



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11147/1
Permit type:	Purpose
Applicant name:	Western Queen Pty Ltd
Application received:	20 June 2025
Application area:	205 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 59/45 Mining Lease 59/208 Miscellaneous Licence 59/40
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Yalgoo
Colloquial name:	Western Queen Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Western Queen Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 205 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 1,010.5 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Rumble Resources, 2025a). The project is located approximately 75 kilometres west south-west of Cue, within the Shire of Yalgoo.

The application is to allow for clearing for the construction of roads and minesite infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	12 March 2026
Decision area:	205 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 two submissions were received during this period, as summarised in Appendix B.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix C), relevant datasets (Appendix G), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of biological survey (Appendix F), 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:

- removal of habitat and direct impacts on a priority 4 flora species (*Dodonaea amplisemina*)
- potential removal of habitat and potential direct impact to an endangered reptile species (*Egernia stokesii badia*)
- 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 following further surveys to determine status of the species noted above.

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

- complete and report a targeted flora survey over portions of the site with certain vegetation associations that are known to contain *Dodonaea amplisemina*
- conduct a pre-clearance survey for *Egernia stokesii badia* habitat and individuals
- avoid and 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)
- *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, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

No avoidance and mitigation measures for clearing are set out in the report supporting the Native Vegetation Clearing permit application (Rumble Resources 2025a). The Mining Development and Closure Proposal (MDCP) for the project (Reg ID: 206939, Rumble Resources 2025b) includes the following measures that will assist in mitigating impacts from clearing:

- implement weed management and vehicle hygiene procedures;
- site induction to address weed management measures and identification of local weeds;
- minimise the creation of disturbed areas and progressively rehabilitate disturbed areas to avoid colonisation by weed species;
- control off road vehicle use over the project area, with no driving permitted off designated routes;
- site induction to address fauna management measures and identification of local species of significance; and
- personnel required to report fauna injuries and mortality for recording and review.

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 (flora and fauna). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing principle (a) and (c)

Assessment

As per Appendix B.1 (Site Characteristics) and Appendix C.3 (Flora analysis), a number of conservation significant flora occur or have the potential to occur within the application area (Outback Ecology 2012a; Botanica Consulting 2025; GIS Database) with key species discussed below.

***Acacia speckii* (P4)**

This species has been recorded in the Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregions, growing in rocky granitic soils with underlying basalt, granite, or dolerite in shrubland or open scrub with *Acacia aneura* (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). There are 40 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium with up to 200 plants identified in some records.

This species was not recorded in either flora survey report provided, however surveys noted this species as being 'possibly' (Outback Ecology, 2012a) or 'likely' occurring (Botanica Consulting, 2025) within the application area, based on habitat being available. *Acacia speckii* grows in a variety of soils and vegetation associations across the IBRA bioregions and that it is likely to have been under-surveyed (DBCA, 2026). As such and given this species is only 'likely' to be in the application area, impact to this species due to the proposed clearing are not likely to be regionally or locally significant.

***Dodonaea amplisemina* (P4)**

This species has been recorded in the Avon Wheatbelt, Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions growing in red-brown sandy clay on basalt and gabbro and banded ironstone or on dolerite and quartzite (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). There are 40 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium, with up to 10,000 plants identified in some records (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The 2012 survey by Outback Ecology recorded this species in three locations within their survey area (which is noted as being smaller than the application area). There were no *Dodonaea amplisemina* individuals were identified in the 2025 survey by Botanica Consulting, however track logs provided suggest they may not have traversed the main population. *Dodonaea amplisemina* was found within vegetation associations 4 and 5 (refer to Appendix F for details), with the majority in vegetation association 4 which covers rocky upland areas (Outback Ecology, 2012a).

Review of Outback Ecology mapping (2012a) and aerial photography shows that this landform occurs along the eastern portion of the application area. Assessment of information provided as part of the Mining Development and Closure Proposal for the Western Queen Project (Reg ID: 206939, Rumble Resources, 2025b) indicates that planned disturbance in this area is limited to a haul road and the magazine compound.

The distribution of this *Dodonaea amplisemina* across four IBRA bioregions, combined with the large number of plants recorded by other surveys in the region, makes it unlikely that the proposed clearing will affect the conservation significance of this species. While there is limited clearing planned in the previously recorded locations under the current mining proposal, the uncertainty around the presence and extent of this species means that impact on the local population cannot be determined at this stage so further assessment prior to clearing is considered to be warranted.

***Eremophila simulans* subsp. *megacalyx* (P3)**

This species is known from 11 locations, all located within the Murchison bioregion growing on red, sandy gravel laterite, laterite banded ironstone with yellow brown shallow sandy loam soils, rocky slopes, laterite slopes and sandy plains (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). These records have individual plant frequencies ranging from sparse or isolated to common and abundant at different locations (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-).

