plain

# Appendix E. Fauna habitats

Table adapted from Botanica (2025)

Fauna habitat	Description	Representative fauna attributes	Photo
Eucalypt (and mallee) woodland on a clay-loam plain	Low open woodland of Eucalyptus salmonophloia/ E. lesouefii/ E. longicornis over Casuarina pauper and shrubland of Senna artemisioides subsp. filifolia/ Acacia colletioides and sparse low mixed shrubland on clay-loam plain	Ground has low to moderate suitability to burrowing species,     Low diversity vegetation strata and low vegetation density,     Low to moderate levels of leaf litter.     Some taller trees may support hollow nesting avifauna.	
Casuarina (open) woodland on a clay-loam plain	Tall shrubland of Casuarina pauper over mid open chenopod shrubland of Atriplex nummularia subsp. spathulata/ Maireana sedifolia on clayloam plain	Ground has low to moderate suitability to burrowing species,     Low diversity vegetation strata and low vegetation density,     Low to moderate levels of leaf litter.     Some taller trees may support hollow nesting avifauna.	

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### Disturbed Area cleared for · Ground not well areas tracks suited to burrowing species. Low value foraging habitat for mammals and avifauna due to lack of native vegetation. Man made structures (e.g., buildings) and



#### 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)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Regulations Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)

remnant

old tin sheets) provide good refuge for reptiles.

- 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)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- **IBRA Vegetation Statistics**
- 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)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- 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
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# 4. 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

Dobe Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)

Dobe 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

**EPAct** 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 <a href="Ministerial Guideline Number 1">Ministerial Guideline Number 1</a> and <a href="Ministerial Guideline Number 2">Ministerial Guideline Number 2</a> that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) <a href="Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria">Red List of Threatened Species Categories and Criteria</a>, 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.

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#### 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).

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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.

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- (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.

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