Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11115/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Mega Resources Pty Ltd
Application received:	9 June 2025
Application area:	83 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 74/249
	Miscellaneous Licence 74/59
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Kondinin
Colloquial name:	Rama Gold Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Mega Resources Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 83 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 165.96 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 96 kilometres southeast of Hyden, within the Shire of Kondinin.

The application is to allow for the clearing of native vegetation for the purpose of mining activities including expanded mine landforms (pit, waste rock dump, ROM pad) and supporting infrastructure (Mega Resources, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	23 December 2025
Decision area:	83 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 one submission was received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix C), relevant datasets (Appendix K), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix G, Appendix H, Appendix I, Appendix J), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix D), 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;
- potential impacts to conservation significant flora;
- the loss of native vegetation that is consistent with Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt priority ecological community, synonymous with the Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt EPBC listed TEC;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*), central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*) and other conservation significant fauna;
- potential land degradation in the form of water and wind 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;
- 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.

1.5. Site map

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

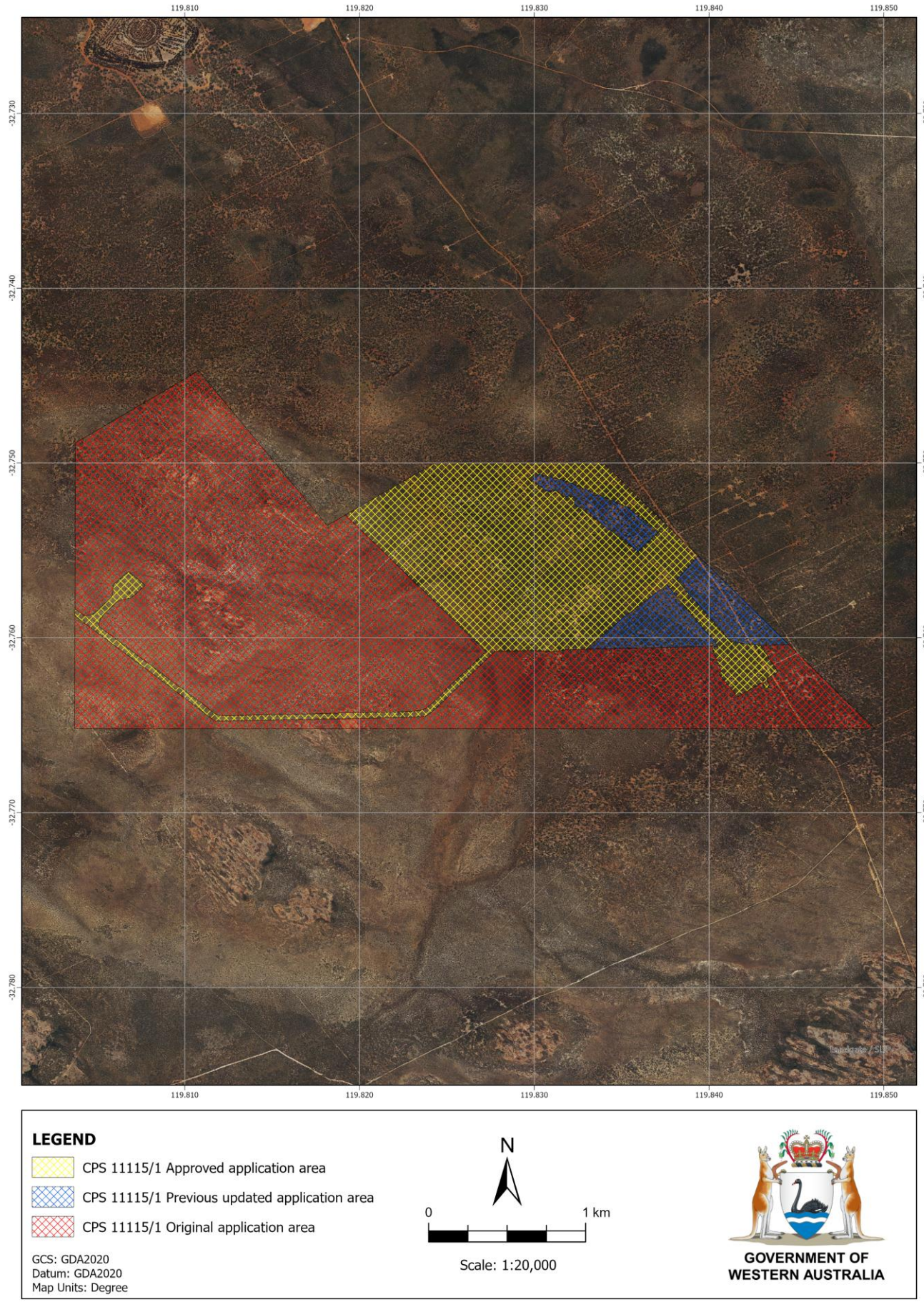

Figure 1. Original application area and final approved application area. The red area indicates the original area which was applied for. The blue area indicates the previous amended application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted 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 (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The original application authorised the clearing of 83 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of 619.8 hectares. During the assessment the scope of the clearing was reviewed, and the clearing boundary was reduced to 243.70 hectares, authorised clearing remained the same (83 hectares) (Appendix F). The clearing permit boundary was then further reduced to 202.76 hectares, during the assessment of Principle (c). The clearing permit boundary was then further reduced to 165.96 hectares, during the assessment of Principle (b) (western rosella (inland) and central long-eared bat). The amount of authorised clearing was revised and reduced to minimise the impact to conservation significant flora, fauna and ecological communities. Further impacts to environmental values can be managed under conditions.

It should be noted that the application area boundary was originally larger than the proposed works to accommodate future mining operations. Due to the lack of recent flora and fauna surveys, and unsurveyed areas within the original permit boundary, the permit boundary was reduced. In future amendments of this permit to new flora and fauna surveys should be conducted to adequately assess the impact of 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 C) 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 (fauna, flora and 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 (threatened and priority flora, and ecological community) - Clearing principles (a), (c) and (d)

Assessment

Terratree undertook a flora and vegetation survey, and targeted flora survey in September and October 2018, respectively, the survey was conducted over majority of the application area (Figure 4), and at other sites approximately 40 to 60 kilometres north of the application area (Terratree 2018; GIS Database). Terratree (2018) identified one possible limitation from this survey; the targeted survey was conducted prior to the finalisation of plant identifications from the flora and vegetation survey, this led to botanist not focusing on thoroughly searching for some priority 2 and 3 species identified post targeted survey.