This species was not recorded in either flora survey report provided, however both surveys noted this species as being 'possibly' occurring (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012a). While this species is confined to the one bioregion, given it is only 'possibly', at best, within the application area, impact to this species due to the proposed clearing are not likely to be regionally or locally significant.

***Petrophile vana* (P1)**

This species is known from five locations across the Yalgoo and Murchison bioregions, recorded in shallow, white, gritty clay-soil pockets, and laterite breakaways (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). This species was not recorded in either flora survey report provided, however both surveys noted this species as being 'possibly' occurring (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012a). As such, impact to this species due to the proposed clearing are not likely to be regionally or locally significant.

***Wurmbea murchisoniana* (P4)**

This species is known from 36 locations across the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Geraldton Sandplains, Murchison, Yalgoo bioregions, growing on clay, sandy clay and loams associated with seasonally inundated clay hollows and rock pools (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). While this was the closest priority species to the application area at approximately five kilometres from the site, both Outback Ecology (2012a) and Botanica Consulting (2025) assessed this species as being 'unlikely' to occur within the application area. As such, impact to this species due to the proposed clearing are not likely to be regionally or locally significant.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may impact on a local population of *Dodonaea amplisemina* identified in 2012. This species is known to occur in other bioregions and limited clearing in the vegetation association identified as supporting this species is proposed under the current MDCP for the project, as such the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the species at a regional or species level. However, it is considered that a targeted flora survey is required prior to clearing to determine local impact (if any) and confirm no regional impact. Based on the above assessment and with respect to Appendix

B.1 (Site Characteristics) and Appendix C.3 (Flora analysis), it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on flora can be managed through standard conditions around weed control and minimising the extent clearing native vegetation.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing on native vegetation;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- watercourse management to avoid riparian vegetation; and
- complete and report a targeted flora survey over portions of the site with certain vegetation associations that are known to contain *Dodonaea amplisemina*.

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

Assessment

Reptiles

Cyclodomorphus branchialis (gilled slender blue-tongue – Vulnerable) is found in areas of semi-arid shrubland in the mid-west region of Western Australia between Murchison and Irwin Rivers and extending inland to the Yalgoo area (Shea & Miller, 1995; Wilson & Swan, 2021). The species is a ground-dwelling lizard with a nocturnal habitat, sheltering by day below low vegetation, leaf-litter, and under fallen timber and beneath rocks (Cowan et al., 2018; Shea & Miller, 1995). This species has been recorded approximately 82 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). Outback Ecology (2012b) assessed that habitat for this species occurs within the application area and that the species is likely to occur; however, Botanica Consulting (2025) did not identify this species as one requiring assessment for their reconnaissance flora-vegetation and basic fauna survey. Implementation of the standard condition around slow directional clearing should reduce potential fatalities of this and other fauna species.

Egernia stokesii badia (western spiny-tailed skink – Endangered) occurs in the semi-arid area between Shark Bay and Minnivale and east to Cue (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The species inhabits refugia and can be found among rocky outcrops and stony hills, where it shelters in crevices or under boulders (Cogger, 2018; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; SEWPAC, 2011; Wilson & Swan, 2021). A “black form” population is known to be present in granite outcrops and occasionally lateritic breakaways in the Cue-Yalgoo- Mt Magnet area in the upper Murchison catchment (DEC, 2012). *Egernia stokesii badia* has been recorded approximately 23 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). Outback Ecology (2012b) assessed that habitat, such as crevices of stoney rises, occurs within the application area and that the species is ‘likely’ to occur, however Botanica Consulting (2025) stated that suitable habitat is not present, and the species is unlikely to occur, despite also describing fauna habitat consistent with that described by Outback Ecology.

This species is generally difficult to detect, with trapping and searching around shelter sites over a long duration required for best results (SEWPAC, 2011). However, the species can be more readily detected by its latrine sites, where faecal matter can be located outside shelter sites (Cogger, 2018; How et al., 2023). As previous surveys provide conflicting qualitative findings around likelihood and noting the conservation status of this species, it is considered that further surveys are required to adequately assess the potential impact.

