



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Permit number: | 11134/1 |
| Permit type: | Purpose permit |
| Applicant name: | Nexus Walbrook Pty Ltd |
| Application received: | 13 June 2025 |
| Application area: | 120 hectares |
| Purpose of clearing: | Mineral production and associated activities |
| Method of clearing: | Mechanical removal |
| Tenure: | Mining Lease 31/231 Mining Lease 31/251 |
| Location (LGA area/s): | Shire of Menzies |
| Colloquial name: | Templar Gold Project |

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Nexus Wallbrook Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 120 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 154 hectares for their Templar Gold Project. The project is located approximately 127 kilometres north-north-east of Kalgoorlie, within the Shire of Menzies.

The application is to allow for clearing to enable the development of mining pits and the construction of associated infrastructure, including but not limited to waste dumps, topsoil stockpiles, run-of-mine pad, water dams, laydowns, building and workshops, and roads and utility corridors (Nexus Minerals, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Decision: | Grant |
| Decision date: | 19 February 2026 |
| Decision area: | 120 hectares of native vegetation |

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of fauna, flora, and vegetation surveys the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The 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 is suitable habitat for fauna
- potential land degradation in the form of 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 impacts 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
- 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 51O of the EP Act (Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Avoidance and mitigation measures for clearing and the overall operation are set out in the report supporting the Native Vegetation Clearing permit application (Nexus, 2025a) and Mining Proposal (now Mining Development and Closure Proposal) for the project (Nexus, 2025b). Key measures are summarised below:

Clearing and vegetation management

- proposed clearing will be demarcated by a surveyor using high visibility tape / survey pegs to ensure clear visual boundaries for operators prior to clearing commencement or alternatively a spotter with handheld GPS will guide clearing;
- a toolbox meeting will be held between the supervisor and clearing operator to ensure awareness of clearing areas and any areas to be avoided;
- where practicable, raised blade clearing will be used. Where this is not practicable, topsoil will be stripped to 200 mm depth and stockpiled for use in rehabilitation, along with removed vegetation;
- utilising existing disturbances where possible for mine infrastructure;
- choosing paths of least resistance through vegetation when siting roads and other linear infrastructure (where practicable); and
- retention of canopy trees where possible.

Weeds

- all vehicles and equipment arriving on site will be free of soil, seeds, and vegetative matter;
- movement of vehicles and equipment will be restricted to areas to be cleared; and
- weed spray programs may be implemented on a seasonal basis to eradicate identified weed infestations.

Surface Water

- existing natural flows will be maintained where possible to minimise disruption to watercourses and vegetation health;
- channels and diversion drains will be constructed as required to divert surface runoff around operational areas and minimise effects on regional drainage patterns;
- installation of culverts where haul roads intersect ephemeral creek lines, as appropriate; and
- flood mitigation measures installed where required to prevent flood ingress to open pit and mine infrastructure areas.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B.1) 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 (Appendix C) and assessment in section 3.2.1 identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard management conditions as set out in section 1.4.

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

Assessment

As per Appendix B.1 (Site Characteristics) and Appendix B.4 (Fauna Analysis), a number of conservation significant fauna have the potential to occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022; GIS Database), with key species discussed below.

Leipoa ocellata

Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl) is a large ground-dwelling bird that occurs in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris sp.*) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nest is constructed in sandy soils and leaf litter by building a large mound for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). This species favours mallee that has been long unburnt and ungrazed (DCCEEW, 2024). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 18 kilometres to the south-west (GIS Database). No mounds were recorded during the fauna survey, and the open fauna habitat and presence of feral and pest species significantly reduce the probability of Malleefowl utilising the project area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).

Ogyris subterrestris petrina

Ogyris subterrestris petrina (arid bronze azure butterfly - ABAB) is listed as Critically Endangered under the BC Act and the EPBC Act. ABAB populations are severely fragmented, restricted in geographic range and sensitive to clearing and habitat disturbance (DBCA, 2020). The preferred habitat is described as vegetation of mature mixed *Eucalyptus salubris* (gimlet), *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum) woodlands on red-brown loam soils, with an open understorey (DBCA, 2020). No suitable habitat is present in the application area (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022, GIS Database). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 114 kilometres to the south-west (GIS Database).