To address the limitations presented in the 2018 flora survey, an additional targeted flora survey for threatened and priority flora, and Threatened Ecological Communities was conducted by Terratree in May 2021 (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). A limitation of this survey was that vegetation was recovering from a bushfire that had occurred in 2019 (Appendix H) (Terratree, 2021b). Because vegetation had not sufficiently recovered by May 2021, a conclusive assessment of the presence or absence of priority and threatened taxa could not be made (Terratree, 2021b).

Terratree (2021a) undertook a follow up targeted survey in September of 2021 to satisfy the flora management condition set to be placed on an underlying clearing permit (CPS 9371/1) over the application area. No priority or threatened flora or suitable habitat for threatened species *Boronia revoluta* and *Tetratheca aphylla* subsp. *megacarpa* was recorded (Terratree, 2021a).

Threatened flora

No threatened flora was recorded within the application area; however, three threatened flora species are known within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) (Appendix C.3) (Terratree, 2018; 2021b; GIS Database). *Boronia revoluta* (VU) and *Tetratheca aphylla* subsp. *megacarpa* (VU), were not identified in the 2018 flora survey or 2021 targeted flora survey (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). *Banksia dolichostyla* (VU) was recorded in the 2018 survey at a site 50 kilometres north of the application area (Terratree, 2018). None of these threatened species have records within conservation estate (GIS Database).

Banksia dolichostyla inhabits iron-capped hills and rises on ironstone (lateritic) soil profiles, with low woodland and low shrubland, associated with *Banksia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. (DEWHA, 2008a). However, this species is also known to occur in clay loam and loam soils (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

In the 2018 flora survey *Banksia dolichostyla* was recorded on a steep hill slope within *Eucalyptus livida*, *Allocasuarina huegeliana*, *Hibbertia exasperate* (ElAhHe) heathland community which is not present within the application area (Terratree, 2018). The application area contains suitable soil for this species; however suitable vegetation is not present.

Boronia revoluta is an erect shrub, 0.5-1.5 metres high, that flowers pink, from July to August, this species inhabits well drained, sandy loam and laterite on top of ridges and small hills, within semi-arid mallee scrub or heath with occasional emergent eucalypt species (DEWHA, 2008b; WA Herbarium, 1998-). The application area provides suitable soil for this species and EsMhHg, EfAbAd and EcDnAb vegetation communities are likely to provide suitable habitat (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). A likelihood assessment undertaken by Terratree (2021b) determined this species to be “potentially occurring” within the application area. However, a follow up targeted survey conducted in September 2021 determined the application area did not contain suitable habitat for this species (Terratree, 2021a).

Tetratheca aphylla subsp. *megacarpa* is a shrub to 0.35 metres high, which inhabits open mallee heath or heathlands dominated by proteaceous and myrtaceous species over sand and sandy loams, sometimes with laterite on rises and ridges (DBCA, 2021; WA Herbarium, 1998). This species is known from few records in remanent vegetation within the intensive land use zone of Western Australia, none of which are protected by conservation estate (GIS Database). The application area provides suitable soil and vegetation, within EsMhHg vegetation community, this species is considered to have the potential to occur within the application area (Terratree, 2021b). A follow up targeted survey conducted in September 2021 determined the application area did not contain suitable habitat for this species (Terratree, 2021a).

Priority flora

There are 37 records of priority flora within the local surrounds, and the application area contains suitable habitat or soil for most species known within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) (Appendix C.3) (Terratree, 2018; 2021b; WA Herbarium, 1998-; GIS Database). *Cryptandra polyclada* subsp. *polyclada, Spyridium mucronatum* subsp. *recurvum, Lepidosperma amantiferrum* and *Jennata indira* subsp. *monstrosita, Acacia sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula, Spyridium mucronatum* subsp. *recurvum* were previously recorded within one kilometre of the application area in the 2018 Terratree flora survey (Figure 5). However, these species were not recorded post-fire (Terratree, 2021a; 2021b).

Given these species have previously been recorded adjacent to the application area, there is potential for these species to occur within the application area. However, impact is likely to be low as suitable habitat is present within the surrounds, and all species - excluding *Lepidosperma amantiferrum*, and *Acacia sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula* - are known from conservation estate (WA Herbarium, 1998 -; GIS Database). *Lepidosperma amantiferrum* was recorded from a small granite outcrop within vegetation community 21 (EsMhHg) which is largely absent from the application area due to the reduction in the permit boundary (Terratree, 2018; 2020). Potential impacts to *Acacia sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula* and *Grevillea lullfitzii*, are also likely to be low, as these species were recorded from vegetation communities 19 (EeMsWc), 21 (EsMhHg) and 23 (EcDnAb) which are absent or largely excised from the current application area (Terratree, 2018; 2020).

Additionally, the permit boundary has been reduced to be closer to the approved mining footprint and pre-existing cleared land, allowing more areas suitable habitat to remain outside the application area. The reduction of the clearing footprint has resulted in vegetation communities 21 (EsMhHg), 22 (EfAbAd) and 23 (EcDnAb) having significantly less representation within the application area. It is recommended that any future expansions to mining operations will require new flora surveys to conclusively determine the presence or absence of priority flora that have potential to occur within the application area.

Ecological Community

Terratree (2021) undertook a Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) search to determine the extent of the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian (WA) Wheatbelt TEC (EPBC Act) / PEC (WA) within the application area (Terratree, 2021). This TEC search was undertaken as a result of the 2018 flora and vegetation survey recording vegetation communities consistent with the description of this TEC.

The structure of this TEC is described as; a woodland in which the minimum crown cover of the tree canopy in a mature woodland is 10%. The key dominant or co-dominant species of the tree canopy are species of Eucalyptus trees that typically have a single trunk. Native understorey is present but is of variable composition, being a combination of grasses, other herbs and shrubs (DBCA, 2025).

Vegetation communities 18 (EuMpMa) and 20 (EsDnEd) both meet all the criteria of this TEC (Terratree, 2021b), with one criterion of this TEC is that vegetation must be in “reasonably intact condition” (Good, Very Good, Excellent and Pristine on the Keighery (1994) scale) (Terratree, 2021b). Prior to the 2019 fire these communities were considered Excellent (Terratree, 2018; 2021b). However, the impact of fire is natural and temporary as the vegetation will regenerate, therefore these communities meet the criteria (Terratree, 2021b). Terratree (2021b) has mapped the indicative extent of the TEC which intersects the

application area (Figure 11). The reduction of the clearing footprint has removed the majority of the indicatively mapped TEC from the application area, and the areas remaining have been previously disturbed (GIS Database).

Spread of invasive flora and dieback

No invasive flora species or Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) were identified in the flora surveys (Terratree, 2018; 2020; 2021a; 2021b). However, Bamford Consulting (2020) noted low levels of weed invasion in the application area, post fire. The application area is located on the north of the dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) vulnerable zone boarder (DBCA, 2023). The vulnerable zone indicates areas of the southwest which receive 400 millimetres or more annual rainfall (DBCA, 2023).