If identified, the applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to *Egernia stokesii badia* and its habitats. The applicant is advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Invertebrate species

Outback Ecology (2012b) conducted a database search and literature review of short range endemic invertebrate species that may be present in the application area. Almost all records were from the Weld Range area, which is approximately 60 km northeast of the Project (Outback Ecology, 2012b). Species identified included *Idiosoma nigrum* (an Australian armoured trapdoor spider listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and endangered under the BC Act). Reference to *Idiosoma nigrum* is consistent with the conservation listings, however this record is more than likely an *Idiosoma clypeatum* (priority 3) as per Rix et al, 2018. *Idiosoma clypeatum* has widespread distribution in Western Australia’s inland arid zone, principally throughout the Yalgoo and Murchison bioregions (Rix et al., 2018a). Ecotec (2024) found that shield-back trapdoor spider burrows are associated with drainage lines and denser stands of Acacia where the soil has a higher moisture content, which suggests that habitat exists within the application area. The nearest record of this species is 26 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). Minimisation of clearing around and of drainage lines will assist in minimising any potential impact.

Outback Ecology (2012b) also identified a record of *Eucyrtops* MYG131 being found 20 kilometres to the north-west of the application area. In 2017, *Eucyrtops* MYG131 was reclassified to *Bungulla bertmaini* (Rix et al., 2017). This species is noted as having an extremely widespread distribution in arid Western Australia, in the northern Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Yalgoo, Murchison, Carnarvon, Gascoyne and Pilbara bioregions (Rix et al., 2018b). As such, impact to this species due to the proposed clearing are not likely to be significant.

Avian species

Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl – Vulnerable) 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 *Melaleuca uncinata* (broombush) and *Callitris sp.* (native pine) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nest is constructed in sandy soils and leaf litter by building a large mound for egg incubation and they favour mallee that has been long unburnt and ungrazed (DCCEEW, 2024). Review of available GIS databases identified that the closest record is approximately 28 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).

While both fauna reports (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012b) noted that the application area is within the known range for this species and habitat may be present, no signs of this species (e.g. nest mounds) or any signs of other conservation significant fauna was noted during field surveys.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface – Vulnerable) occurs across most of mainland Australia, within open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understorey of grasses, shrubs or both (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). These areas are usually dominated by acacias or eucalypts on ranges, foothills, lowlands and plains (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The southern whiteface forages in areas with low tree density and an herbaceous understorey with litter cover, and roosts and nests in living and dead trees that contain suitable hollows or crevices (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species nests in large bulky domed-shaped nests made out of grass, bark and roots within hollows or crevices in trees, and low bushes (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Acacia shrubland and woodland habitat within the application area, however, was assessed by Botanica Consulting (2025) as unlikely to support breeding or optimal foraging habitat.

Several migratory and aerial bird species were identified in database searches by both Outback Ecology (2012b) and Botanica Consulting (2025) as potentially occurring in the application area. Species include, *inter alia*, *Merops ornatus* (rainbow bee-eater), *Calidris acuminata* (sharp-tailed sandpiper), *Calidris ferruginea* (curlew sandpiper) *Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift), *Actitis hypoleucos* (common sandpiper) *Tringa (Glottis) nebularia* (common greenshank), *Falco (Hierofalco) peregrinus* (peregrine falcon). Given the lack of permanent water bodies in the application area and that no critical habitat was identified (Outback Ecology, 2012b; Botanica Consulting, 2025), it is unlikely that clearing will have a significant impact on migratory or aerial bird species.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, *Egernia stokesii badia* may be present within the application area and if present, the proposed clearing may result in the loss of habitat and death of individuals. Clearing will also likely result in loss of non-critical habitat for the other conservation significant species discussed above and fauna generally.

It is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna habitats can be managed by the implementation of management conditions, which are summarised below.

Conditions

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

- conduct a pre-clearance survey for *Egernia stokesii badia* habitat and individuals;
- avoid, minimise and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- watercourse management to avoid riparian vegetation.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 5 September 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. Two submissions were received in relation to this application, as summarised in Appendix B.

There is one native title claim (WC2004/010, Wajarri Yamatji Part A) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group/s. 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*.

Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation (the Native Title holder) provided a submission (in response to the direct interest party email from DMPE) regarding concerns regarding Aboriginal heritage sites, native title, and cultural heritage (Submission, 2026a). This advice was provided to the proponent and Wajarri Yamaji Aboriginal Corporation has subsequently advised that the proponent has initiated consultation.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include

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

As noted above, a Mining Development and Closure Proposal (Reg ID: 206939) has been submitted.

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.

As per Appendix B, a response to the direct interest notification was received noting the need for Local Government approvals for heavy-vehicle use (Submission, 2026b) This is beyond the scope of Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, however, the submission was forwarded to the proponent who has advised they are undertaking consultation with the local government authority. It is assumed that it is in the best interest of the proponent to resolve any access issues prior to incurring the cost of clearing and increased closure liabilities.