Dasyurus geoffroii

Dasyurus geoffroii (Chuditch) is listed as Vulnerable under the BC Act and the EPBC Act. Chuditch have disappeared from approximately 95 per cent of their former range where they were previously found across all mainland Australian States (DEC, 2012a). Most Chuditch are now found in varying densities throughout the jarrah forest, south coast Western Australia and at lower densities in the goldfields and wheatbelt (DEC, 2012a). This species utilised a range of habitats including forest, mallee shrublands, woodland and desert, with dense populations found in riparian jarrah forest (DEC, 2012a). It is highly unlikely for this species to occur within the application area or surrounding area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 120 kilometres to the west (GIS Database).

Aspidites ramsayi

Aspidites ramsayi (woma python) is listed as a DBCA priority species (priority 1) in Western Australia (DBCA, 2025). The woma python is large, heavy-bodied, slow-moving snake. They are described as weakly cross-banded with olive-brown over a sandy brown background colour (Atlas of Living Australia, 2025). Populations extend from central Australia into the south-western edge of Queensland, and into northern South Australia. Other populations are known from the Pilbara coast, north to the Eighty-mile Beach area, and south-west Western Australia, from Cape Peron south and east to the eastern Goldfields (DEC, 2012b). A nocturnal, terrestrial python, it shelters in hollow logs, animal burrows or thick vegetation during the day (DEC, 2012b). The woma favours open myrtaceous heath on sandplains, and dunefields dominated by spinifex (*Triodia sp.*) (DEC, 2012b). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 18 kilometres to the north-west (GIS Database). Based on range, it is possible for this species to occur (DEC, 2012b), however preferred habitat is not present within the application area.

Polytelis alexandrae

Polytelis alexandrae (princess parrot) is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and priority 4 under the BC Act. The princess parrot is a medium-sized slender parrot, growing to 40–45 cm long with pointed backswept wings and a long tapering tail. Plumage is mostly dull olive-green, paler on the underparts, with a blue-grey cap, yellow-green shoulder patches, blue back and rump, pale blue-green upper tail and pink chin, throat and foreneck (Higgins, 1999, as cited in Department of the Environment and Energy, 2018).

The princess parrot is usually recorded from shrubland in swales between sand dunes, with occupied sites typically having a variety of shrubs (including *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Cassia* and *Eremophila* species) among scattered emergent trees, with a ground-cover of *Triodia* species. The species occurs less often in woodland and sometimes occurs in vegetated riverine and littoral areas. The princess parrot forages on the ground and in flowering shrubs and trees (Higgins 1999; Pavey et al. 2014 as cited in Department of the Environment and Energy, 2018). The species is scarce, and often not present for long periods and then large numbers of birds are seen breeding in a particular area for a short time. It is considered that rainfall events may trigger breeding events (Pavey et al. 2014 as cited in Department of the Environment and Energy, 2018). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 148 kilometres to the south-east (GIS Database).

It is possible that the princess parrot maybe an infrequent visitor to this area when resources are suitable. However, if it was present proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact on this species as it will move away to other areas if it is disturbed (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).

Other aerial bird species

In addition to the above, Terrestrial Ecosystems (2022) identified three other species of bird (*Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift), *Motacilla cinerea* (grey wagtail) and *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon) that may occur in the application area. Terrestrial Ecosystems (2022) concluded that it is unlikely for these species to be continually present in the application area (if present at all) and would be able to relocate away from clearing activities.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing has limited potential to impact conservation significant fauna.

It is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna can be managed by directional clearing to allow fauna and/or to move into adjacent vegetation.

Conditions

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

- slow directional clearing to allow fauna move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 26 September 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 (WC2019/002 – Nyalpa Pirniku) over the area under application (DPLH, 2024). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court 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.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

A Mining Proposal / Mine Closure Plan (Reg ID: 500687) for the Templar Gold Project submitted for the approval under the *Mining Act 1978* in June 2025 and is currently in the process of being converted to a Mine Development / Mine Closure Proposal prior to approval.

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.

Based on information provided by the proponent, a Works Approval and Water Licence are required and are pending (Nexus Minerals, 2025).