Conclusion

Threatened flora

Prior to the follow up survey conducted in September 2021 the application area was considered to contain suitable habitat for *Boronia revoluta* and *Tetratheca aphylla* subsp. *megacarpa*. The boundary of the application area has been further minimised to excise the majority of suitable habitat for these species; therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact on any local populations that may occur

Priority flora

The clearing of suitable habitat for priority flora is not likely to significantly impact these species as suitable habitat extends into the surrounding areas, and the vegetation within the application area has large tracts of existing disturbance and degradation.

Threatened Ecological Community

Vegetation consistent with the Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian (WA) Wheatbelt TEC is present within the application area. However, the application area has since been reduced to excise vegetation associated with the TEC, that was present within the east and southeast of the original application area. There is still some suitable vegetation within the application area on the eastern side of the application area within 18 (EuMpMa), however this area has been heavily disturbed from previous clearing and is not likely to impact the existence and maintenance of this TEC.

Invasive flora and dieback

Unnamed weed species are known to be present in low levels within the application area; these weeds have the potential to outcompete native species and negatively impact biodiversity within and adjacent to the application area. To reduce the spread of weeds within the application area and adjacent areas a weed management condition will be placed on the permit.

The spread of dieback within the application area and surrounding areas is unlikely to occur given annual rainfall is below 400 millimetres (DBCA, 2023; BOM, 2025).

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

3.2.2. Biological values (conservation significant fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Bamford Consulting Ecologists (Bamford Consulting) undertook a fauna impact assessment over the application area on 23 June 2020, during this survey one malleefowl mound was recorded within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020). Two habitat types were identified; Tall open woodland over Melaleuca shrubland (VSA 1), and Mallee woodland over mixed shrubland (VSA 2) (Figure 12;13) (Bamford Consulting, 2020). VSA1 is more likely to contain trees with large hollows, which may be suitable for fauna roost or nest in (Figure 11) (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Bamford Consulting (2020) identified that the recent fire that impacted the application area in December 2019, likely impacted the abundance of species within the application area at the time of the fauna survey.

Brush wallaby

The brush wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*, P4) inhabits open woodlands and forests, mallee, heathlands, shrublands, from north of Kalbarri to Cape Arid, east of Esperance (CALM, n.d.; Bamford Consulting, 2020). This species is considered a likely resident within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Chuditch

The chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*, VU) inhabits drier woodlands and mallee shrubland within the wheatbelt and goldfields region and woodlands, mallee shrublands and heaths along the south coast of Western Australia east to Ravensthorpe (DEC, 2012). Chuditch are known from similar habitats within Mount Holland and Forrestania areas, north of the application area, and are likely to utilise similar vegetation within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020). Male chuditch are known to occupy home ranges of 1,500 hectares and females, 300 to 400 hectares, home ranges may overlap (DEC, 2012). Bamford Consulting (2020) determined that the application area may represent just part of the home range for very few animals, and that chuditch

would occur at very low density. Bamford Consulting (2020) also identified that fire may impact the presence of individuals within the application area, however given the time since fire this may no longer be a concern.

Carnaby's cockatoo

The application area is likely to contain low quality foraging habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*, EN), given the absence of key food sources such as *Banksia* and *Hakea* species (Bamford Consulting, 2020). The application area is located at the eastern extent of this species range, however there are suitable hollow trees within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) and multiple confirmed breeding sites within 60 kilometres (Bamford Consulting, 2020; GIS Database). Carnaby's cockatoos are known to travel 12 kilometres from breeding sites, however due to increased habitat fragmentation birds have been known to travel further than 12 kilometres (EPA, 2019). Given the distance of known breeding sites this species is considered to be an irregular, non-breeding, visitor to the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Central long-eared bat

The central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*, P3) inhabits dry woodlands and shrublands in arid and semi-arid regions (Menkhorst & Knight, 2011), this species mainly roosts within tree hollows or under loose bark and in other crevices (Menkhorst & Knight, 2011). This species is considered to be a resident within the application area and rely on tree hollows for roosting (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Heath mouse

The heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*, VU) inhabits species-rich dry heathland, and open woodland and forest habitats with a heath understorey, with a preference for structurally complex heath (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016). Within Western Australia this species has not been recorded within vegetation less than 10 years post fire (Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016), as fire has occurred approximately five years ago habitat is significantly less suitable for this species.

Lake Cronin snake

The Lake Cronin snake (*Paroplocephalus atriceps*) is known from semi-arid woodlands and outcrops distributed from around Lake Cronin and Peak Eleanora east to Norseman. This species is likely to utilise habitat within the application area; however, suitable habitat extends into the local surrounds.

Malleefowl

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU) occur in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush *Melaleuca uncinata* and native pine *Callitris* spp. scrub (DEWHA, 2017). Malleefowl construct their mounds in sandy or loamy soils where leaf litter is abundant (National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016).

One inactive malleefowl mound was recorded within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020). Bamford Consulting (2020) noted that the recent fire at the time of the fauna survey, likely reduced the application area's value to malleefowl in the short term. However, given vegetation has had time to regenerate the application area may be more suitable for malleefowl, additionally malleefowl are known to renovate old mounds (National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016).

Peregrine falcon

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, OS) is widespread throughout Australia and inhabits a wide range of habitats, this species nests within recesses of cliff faces, tree hollows or in abandoned nests of other large bird species and is considered a regular visitor within application area (Australian Museum, 2019; Bamford Consulting, 2020). The application area is unlikely to contain landforms and large trees suitable to host this species for nesting, however the application area may contain minimal foraging habitat (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Western rosella (inland)

The western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*, P4) occurs within the southwest of the Great Western Woodlands and is a very likely resident within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020; Fox et al., 2016). This species was formerly known throughout the Wheatbelt, however is now primarily known from the south-west edge of the Great Western Woodlands, where the application area is located (Bamford Consulting, 2020; Fox at al., 2016). Western rosella habitat has been heavily fragmented and disturbed (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

This species inhabits drier eucalypt and sheoak woodlands and scrubs, especially those containing wandoo (*Eucalyptus wandoo*), flooded gum (*E. grandis*), salmon gum (*E. salmonophloia*), tall mallee and rock sheoak (*Allocasuarina huegeliana*) (DEC, 2009). This species nests within hollows of marri (*Corymbia calophylla*), wandoo, york gum (*E. loxophleba*), flooded gum and salmon gum, however, is also known to nest is hollow stumps or posts (Birdlife, 2017; DEC, 2009). Western rosella's have also shown an association with granite outcrops, which have higher water availability and more productive vegetation (Fox et al., 2016).