End

Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Email correspondence with the proponent regarding submissions received	Proponent advised that they are engaging with the two parties regarding submissions relating to Aboriginal heritage and road access
Requested 2012 Outback Ecology terrestrial fauna desktop study referenced in the application	Proponent provided a copy of the report which provides further information on invertebrate species of interest.

Appendix B. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Concerns regarding Aboriginal heritage sites, native title, and cultural heritage.	These matters are addressed in section 3.3.
Concerns remain about the suitability of existing tracks and roads, including their geometry and the need for local government approvals for heavy-vehicle use. Any delays or changes to access arrangements could undermine project viability, resulting in vegetation being cleared unnecessarily.	Considering the need/status of approvals under other instruments is beyond the scope of this assessment as the assessment is made in accordance with <i>Part V</i> of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , however this is acknowledged in section 3.3.

Appendix C. Site characteristics

C.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia and is surrounded by the landscape of the Western Murchison Bioregion. Aerial imagery shows that the central western portion of the site has been disturbed by mining activities, with two open-cut mine pits along with stockpiles/waste dumps present. Unsealed roads are also visible throughout the application area (GIS Database). The portions of the application area and surrounding land are in use for cattle grazing, with numerous fence lines and watering points present (Rumble Resources, 2025b, GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Based on aerial imagery, the application area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkage (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The application area does not lie within or intersect any environmentally sensitive areas or conservation areas (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Dalgarranga National Park, which is approximately 1.6 kilometres south of where the access-corridor section of the application area terminates on the Cue-Dalgarranga Road.
Vegetation description	<p>The application area occurs within the Western Murchison (MUR02) subregion of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The vegetation of the application area is mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations (GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Murchison 18: low woodland; mulga (covering approximately 86 per cent of the application area) Upper Murchison 39: shrublands; mulga scrub (covering approximately 14 per cent of the application area) <p>A Level 1 vegetation and flora assessment over a portion of the application area had also previously been undertaken by Outback Ecology in 2012 and included mapping of six vegetation communities based around Acacia woodlands.</p> <p>The associations mapped by Outback Ecology are also presented in Appendix F. Of note is vegetation association four, described as "<i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> Tall Open Shrubland over <i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i> Low Shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland". <i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i> is a priority 4 species.</p> <p>A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was also conducted over the whole application area and adjoining areas by Botanica Consulting during January 2025. This identified nine broad-scale vegetation communities comprising various assemblages of Acacia forests and woodlands within the application area (along with a further two chenopod shrubland assemblages outside the application area).</p> <p>These communities, whilst locally variable, are relatively widespread throughout the Murchison bioregion (Botanica Consulting, 2025). Cleared areas are also present within the application area (GIS Database). The Botanica Consulting vegetation associations are also presented in Appendix F.</p>

Characteristic	Details
	<p>It is noted that the area covered by the Botanica Consulting survey slightly differs along some sections of the access road portion of the current application area. Review of available aerial imagery indicates that vegetation types in these sections are consistent with the descriptions for contiguous areas.</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>The <i>Reconnaissance Flora-Vegetation Survey and Basic Fauna Survey</i> (Botanica Consulting, 2025) reported the vegetation within the proposed clearing area varied from degraded to very good (Keighery, 1994; Trudgen, 1991), 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. <p>The full Keighery (1994) and Trudgen (1991) condition rating scales are provided in Appendix E.</p> <p>Review of data for the Botanica Consulting flora and vegetation survey provided within the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessments dataset IBSA-2025-0136 shows the following summary of vegetation condition within the permit application area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Good: approximately 126 hectares • Good: approximately 456 hectares • Poor: approximately 42 hectares • Degraded: approximately 201 hectares <p>Additionally, approximately 178 hectares are mapped as 'cleared'.</p> <p>While the survey coverage differs along parts of the access-road section of the application area, review of available aerial imagery indicates that vegetation conditions in these sections are consistent with the descriptions for contiguous mapped areas.</p>
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the application area is semi-arid to arid with an annual rainfall average of approximately 232 millimetres recorded at Cue weather station (station number: 7017) (BoM, 2026a).</p> <p>The relief of the Western Murchison subregion is described as hardpan wash plains and sandplains (with some stony plains, hills, mesas and salt lakes) on the granitic rocks and greenstone of the Yilgarn Craton (Rumble Resources, 2025a). Elevation of the application area is between 400 and 420 metres above the Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).</p>
Soil description	<p>The application area overlays three soil-landform units (GIS Database) mapped as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge (map unit symbol: 273Ch): Gently undulating, gritty and sandy surfaced plains, occasional granite hills, tors and low breakaways. Four main soil types (red shallow sand, red shallow loam, red shallow sandy duplex and red-brown hard plain) • Gabanintha (map unit symbol: 273Gu): Greenstone ridges, hills and footslopes. Four main soil types (stony soil, red shallow sandy duplex, red shallow sand, red shallow loam) • Jundee (map unit symbol: 273Ju): Hardpan plains with variable gravelly mantles and minor sandy bank. Four main soil types (red shallow loam, red loamy earth, red deep sand, friable non-cracking clay) <p>Most of the application area covers land mapped as the Gabanintha landform (721.86 hectares) with the balance being 176.43 hectares of the Challenge system (which includes the majority of the proposed access road corridor) and 112.99 hectares of the Jundee system.</p>
Land degradation risk	<p>Interrogation of the data for the individual soil groups forming mapping units 273Ch, 273Gu and 273Ju (DPIRD, 2025) indicates that there is variability in the risk of land degradation across these soil units, with structure degradation susceptibility ranging from low to high and potential for erodibility ranging from moderate to high. Overall, the three soil groups may be prone to water erosion following removal of vegetation or soil surface disturbance (DPIRD, 2025).</p>
Waterbodies	<p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are four minor ephemeral drainage channels within the application area and that these drain north-west, flowing into other drainage lines that run into the Sanford River, which joins the Murchison River (GIS Database).</p> <p>Lake Austin, an ephemeral salt lake, is approximately 50 kilometres to the east of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located at the top of the local catchment just west of a major catchment divide running generally north-south. The area west of the major catchment divide drains to the northwest away from the application area (AECOM, 2025a).</p>