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

| Summary of comments | Consideration of comment |
|---|--|
| During initial assessment, it was identified that fauna survey data was incomplete and also missing from the report provided. Proponent was advised of information gaps via email | Further information was provided and was considered in the assessment. |

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

| Characteristic | Details |
|------------------------|--|
| Local context | <p>The application area is part of a tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia and is surrounded by the landscape of the Eastern Murchison Bioregion. Aerial imagery shows that land to the north and south of the application area has been disturbed by mining and mineral exploration activities, with open pits and waste dumps approximately 400 metres to the south (GIS Database). CPS 3202/5 (held by Northern Star Resources Pty Ltd, valid until 31 December 2027) overlaps the southern portion of this application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>Land to the east and west appears to be less disturbed, except for unsealed roads/tracks. Lake Rebecca, an ephemeral salt lake, is approximately nine kilometres to the west of the application area.</p> <p>The central portion application appears to have been subject to previous disturbance for mineral exploration activities (GIS Database).</p> |
| Ecological linkage | Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database). |
| Conservation areas | The application area does not lie within or intersect any environmentally sensitive areas or conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest environmentally sensitive areas are Lake Marmion, an 'Australian Nature Conservation Agency listed wetland' which is approximately 65 kilometres to the west north-west and the nearest conservation area is the Goongarrie National Park approximately 50 kilometres to the west. |
| Vegetation description | <p>The application area occurs within the Eastern Murchison (MUR01) subregion of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is mapped as the following Beard vegetation association (GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barlee 400: saltbush and/or bluebush with scattered low trees (GIS Database). <p>A detailed flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions in 2022 during May 2022. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mulga over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> shrubland mulga over sclerophyll shrubland open chenopod shrubland with occasional Mulga <i>Casuarina pauper</i> over <i>Maireana sedifolia</i> and <i>Eremophila pantonii</i> shrubland on ironstone rocky rises <p>Approximately 2.2 hectares of the south-western corner of the application area is not covered by survey information from the above report. Review of available aerial imagery indicates that vegetation type in this area the same as contiguous vegetation associations, being the mulga dominated shrubland described above.</p> |
| Vegetation condition | <p>The <i>Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey of the Wallbrook Project Area</i> (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022) reported the vegetation within the proposed clearing area varied from completely degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994), described as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |

| Characteristic | Details |
|------------------------|--|
| | <p>The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.</p> <p>Review of data for the Natural Vegetation Solutions flora and vegetation survey provided within Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments pack IBSA-2022-0277 shows the following summary of vegetation condition within the permit application area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good: approximately 15 hectares • Good: approximately 136 hectares • Degraded: approximately 35 hectares <p>Additionally, approximately 1.76 hectares was mapped as 'bare clay plan.</p> <p>As noted above, an area of the application is outside the vegetation survey provided in support of the application. Review of available aerial imagery indicates that vegetation condition in this area is same as contiguous vegetation condition (being very good to good), apart from an unsealed track between the edge of the surveyed extent and the application boundary.</p> |
| Climate and landform | <p>The climate of the application area is semi-arid to arid with an annual rainfall average of approximately 265 millimetres recorded at Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport (Station number:12038) (BoM, 2026).</p> <p>The relief of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as subdued and comprises of flat to undulating plains with small valleys with occasional hills, ranges, salt lakes and stony plains (Nexus Minerals, 2025a). The application area covers a local topographical high point within moderately hilly terrain (Nexus Minerals, 2025a).</p> |
| Soil description | <p>The application area overlays two soil landform units (GIS Database) mapped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gundockerta (map unit symbol: 279Gu): Calcareous loamy earths, red shallow sandy duplexes, stony soils, red-brown hardpan shallow loam, red-brown non-cracking clay • Nubev (map unit symbol: 279Nu): Red shallow loams, red shallow sandy duplexes and red shallow sands <p>Most of the site is mapped as the Gundockerta landform (111.82 hectares of the 153.77 hectare application area).</p> |
| Land degradation risk | <p>Interrogation of the data for the individual soil groups forming mapping units 285Pa and 285Rk (DPIRD, 2025) indicates that there is variability in the risk of land degradation across the application area, with structure degradation susceptibility ranging from low to high and potential for erodibility ranging from moderate to high. Overall, both soil groups can be prone to water erosion following removal of vegetation or soil surface disturbance (such as removal of stoney mantel) (Pringle et al., 1994).</p> |
| Waterbodies | <p>Lake Rebecca, an ephemeral salt lake, is approximately nine kilometres to the west of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that two minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). These flow out of the application area which covers a local high point and flow towards Lake Rebecca (Nexus Minerals, 2025a).</p> |
| Hydrogeography | <p>The application area is within the Goldfields Groundwater Area, as legislated under the RIWI Act 1994. The mapped salinity of groundwater ranges from 3000 to 7000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).</p> |
| Flora | <p>Native Vegetation Solutions (2022) recorded 54 species within the application area with 49 species recorded within quadrats, 18 families and 27 genera were recorded overall. No conservation significant flora species were identified during the survey (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022).</p> <p>Native Vegetation Solutions (2022) reported that no weed species were detected in the application area.</p> <p>Detail on conservation significant flora species that could potentially occur in the application area is provided in Section 3.2.2.</p> |
| Ecological communities | <p>No threatened or priority ecological communities were identified within the disturbance envelope (Alexander Holm & Associates, 2009; Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022). The nearest priority ecological community is the priority 3 'Emu Land System' approximately 48 kilometres to the south-west (GIS Database).</p> |