Whilst preferred eucalypt and sheoak species are absent from the application area, tall eucalypt species are present within the application area, additionally many granite outcrops are present within five kilometres of the application area which may be utilised by this species (GIS Database).

Conclusion

Brush wallaby

The application area likely contains suitable habitat for this species however noting this species range and the presence of suitable habitat outside of the application area this species is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing. Impacts of the proposed clearing can be minimised through the implementation of a slow directional clearing condition.

Chuditch

This species is likely present in low numbers within the application area and makes up part of some individuals home range. Given this species large home range and presence of suitable habitat within the surrounds the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact this species. Impacts of the proposed clearing can be minimised through the implementation of a slow directional clearing condition.

Carnaby's cockatoo

This species is likely an irregular visitor to the application area, as the application area provides low quality foraging habitat for this species it is unlikely the proposed clearing will significantly impact this species.

Central long-eared bat and Western rosella (inland)

The central long-eared bat and western rosella (inland) are considered to be likely residents and very likely residents, respectively. Both these species are known to utilise tree hollows for roosting and breeding. It is unknown the suitability of tree hollows within the application area for these two species, therefore, to reduce impacts to these species the application area has further been reduced to exclude VSA 1 habitat which contains potentially suitable trees for roosting and nesting.

These species may utilise the application area for foraging, however given suitable habitat extends beyond the permit boundary, and the existing habitat lacks preferred foraging vegetation for the western rosella, it is not likely the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on these species. In future amendments of this application fauna surveys should include tree hollow assessments to determine suitability for these species.

Heath mouse

The application area is not likely to contain suitable habitat for this species given the presence of fire within the past ten years; therefore it is unlikely this species will significantly impacted by the proposed clearing as it is likely absent from the application area.

Peregrine falcon

This species is not likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing, as foraging habitat is not restricted to the application area and application area is unlikely to contain suitable nesting habitat.

Lake Cronin snake

The application area likely contains suitable habitat for this species, however given that suitable habitat extends into the surrounding areas, the proposed clearing is not likely to significantly impact this specie. Potential impacts can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

Malleefowl

This species is known to occur within the application area, however given that suitable habitat extends into the surrounding areas, the proposed clearing is not likely to impact this specie.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 2 September 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application (Appendix B).

The permit area is within the South West Native Title Settlement area (DPLH, 2025). This settlement resolves Native Title rights and interests over an area of approximately 200,000 square kilometres within the southwest of Western Australia. 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 Ironcap Boronia (*Boronia revoluta*, VU), Bungalbin Tetratheca (*Tetratheca aphylla* subsp. *megacarpa*, VU), malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*, VU), and chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroiil*, VU), which are a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Mapped extent of clearing within the application area.	Information provided was considered during the assessment this NVCP.
Proponent's request to keep amount of authorised clearing amount at 83 hectares, as opposed to true amount of clearing required for CPS 11115/1 for internal compliance and AER.	Information provided was considered during the assessment this NVCP.
Acceptance to reduce application area (619.80 ha to 243.70 ha).	Information provided was considered during the assessment of Principle (b), (a) and Section 3.1 Avoidance and mitigation measures.
Acceptance to further reduced application area (243.70 ha to 202. 76).	Information provided was considered during the assessment of Principle (c), (a) and Section 3.1 Avoidance and mitigation measures.
Acceptance to further reduced application area (202. 76 to 165.96).	Information provided was considered during the assessment of Principle (b) (western rosella (inland) and central long-eared bat), (a) and Section 3.1 Avoidance and mitigation measures.

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments
One submission was received raising no objections to the proposed clearing.

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is within a largely intact tract of native vegetation within the western extremity of the Great Western Woodlands, adjacent to the intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the Western Mallee subregion is dry-land agriculture, conservation, UCL and Crown reserves, roads and other easements (CALM, 2002). Within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) extensive clearing has been conducted west of the application area for agricultural use, clearing for mining activities is also present within the local surrounds (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area is not location within any conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest legislated conservation area is Jackson Nature Reserve, approximately six kilometres southwest of the application are (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area occurs within the IBRA Mallee bioregion in the Western Mallee (MAL2) subregion (GIS Database) The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations: • **Forrestania 519:** Shrublands; mallee scrub, Eucalyptus eremophila; and • **Forrestania 936:** Medium woodland; salmon gum (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over majority of the application area by Terratree during in September 2018. Additional targeted surveys were undertaken by Terratree in October 2021. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Terratree, 2018; 2021b): • **18 (EuMpMa):** Tall open woodland of *Eucalyptus urna* and *Eucalyptus extensa* over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *pauperiflora*, *Melaleuca adnata* and *Melaleuca thyoides* shrubland over low sparse *Microcybe albiflora*, *Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Olearia muelleri*; • **21 (EsMhHg):** Sparse open mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus subangusta* subsp. *subangusta*, *Eucalyptus pileata* and *Eucalyptus scyphocalyx* over closed shrubland of *Melaleuca hamata*, *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subs *acutivalvis* over *Hibbertia gracilipes* and *Gastrolobium spinosum*;