Characteristic	Details
Hydrogeography	<p>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Mount Magnet water reserve located approximately 65 kilometres south-east of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The nearest Wetland of National or International Importance is Wooleen Lake, located approximately 97 kilometres north-west of the application area (GIS Database), however, while watercourses from the site flow to the north-west, they are not in the same watershed as the lake catchment.</p> <p>The application area is within the Murchison River surface-water catchment (GIS Database).</p> <p>The access road corridor section of application area is mapped as 'low potential groundwater dependent ecosystem' at a national assessment level (GIS Database).</p> <p>The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1,000 to 3,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as 'brackish' (BoM, 2026a; GIS Database), this is consistent with concentrations reported by AECOM (2025b) in the groundwater assessment for the Western Queen Project.</p>
Flora	<p>The 2012 flora and vegetation survey identified 80 plant taxa (Outback Ecology, 2012a) within the application area, whereas the 2025 flora and vegetation survey identified 86 plant taxa within the area surveyed (Botanica Consulting, 2025). It is noted that the Botanica Consulting survey covered a larger area (including outside the application area).</p> <p>Desktop assessment by Outback Ecology (2012a) identified 12 significant species within a 50 kilometre radius consisting of two priority 1, seven priority 3 and three priority 4. Desktop assessment by Botanica Consulting (2025) identified 21 significant flora species recorded within a 40 kilometre radius of the survey area. These consisted of one threatened, five priority 1, two priority 2, ten priority 3 and three priority 4 taxa. Species considered 'likely' or 'possible' (in at least one report) to occur are listed in Appendix C.3 and discussed in section 3.2.1.</p> <p>Review of available datasets returned 43 records of conservation significant flora comprising 24 species (eight priority 1, two priority 2, twenty-three priority 3, nine priority 4, and one threatened) within 50 kilometres of the application area. The closest record to the application area is for <i>Wurmbea murchisoniana</i> (a priority 4 species) approximately five kilometres to the east of the application area. (GIS Database).</p> <p>Species considered 'likely' or 'possible' (in at least one report) to occur are listed in Appendix C.3 and those listed in both reports and/or less than 20 kilometres from the application area are discussed in section 3.2.1.</p> <p>Field survey by Outback Ecology (Outback, 2012a) identified <i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i>, a priority 4 species. This species was not identified in the Botanica Consulting survey (2025). No other priority flora species were identified in either survey (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012a)</p> <p>Two species of weeds, <i>Cucumis myriocarpus</i> (prickly paddy melon) and <i>Solanum nigrum</i> (blackberry nightshade) were identified during the Outback Ecology (2012a) survey. No weeds were identified during the Botanica Consulting (2025) survey.</p>
Ecological communities	<p>No threatened or priority ecological communities were identified within the application area (GIS Database). The nearest is the priority 1 'Gabyon calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Moore palaeodrainage on Gabyon Station' approximately 40 kilometres to the south-south-west. The nearest terrestrial community is the priority 1 'Weld Range vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)' approximately 60 kilometres to the north-east.</p>
Fauna	<p>Desktop and basic level fauna surveys by Outback Ecology (2012b) and Botanica Consulting (2025) identified that between 258 (based on a 70 kilometre search radius) and 208 (based on a 40 kilometre search radius) fauna species that could occur in the application area.</p> <p>Threatened and priority database searches presented in the reports identified 31 (Outback 2012b) and 14 (Botanica Consulting 2025) conservation significant fauna (including migratory listed species), with eight species listed in both reports.</p> <p>Outback Ecology (2012b) conducted a database search and literature review of short range endemic invertebrate species that identified 12 short range invertebrate species and one conservation significant invertebrate species that have been collected within a 100 kilometre radius of the application area.</p> <p>There are 57 records of conservation significant fauna (including migratory listed) that have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database) comprised of 14 species, with the most common being <i>Idiosoma clypeatum</i> with a total of 22 records (GIS Database). Of the 57 records, only one (<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (common greenshank) which is a migratory species, is within 10 kilometres of the application area.</p> <p>Key conservation species and unique invertebrate species are presented in Appendix C.4 – Table 1 and those listed as 'likely' (in at least one of the reports) or those that are invertebrate species are discussed in section 3.2.2. Migratory species also are discussed in section 3.2.2.</p>