| Characteristic | Details |
|----------------|--|
| Fauna | <p>Terrestrial Ecosystems undertook a vertebrate fauna reconnaissance survey and risk assessment of the application area in 2022. This found that the likely fauna assemblage in the area can be considered consistent with that identified in detailed surveys carried out as part of studies in the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).</p> <p>Database searches by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2022) identified that 11 species of conservation significant fauna could occur in the application area (refer to Appendix B.4 and section 3.2.2).</p> <p>Integration of available GIS datasets indicates that the closest records of threatened fauna are for <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (Mallefowl) approximately 18 kilometres to the south-west and <i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> (woma python), a priority 1 species, approximately 20 km to the north-west (GIS Database), refer to section 3.2.2.</p> <p>Secondary signs of <i>Bettongia lesueur graii</i> (burrowing bettong) have also been recorded approximately 22 kilometres to the north-west, however these are known to be extinct (Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, 2025).</p> |
| Fauna habitat | <p>Terrestrial Ecosystems undertook a vertebrate fauna reconnaissance survey and risk assessment of the application area in 2022. Three broad fauna habitats were mapped within the disturbance envelope: clay pan, scattered mulga and casuarina over mixed shrubs and chenopods over a rocky substrate, and scattered mulga over mixed shrubs and chenopods over sand and clay (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).</p> |

B.2. Vegetation extent

| | Pre-European area (ha) | Current extent (ha) | Extent remaining (%) | Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha) | Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%) |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| IBRA Bioregion Murchison | 28,120,586.77 | 28,044,823.42 | 99.73 | 2,185,987.96 | 7.77 |
| Beard vegetation associations - State | | | | | |
| 400 | 190,823.50 | 189,665.42 | 99.39 | - | - |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion | | | | | |
| 400 | 190,823.50 | 189,665.42 | 99.39 | - | - |

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The table below presents results of Native Vegetation Solutions (2022) search of the threatened flora database (using a 20 kilometre buffer) and comments following field survey.

| Species name | Conservation status | Likelihood of occurring in survey area - comment post field work |
|--|---------------------|--|
| <i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. <i>Numerous-nerved variant</i> (A.S. George 11924) | P3 | Unlikely - No suitable habitat |
| <i>Thryptomene eremaea</i> | P2 | Unlikely - No suitable habitat |

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The desktop assessment by Terrestrial Ecosystems identified 11 conservation-significant fauna species which may occur within the application area. All have been deemed to be highly unlikely to occur or only to infrequently be seen (in the case of aerial bird species) (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).

| Species | DBCA Schedule / Priority | Status under Commonwealth EPBC Act | Comment on the potential presence of a species |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Night Parrot <i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> | Critically Endangered | Endangered | Highly unlikely to be in the project area, due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Sandhill Dunnart <i>Sminthopsis psammophila</i> | Endangered | Endangered | Highly unlikely to be in the project area, due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Malleefowl <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Highly unlikely to be in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat and prevalence of feral and pest fauna. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Grey Falcon <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Highly unlikely to be in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Great Desert Skink <i>Liopholis kintorei</i> | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Highly unlikely to be in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Chuditch <i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i> | Vulnerable | Vulnerable | Highly unlikely to occur in the project area. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Princess Parrot <i>Polytelis alexandrae</i> | Priority 4 | Vulnerable | May infrequently be seen in the region, however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this species. |
| Mulgara <i>Dasyercus blythi</i> | Priority 4 | | Highly unlikely to be in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore very low. |
| Fork-tailed Swift <i>Apus pacificus</i> | Migratory | Migratory | May very infrequently be seen in the region, however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this aerial species. |
| Grey Wagtail <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | Migratory | Migratory | Highly unlikely to be present in the project area. The potential for impacting on this species is therefore low. |
| Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | OS | | May very infrequently be seen in the region, however, clearing vegetation is unlikely to impact on this aerial species. |

OS – Other Specially protected fauna

(Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022)

Review of available datasets identified a record of *Aspidites ramsayi* (woma python) to the north-west of the application area. The application area is also within the zone where *Ogyris subterrestris petrina* (ABAB) should be considered.