Characteristic	Details
	• **22 (EfAbAd):** Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus flocktoniae* subs *flocktoniae* and *Eucalyptus pileata* over shrubland of *Acacia binata*, *Melaleuca johnsonii*, and *Acacia ?sclerophylla* var. *teretiuscula*, over *Acacia deficiens* and *Grevillea huegelii*; and • **23 (EcDnAb):** Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus calycogona* subsp. *calycogona*, *Eucalyptus extensa* and *Eucalyptus salubris* over shrubland of *Daviesia nematophylla*, *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *pauperiflora*, *Daviesia aphylla* and *Melaleuca villosisepala* over *Acacia binata*, *Pultenaea arida*, *Grevillea acuaria* and *Acacia deficiens*.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (Teatree, 2018; 2021b) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Completely Degraded to Excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition., The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Western Mallee (MAL2) region is warm Mediterranean, the average annual rainfall is 327.3 millimetres recorded at Holt Rock (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002). The application area is situated on a broad, high-level plain, mapped within elevation areas of 380 to 410 meters Australian height datum (AHD) (DPIRD, 2021; GIS Database). The highest point of the application area is in the north-east, at approximately 410 AHD, the lowest point is situated at the south margin of the application at approximately 390 ADH (DPIRD, 2021).
Soil description	The soil is mapped as a part of the following land systems (DPIRD, 2021; GIS Database): • **Newdegate system (250Nw):** Undulating terrain with rock outcrops and lateritic breakaways (gently undulating rises, gently undulating plains) on deeply weathered mantle over granitic rocks (DPIRD, 2021). Soils are grey and yellow/brown sandy duplexes, alkaline grey shallow duplexes, shallow gravels and duplex sandy gravels (DPIRD, 2021). The vegetation of this land system contains low woodlands of Mallee-form *Eucalyptus* with understorey of *Melaleuca* heath with lesser areas of *Allocasuarina* low woodland and Proteaceous heath on ironstone gravelly uplands; and • **Perilya system (260Pe):** Ferruginous greenstone footslopes, rolling rises and colluvial slopes, supporting eucalypt woodlands with sclerophyllous understoreys. The application area is likely to occur within footslopes or low rises of the Perilya land system and undulating plains and drainage tracts of the Newdegate land system (DPIRD, 2021). The most common soil types likely to be present within the application area are alkaline red shallow (and deep) loamy duplexes and alkaline yellow-brown shallow sandy duplexes (DPIRD, 2021).
Land degradation risk	The Newdegate system is generally resistant to erosion, however, is prone to fire which can cause temporary loss of stabilising perennial vegetation and expose sandy surfaces to wind erosion (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Stony mantles and dense vegetation of the Perilya land system mean it is generally not prone to erosion, unless the protective stone mantle is disturbed (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is reduced or the soil surface disturbed (Waddell and Galloway, 2023).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no watercourses within the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within the Kondinin-Ravensthorpe Groundwater Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (GIS Database). The nearest Public Drinking Water source area is the Ravensthorpe Catchment Area approximately 95 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database). There are no wetlands of conservation significance within the application area, within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) there are numerous Wheatbelt Wetland sites (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is between approximately 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).
Flora	There are 40 records of conservation significant flora within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) (GIS Database) (Appendix C.3).
Ecological communities	There are two known priority ecological communities within the local surrounds (10 kilometres); Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill) (greenstone ranges) and Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (GIS Database). Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt is recognised as a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and vegetation within the application area has been identified as synonymous with this TEC.
Fauna	There are six conservation significant fauna species within the local surrounds (10 kilometres) and a further five conservation significant fauna of concern (Bamford, Consulting, 2020; GIS

Characteristic	Details
	Database) (Appendix C.4). A malleefowl mound has previously been recorded within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020).
Fauna habitat	Two fauna habitats (vegetation/substrate associations (VSA)) were identified within the application area (Bamford Consulting, 2020): • **VSA 1:** Tall open woodland over Melaleuca shrubland (EuMpMa); and • **VSA 2:** Mallee woodland over mixed shrubland (EsMhHg, EfAbAd and EcDnAb).

C.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 - Mallee	7,395,894.36	4,180,937.68	56.53	1,289,384.08	17.43
IBRA Subregion - Western Mallee	3,981,717.82	1,471,047.68	36.95	364,866.52	9.16
Local Government - Kondinin	741,935.21	398,032.17	53.65	25,305.42	3.41
Beard vegetation associations - State					
519	2,333,413.96	1,440,062.48	61.71	244,095.67	10.46
936	698,752.00	676,689.18	96.84	28,010.13	4.01
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
519	2,100,313.59	1,248,661.16	59.45	225,928.43	10.76
936	77,221.73	60,707.72	78.61	8,444.00	10.93
Beard vegetation associations - subregion					
519	1,563,571.27	783,034.13	50.08	196,333.92	12.56
936	44,717.48	28,611.15	63.98	7,385.66	16.52

Government of Western Australia (2019)

C.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix K.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (Terratree, 2018; 2020; 2021a; 2021b; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Threatened - Vulnerable					
Banksia dolichostyla	Y	N	Y	4	65
Boronia revoluta	Y	Y	Y	8	21
Tetratheca aphylla subsp. *megacarpa*	Y	Y	Y	7	14
Priority One					
Acacia sclerophylla var. *teretiuscula*	Y	Y	Y	1	30
Acacia tetraneura	Y	Y	Y	6	24
Grevillea lullfitzii	Y	Y	Y	1	24
Hibbertia axillibarba	Y	N	Y	8	9
Hibbertia carinata	Y	N	Y	8	13
Lepidosperma amantiferrum	Y	Y	Y	1	16

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Stenanthemum liberum	N	N	Y	2	9
Priority Two					
Acacia heterochroa subsp. *robertii*	N	N	Y	2	21
Balaustion grandibracteatum subsp. *junctura*	N	N	Y	9	41
Balaustion thamnoides	Y	N	Y	9	24
Orianthera exilis	N	Y	Y	3	10
Styphelia platyneura	N	N	Y	8	13
Priority Three					
Acacia singula	Y	N	Y	2	33
Anticoryne melanosperma	Y	Y	Y	5	23
Banksia lullfitzii	N	N	N	7	25
Banksia rufa subsp. *flavescens*	Y	N	Y	8	31
Banksia viscida	N	N	N	2	27
Calytrix nematoclada	N	Y	N	8	30
Cryptandra polyclada subsp. polyclada	Y	Y	Y	1	19
Eucalyptus polita subsp. *ocreata*	Y	Y	Y	2	18
Euchilus daena	N	N	N	4	19
Eutaxia acanthoclada	Y	Y	Y	10	21
Grevillea insignis subsp. *elliotii*	N	N	Y	1	22
Isoetes brevicula	N	N/A	N	2	10
Jennata indira subsp. monstrosita	Y	Y	Y	1	15
Mirbelia densiflora	N	N	Y	9	23
Phebalium brachycalyx	N	N	Y	2	25
Spyridium mucronatum subsp. recurvum	Y	Y	Y	1	13
Stylidium sejunctum	N	N	Y	6	34
Styphelia subglauca	N	N	Y	8	10
Priority Four					
Eremophila inflata	Y	N	Y	9	30
Eremophila racemosa	Y	N	Y	8	36
Eucalyptus deflexa	Y	N	Y	8	61
Eucalyptus rugulata	N	N	Y	2	17
Grevillea aneura	Y	N	Y	10	52
Grevillea prostrata	Y	N	Y	10	39
Gyrostemon ditrigynus	Y	N	Y	3	39

C.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix K.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (Bamford Consulting, 2020; Terratree, 2020; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Birds					
Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*)	EN	Y	Y – limited foraging	2	Unlikely irregular visitor

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)	OS	N	Y	8	Likely regular visitor
Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*)	VU	Y	Y	0	Known resident
Western rosella (inland) (*Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys*)	P4	Y	Y	3	Very likely resident
Mammals					
Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*)	P3	Y	Y	54	Likely resident
Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*)	VU	Y	Y	20	Likely resident
Heath mouse (*Pseudomys shortridgei*)	VU	Y	Y	4	N/A
Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*)	CD	N	N	>70	Possible irregular visitor
Western brush wallaby (*Notamacropus irma*)	P4	Y	Y	4	Likely resident
Reptiles					
Lake Cronin snake (*Paroplocephalus atriceps*)	P3	Y	Y	12	Possible resident
Invertebrates					
Arid Bronze Azure Butterfly	CR	N	N	>250	N/A