Characteristic	Details
Fauna habitat	<p>Findings of field surveys for their flora survey were used by Outback Ecology to describe fauna habitat in their desktop fauna study (Outback, 2012b). Outback Ecology (2012b) described the following broad fauna habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sparse Mulga Woodland – Open <i>Acacia</i> spp. over scattered low shrubs over open <i>Aristida contorta</i> grassland; • Drainage Line – <i>Acacia</i> spp. woodland over open shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> grassland; • Stony Rises – Scattered <i>Acacia</i> spp. over <i>Eremophila maculata</i> over <i>Aristida contorta</i>; • Ridgeline – Scattered <i>Acacia</i> spp. over open <i>Eremophila</i> spp. over <i>Aristida contorta</i> grassland; and • Disturbed Area – Scattered <i>Acacia</i> spp. over scattered low shrubs over open <i>Aristida contorta</i> grassland. <p>Botanica Consulting undertook a reconnaissance flora-vegetation and basic fauna survey of the application area and adjoining area to the north and north-west in 2025 and mapped five broad fauna habitats, one of which is outside the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2025). The four within the application area are mapped as: Acacia forest and woodland in drainage depressions (209 hectares), Acacia forest and woodland on clay-loam plain (48 hectares), Acacia forest and woodland on rocky hillslopes (375 hectares), and Acacia woodland on rocky plain (193 hectares). Further detail is provided in Appendix F.</p> <p>While the survey coverage differs along parts of the access road section of the application area, review of available aerial imagery indicates that fauna habitat in these sections is consistent with the descriptions for contiguous mapped areas and the totals above.</p>

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 Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
18	19,892,306.46	19,843,148.07	99.75	1,317,179.00	6.64
39	6,613,567.48	6,602,578.44	99.83	795,070.69	12.02
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
18	12,403,172.30	12,363,252.47	99.68	614,964.13	4.96
39	1,148,400.30	1,138,064.63	99.10	40,834.41	3.56

Government of Western Australia (2019)

C.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix G.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Occurrence potential		Distance of closest record to application area (km)
		Outback Ecology	Botanica Consulting	
<i>Acacia speckii</i>	P4	possible	likely	14
<i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i>	P4	recorded within application area	not recorded	within
<i>Eremophila simulans</i> subsp. <i>megacalyx</i>	P3	possible	possible	41
<i>Grevillea inconspicua</i>	P4	possible	-	64
<i>Lepidium scandens</i>	P3	possible	unlikely	22
<i>Petrophile vana</i>	P1	possible	possible	14

Species name	Conservation status	Occurrence potential		Distance of closest record to application area (km)
		Outback Ecology	Botanica Consulting	
<i>Ptilotus beardii</i>	P3	possible	-	43
<i>Verticordia jamiesonii</i>	P3	possible	unlikely	24
<i>Wurmbea murchisoniana</i>	P4	unlikely	unlikely	5

Outback Ecology (2012a), Botanica Consulting (2025), GIS Database

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

C.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix G.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name (common name)	Conservation status		Occurrence potential		Distance of closest record to application area (km)
	Federal	Western Australia	Outback Ecology	Botanica Consulting	
Bird species					
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (mallefowl)	Vu	Vu	likely	possible	28
<i>Thinornis rubricollis</i> – now known as <i>Charadrius cucullatus</i> (hooded plover)	-	P4	possible	-	46
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface)	Vu	Vu	-	possible	343
Reptiles species					
<i>Cyclodomorphus branchialis</i> (common slender bluetongue)	-	Vu	likely	-	82
<i>Egernia stokesii badia</i> (western spiny-tailed skink)	En	P4	likely	-	23
Invertebrate species					
<i>Eucyrtops`MYG131` / Bungulla bertmaini</i>	-	-	medium	-	20
<i>Idiosoma nigrum / Idiosoma clypeatum</i>	VU/na	EN/P3	Low	-	26