| Species name | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A] |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> | P1 | Y | Y | 20 | N/A |
| <i>Ogyris subterrestris petrina</i> | CE | N | N | 114 | N/A |

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Environmental value: biological values | | |
| <p>Principle (a): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain conservation significant flora. Search results from the threatened flora databases identified two species, <i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. Numerous-nerved variant (A.S. George 11924), a priority 3 species and <i>Thryptomene eremaea</i>, a priority 2 species, that occur within 20 kilometres. Based on findings of their field survey, Native Vegetation Solutions have stated that both are unlikely to occur due to lack of suitable habitat (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022).</p> <p>Review of available GIS databases indicates that the closest <i>Thryptomene eremaea</i> is approximately five kilometres to the north-northeast of the application area, while the nearest <i>Acacia eremophila</i> var. Numerous-nerved variant (A.S. George 11924) is approximately 17 kilometres to the north (GIS Database).</p> <p>Most of the species and communities recorded during this survey are widespread throughout the Eastern Murchison subregion and adjoining regions, and therefore the loss of a small proportion from this area will not be significant (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022).</p> | Not likely to be at variance | No |
| <p>Principle (b): <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No evidence of conservation significant fauna was observed during the survey by Terrestrial Ecosystems (Nexus Minerals, 2025a; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).</p> <p>At a landscape or bioregional context, impacts on vertebrate fauna habitat due to clearing are likely to be low as there are vast tracts of similar fauna habitat in adjacent areas, and the sparseness of the vegetation and ground cover mean the abundance of terrestrial vertebrate in the project area will be low (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).</p> <p>Based on desktop and field results, 11 fauna species of conservation significance were identified as potentially occurring in the general area during favourable conditions, or as part of a wider foraging range (Nexus Minerals, 2025a; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022).</p> | Not likely to be at variance | Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above.</i> |
| <p>Principle (c): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain records of or suitable habitat for threatened flora (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022).</p> | Not likely to be at variance | No |
| <p>Principle (d): <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022; Nexus Minerals, 2025a). No threatened ecological communities are mapped near (within 50 kilometres) of the application area (GIS Database).</p> | Not likely to be at variance | No |
| Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas | | |
| <p>Principle (e): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p> | Not at variance | No |

| Assessment against the clearing principles | Variance level | Is further consideration required? |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“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></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The proposed clearing will not have an impact on the environmental values of any conservation areas, with the closest being approximately 50 kilometres away (GIS Database).</p> | Not at variance | No |
| Environmental value: land and water resources | | |
| <p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area, however, there are two minor ephemeral drainage lines that originate from the application area. These are common in the surrounding area and the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on riparian vegetation in the local area.</p> | At variance | No |
| <p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Both soil groups mapped within the application area can be prone to water erosion following removal of vegetation or soil surface disturbance (such as removal of stoney mantel) (Pringle et al., 1994).</p> <p>Potential erosion impacts because of the proposed clearing can be minimised by the implementation of a stated clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetation cover for extended periods.</p> | May be at variance | No |
| <p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area, however, there are two minor ephemeral drainage lines that originate from the application area, in large rain events, these will flow to ephemeral salt lake (GIS Database).</p> <p>Potential erosion impacts because of the proposed clearing can be minimised by the implementation of a stated clearing condition to ensure large areas are not void of vegetation cover for extended periods and implementation of surface water controls will limit potential for appreciable impacts to surface water quality.</p> <p>Impact on groundwater quality due to clearing is considered unlikely.</p> | May be at variance | No |
| <p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to an increased incidence or intensity of flooding or contribute to waterlogging (Nexus Minerals, 2025a).</p> | Not likely to be at variance | No |

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared is reported in the *Detailed Flora and Vegetation Survey* (Native Vegetation Solutions, 2022) and has been assessed against Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc), Nedlands, Western Australia. It is noted that Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale in National Trust* (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth, may be better suited for the Eremaean Botanical Province, however the difference in scales does not invalidate the findings of the Native Vegetation Solutions report.

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 E. Sources of information**E.1. GIS datasets**

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Contaminated Sites Database (DWER-059)
- Contaminated Sites Database - Restricted (DWER-073)
- 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)
- HIR Carbon Sequestration Projects (DPLH-072)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Basins (DWER-027)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Divisions (DWER-029)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Subcatchments (DWER-030)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- Threatened and Priority Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened and Priority Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened and Priority Fauna
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species

SP Specially protected species

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species

P Priority species

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.
- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.