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

C.5. Ecological community analysis table

Community name	Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
	WA	EPBC					
Ironcap Hills vegetation assemblages (Mt Holland, Middle, North and South Ironcap Hills, Digger Rock and Hatter Hill)	P3	N/A	N	N	N	<1	Y
Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt	P3	CR	Y	Y	Y	0	Y

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared contains regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, and assemblages of plants.	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:	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat for conservation significant fauna.		
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain habitat for flora species listed under the BC Act.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
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 area proposed to be cleared contains some vegetation that is indicative of the 'Eucalypt Woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt', a critically endangered threatened ecological community (TEC) under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) (DBCA, 2025; Terratree 2021). This community is listed as a Priority three Priority Ecological Community in Western Australia (DBCA, 2025).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, 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 is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix C.2). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: The application area is adjacent to Proposed Nature Reserve R9 (PNR 58), this area is identified within the South Coast Management Plan as "R9" (pers comm. DBCA; CALM, 1992; GIS Database). This area represents substrates associated with outcrop gills of granite and ironstone, plant communities associated with these outcrops include declared rare flora and many endemic species which are not represented on reserves elsewhere (CALM, 1992). Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is may impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas, impacts can be managed through weed management measures.	May be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within 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 susceptible to wind and water erosion, when vegetation is removed or stony mantle is disturbed (DPIRD, 2021; Waddell and Galloway, 2023). Noting the extent and location of the application area the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Potential erosion impacts as a result of the proposed clearing can be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetation cover for extended periods. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in the development of on or offsite salinity, given the presence of vegetation within the surrounds, the groundwater trend beneath this vegetation is most likely to remain stable (DPIRD, 2021).	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The application has a low-risk rating for Phosphorus Export risk since the soil is alkaline and has a high Phosphorus Buffering Index (DPIRD, 2021). Most likely mode of phosphorus export is by particulate loss via water erosion (DPIRD, 2021).		
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 no permanent water courses or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality. As discussed in Principle (i) The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in the development of on or offsite salinity, significant alteration of groundwater levels, and eutrophication is likely to only occur via water erosion, however risk of eutrophication is low given alkalinity of soils within the area (DPIRD, 2021).	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: Flood hazard is likely to be low or very low as the application area is situated high in the local landscape (DPIRD, 2021). Waterlogging risk is likely to be exacerbated within low-lying areas, as removal of vegetation from surrounding plains and rises will increase run-off (DPIRD, 2021). However, it is unlikely to cause significant detriment to off-site vegetation, even in the instance of extreme rainfall events (DPIRD, 2021).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix E. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

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

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

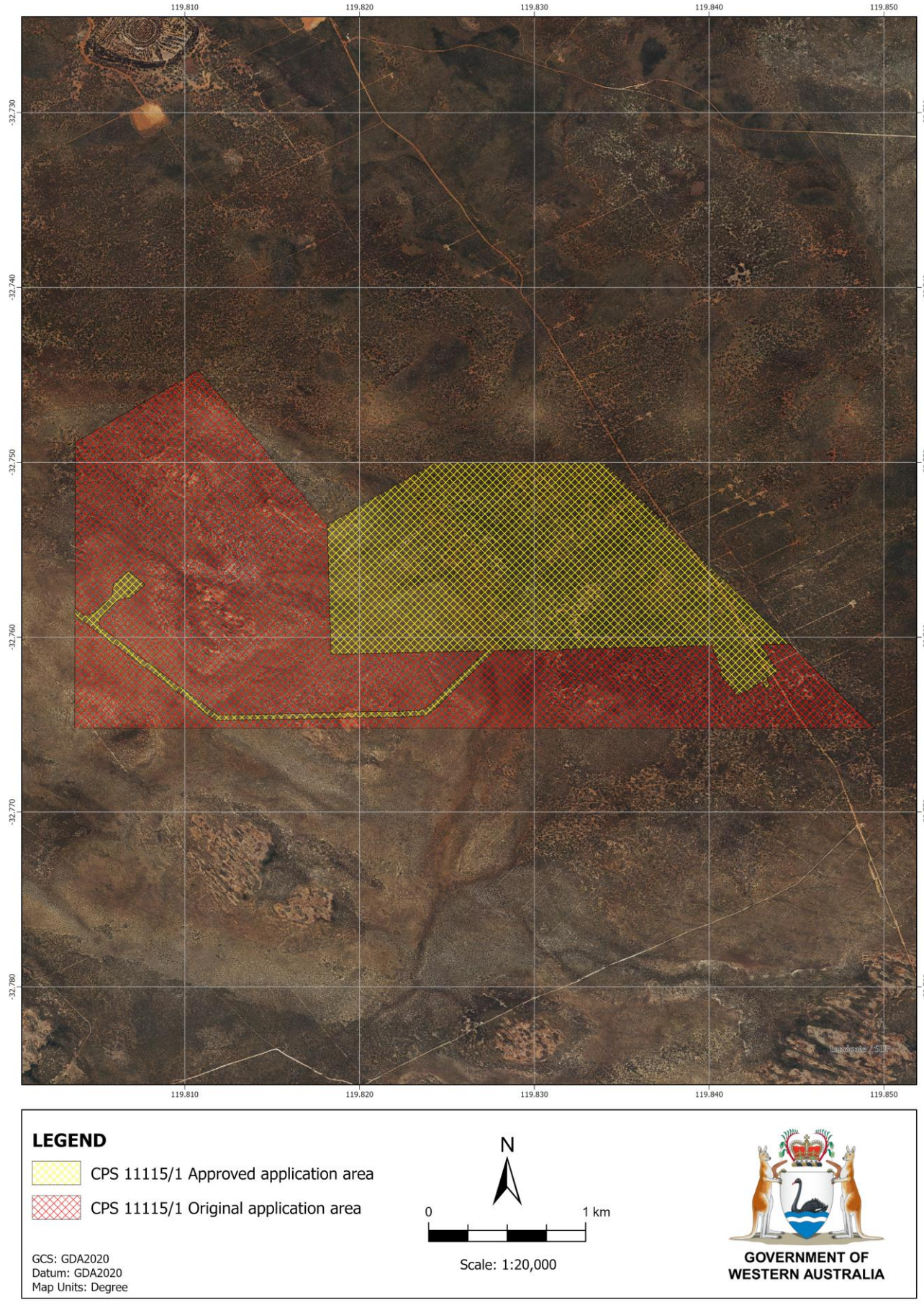

Figure 2. Reduced application area prior to assessment of Principle (c) (GIS Database).