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

Appendix D. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>A priority 4 flora species (<i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i>) was identified within the application area by Outback Ecology (2012a).</p> <p>A search of threatened flora databases identified seven species occur within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database), and the application area also represents likely potential habitat for other conservation significant flora species as well as conservation significant fauna, though both are represented outside the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback, 2012a; Outback, 2012b).</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> "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."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>No evidence of conservation significant fauna was observed during the survey by Botanica Consulting (2025).</p> <p>The application area contains habitat that may support conservation significant or unique fauna (Outback Ecology, 2012b).</p>		
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <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>No threatened flora was identified in either of the two flora surveys provided in support of the application (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012a). As noted above, a priority 4 species is present within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <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 (Botanica Consulting, 2025; Outback Ecology, 2012a). No threatened ecological communities are mapped within 40 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <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 likely to be at variance	No
<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 nearest conservation area is 1.6 kilometres to the south, however, clearing is unlikely to have an impact as the application area is separated from the conservation area by a major road and surface water flows from the application area are away from the conservation area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be 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 several 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 (GIS Database), however the Outback Ecology report (2012a) noted that areas of very good to good condition ‘flowline’ vegetation is of ‘somewhat higher value’ in terms of conservation significance. As such, efforts should be made to minimise clearing in these areas.</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>There is variability in the risk of land degradation across these soil units. Overall, the three soil groups may be prone to water erosion following removal of vegetation or soil surface disturbance (DPIRD, 2025).</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

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> “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.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent waterbodies or watercourses within the application area, however, there are several minor ephemeral drainage lines that originate from the application area, in large rain events these will flow to the Sanford River, which joins the Murchison River (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.</p> <p>Impact on groundwater quality due to clearing is considered unlikely.</p>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. or contribute to waterlogging (GIS Database).</p>	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.

Condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared is reported in the *Reconnaissance Flora-Vegetation Survey and Basic Fauna Survey* (Botanica Consulting, 2025) and has been assessed against both Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia and 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. It

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.

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

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.

Condition	Description
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.



Appendix F. Biological survey information excerpts / photographs of the vegetation / DMPE site inspection report

Summary of vegetation types within the survey area mapped in Botanica Consulting's 'Reconnaissance Flora-Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey' (2025) are presented in the extract below. Of the 11 vegetation types described below, the two chenopod shrubland types (DD-CS1 and DD-CS2) are only present outside the application area.

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Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
CLP-AFW1 268.8 ha (9.3%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> low open forest over <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var <i>ramulosa</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Eremophila punicea</i> and <i>E. compacta</i> sparse low shrubland	Clay-loam plain	
CLP-AOW1 197.6 ha (6.8%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia acuminata</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Eremophila compacta</i> low sparse shrubland	Clay-loam plain	

Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
DD-AFW1 532.3 ha (18.4%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> , <i>A. mulganeura</i> , <i>A. ramulosa</i> low open forest over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> , <i>Eremophila punicea</i> , <i>Sida ectogama</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Atriplex bunburyana</i> and <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> low sparse chenopod shrubland	Drainage depression	
DD-AFW2 137.8 ha (4.8%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> low open forest over <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> and <i>Eremophila oppositifolia</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Atriplex bunburyana</i> and <i>Rhagodia eremaea</i> low sparse chenopod shrubland	Drainage depression	

Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
DD-AOW1 384.3 ha (13.3%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia aptaneura</i> low open woodland over <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> low open shrubland over <i>Maireana triptera</i> and <i>M. pyramidata</i> low sparse chenopod shrubland	Drainage depression	
DD-CS1 19.4 ha (0.7%)	Chenopod shrubland	<i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>M. georgei</i> and <i>M. triptera</i> low sparse chenopod shrubland	Drainage depression	

Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
DD-CS2 105.2 ha (3.6%)	Chenopod shrubland	Low open shrubland of <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over low sparse chenopod shrubland of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i> , <i>Enchylaena tomentosa</i> and <i>Maireana triptera</i>	Drainage depression	
RH-AFW1 79.6 ha (2.7%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and/or <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i> low open forest over <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> low sparse shrubland	Rocky hillslope	

Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
RH-AOW1 299.7 ha (10.3%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia aptaneura</i> , <i>A. grasbyi</i> and <i>A. tetragonophylla</i> low open woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> and <i>E. forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> low open shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> low sparse tussock grassland	Rocky hillslope	
RH-AOW2 132.9 ha (4.6%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia aptaneura</i> and <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> low open woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> or <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> open shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> low tussock grassland	Rocky hillslope	

Vegetation Code	NVIS Vegetation Group	Vegetation Type	Landform	Image
RP-AOW1 543.7 ha (18.7%)	Acacia Forests and Woodlands	<i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> low open woodland over <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> , <i>Ptilotus rotundifolius</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> , <i>Maireana oppositifolia</i> low open chenopod shrubland	Rocky plain	
Cleared 196.9 ha (6.8%)	N/A	Cleared	N/A	N/A



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Summary of vegetation types within the survey area mapped by Outback Ecology (2012a) are presented in the table below 'Reconnaissance Flora-Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey' (2025).

Association ID	Description
Veg Association 1	<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia ramulosa</i> var. <i>linophylla</i> Low Open Woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> or <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> Open Shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland. This vegetation was recorded on the more rocky undulating hills and plains.
Veg Association 2	<i>Acacia aneura</i> , <i>Acacia grasbyi</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> Low Woodland to Low Open Woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> and <i>E. forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> Low Open Shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland was recorded on the flow lines across the Survey area
Veg Association 3	<i>Acacia aneura</i> and <i>Acacia aneura</i> var. <i>fuliginea</i> Low Open Woodland over <i>Hakea preissii</i> and <i>Acacia synchronicia</i> over <i>Enneapogon caeruleus</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland over <i>Dissocarpus paradoxus</i> Open Herbland
Veg Association 4	The vegetation varied from <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> Tall Open Shrubland over <i>Dodonaea amplexifolia</i> Low Shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland
Veg Association 5	<i>Acacia aneura</i> (<i>A. quadrimarginea</i> and <i>A. aneura</i> var. <i>fuliginea</i>) Low Open Woodland over <i>Eremophila exilifolia</i> Open Shrubland over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland
Veg Association 6	<i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> Scattered Tall Shrubs over <i>Senna</i> sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) and <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> Open Shrubland over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> Scattered Low Shrubs over <i>Aristida contorta</i> Tussock Grassland (patchy)

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Summary of fauna habitats within the survey area are presented in the extracts below from Botanica Consulting's 'Reconnaissance Flora-Vegetation and Basic Fauna Survey' (2025). Of the five vegetation types described below, the chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain habitat is outside application area

Fauna Habita	Representative Fauna Attributes	Possible Occurring Significant Species	Example Image
Acacia forest and woodland on clay-loam plain	Ground not especially suited to burrowing species. Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting avifauna assemblage. Low vegetation density and low leaf litter.	Grey Falcon, <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	
Acacia forest and woodland in drainage depression	Ground not suited to burrowing species. Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting avifauna assemblage. Moderate vegetation density and moderate leaf litter.	Malleefowl, <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> Grey Falcon, <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> Southern Whiteface, <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>	
Acacia forest and woodland on rocky hillslopes	Ground not suited to burrowing species. Low diversity vegetation strata Low vegetation density and low leaf litter	Grey Falcon, <i>Falco hypoleucos</i>	

Fauna Habita	Representative Fauna Attributes	Possible Occurring Significant Species	Example Image
<p>Acacia forest and woodland on rocky plain</p>	<p>Ground suited to burrowing species.</p> <p>Moderate diversity vegetation strata supporting avifauna assemblage</p> <p>Moderate vegetation density and low to moderate leaf litter</p>	<p>Malleefowl, <i>Leipoa ocellata</i></p> <p>Grey Falcon, <i>Falco hypoleucos</i></p> <p>Southern Whiteface <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i></p>	
<p>Chenopod shrubland on clay-loam plain</p>	<p>Ground not particularly suited to burrowing species.</p> <p>Low diversity vegetation strata</p> <p>Low vegetation density and low leaf litter</p>	<p>N/A</p>	
<p>Cleared</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>



Appendix G. Sources of information

G.1. GIS datasets

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

- 10 metre contours (DPIRD-073)
- 2 metre contours (DPIRD-072)
- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- 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)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- 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)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976-1991 (DBCA-029)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- 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)
- Medium Scale Topo Coastal Flat (Polygon) (LGATE-122)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Elevation (Point) (LGATE-014)
- Medium Scale Topo Inland Flat (Polygon) (LGATE-099)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Point) (LGATE-017)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- 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)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)

- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Rangelands (DPIRD-063)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Soil Sites (DPIRD-071)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Western Australia attributed by WA Soil Group (DPIRD-076)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Zones (DPIRD-017)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Resources (DWER-084)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Subareas (DWER-083)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Resources (DWER-081)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Subareas (DWER-080)

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.