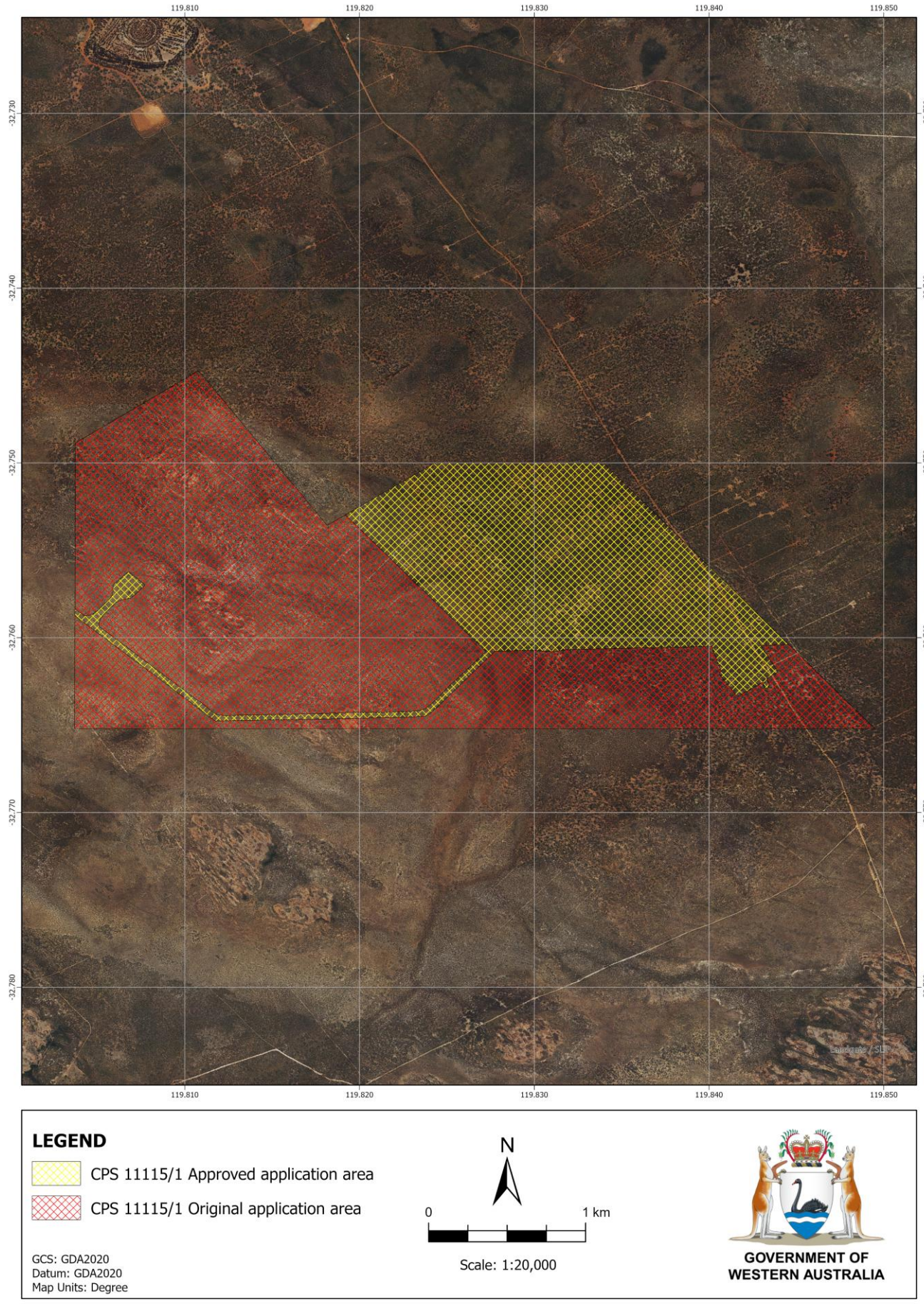

Figure 3. Reduced application area prior to assessment of Principle (b) (western rosella (inland) and central long-eared bat) (GIS Database).

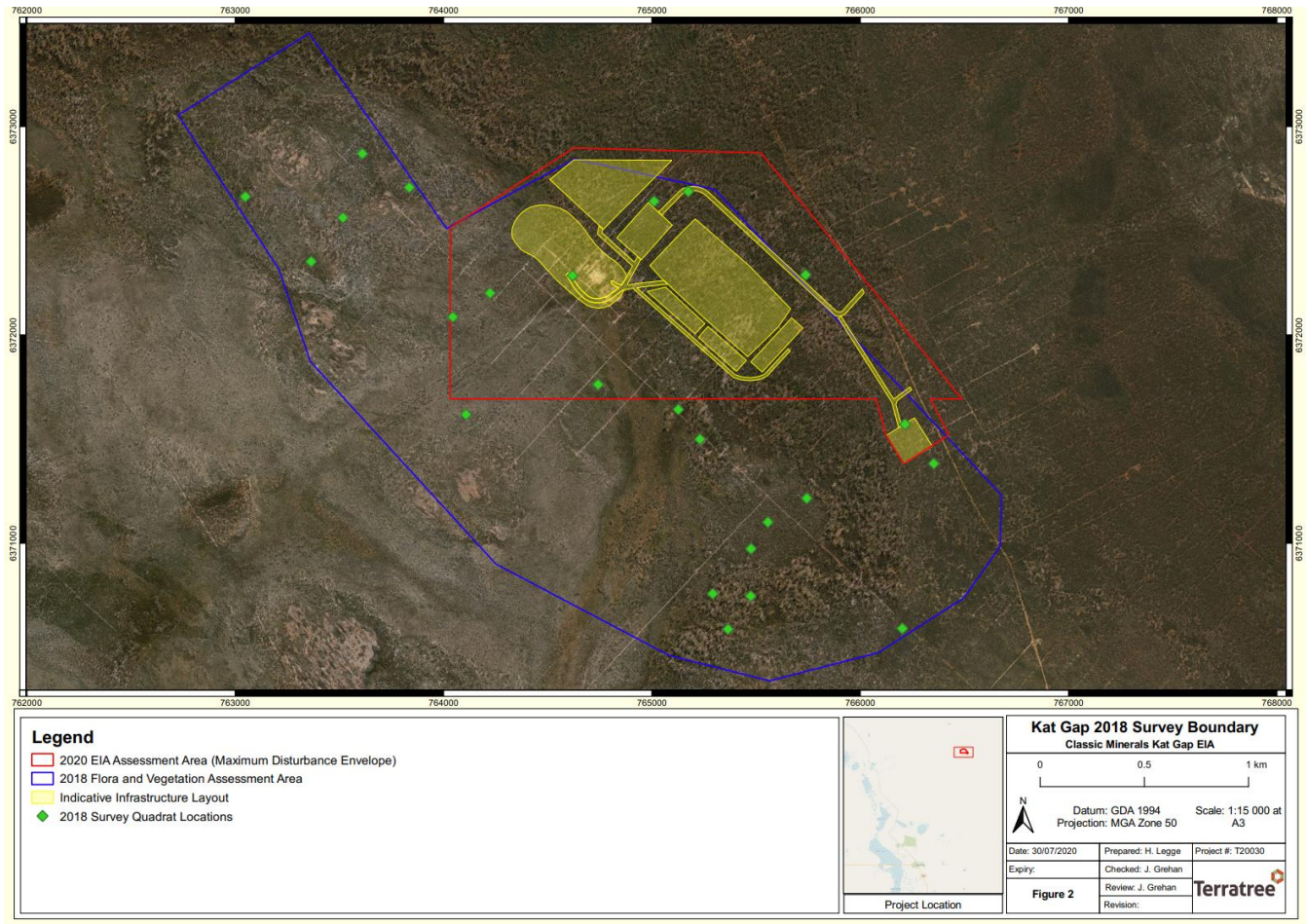

Figure 4. Terratree (2018) flora survey effort (Terratree, 2020).

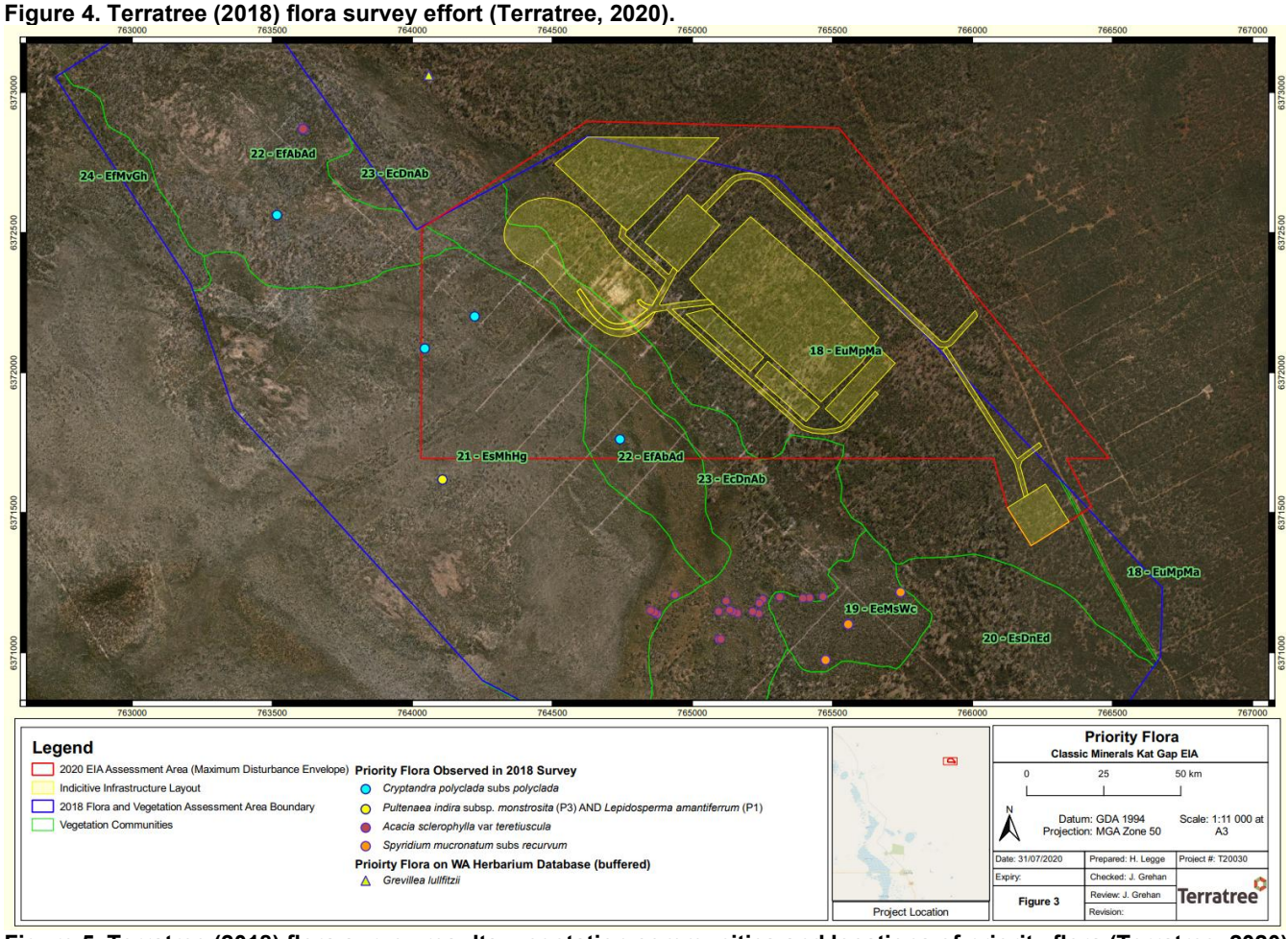

Figure 5. Terratree (2018) flora survey results; vegetation communities and locations of priority flora (Terratree, 2020).

Appendix H. Vegetation communities pre and post-fire

Figure 6. Aerial photo of exploration camp at Kat Gap (now Rama Gold Project) and surrounding vegetation in May 2021, post-2019 bushfire (Terratree, 2021b).

Figure 7. EuMpMa vegetation community in 2018, pre-2019 bushfire (Terratree, 2021b).

Figure 8. EuMpMa vegetation community in 2021, post-2019 bushfire (Terratree, 2021b).

Figure 9. EsMhHg vegetation community in 2018, pre-2019 bushfire (Terratree, 2021b).

Figure 10. EsMhHg vegetation community in 2021, post-2019 bushfire (Terratree, 2021b).

Appendix I.Ecological community extent within the application area

Figure 11. Indicative occurrence of the Eucalypt Woodlands of the WA Wheatbelt Threatened Ecological Community (Terratree, 2021b).

Figure 12. VSA 1, Tall open woodland over Melaleuca shrubland post fire (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Figure 13. VSA 2, Mallee woodland over mixed shrubland, post fire (Bamford Consulting, 2020).

Appendix K. Sources of information

K.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)

- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Title (NNTT) (LGATE-004)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Waterways Conservation Act Management Areas (DWER-072)
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Black Cockatoo Roosting Sites
- Forest Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- White-Tailed Black Cockatoo Breeding Sites
- Black Cockatoo BC Feeding SCP
- Black Cockatoo Feeding JF
- Black Cockatoo Feeding Areas Buffered
- Black Cockatoo Baudin's Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Forest Red Tail Distribution
- Black Cockatoo Carnaby's Distribution
- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

K.2. References

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	*Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*, Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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