Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11157/1
Permit type:	Purpose Permit
Applicant name:	Musgrave Minerals Limited
Application received:	30 June 2025
Application area:	250 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical Removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 21/106, 58/224, 58/366 and 58/367
	Miscellaneous Licence 58/42
Location (LGA areas):	Shire of Cue and Shire of Mount Magnet
Colloquial name:	Cue Operations - Stage 2

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Musgrave Mineral Limited proposes to clear up to 250 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 413 hectares, for the purpose of mining related infrastructure (Musgrave Minerals Limited, 2025). The project is located approximately 30 kilometres south of Cue, within the Shire of Cue and Shire of Mount Magnet (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the development of Stage 2 of the Cue Project (Ramelius Resources, 2025). Stage 2 development of the Project will include additional pits and the “Break of Day” underground mine with surfcae distrubances including:

- six additoinal pits;
- 5 additoinal waste rock landforms (WRL);
- increasing the footpring of the west WRL;
- 4 additoinal Mikne or pads (MOPs);
- transport corridors;
- laydown / hardstand areas;
- topsoil / laterite stockpiles,
- Break of Day underground mine; and
- underground offices and workshop (Ramelius Resources, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	2 October 2025
Decision area:	250 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

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

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to conservation significant flora;
- impacts to conservation signifciant fauna;
- potential impacts to drainage lines; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing could be minimised and managed to be environmentally acceptable.

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;
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- avoid clearing riparian vegetation and maintain surface water flow;
- no clearing is permitted within 10 metres of any individuals of *Hibiscus* sp. Perrinvale Station;
- no more than 35 individuals of *Calotis* sp. Perrinvale Station are permitted to be disturbed;
- up to 10.5 hectares of 'Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)' (Priority 1) PEC permitted to be disturbed;
- up to 140 hectares of 'Lake Austin Land System' (Priority 3) PEC is permitted to be disturbed; and
- when clearing between 1 July and 31 October the Permit Holder must undertake pre-clearance inspections for active Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nests.

1.5. Site map

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

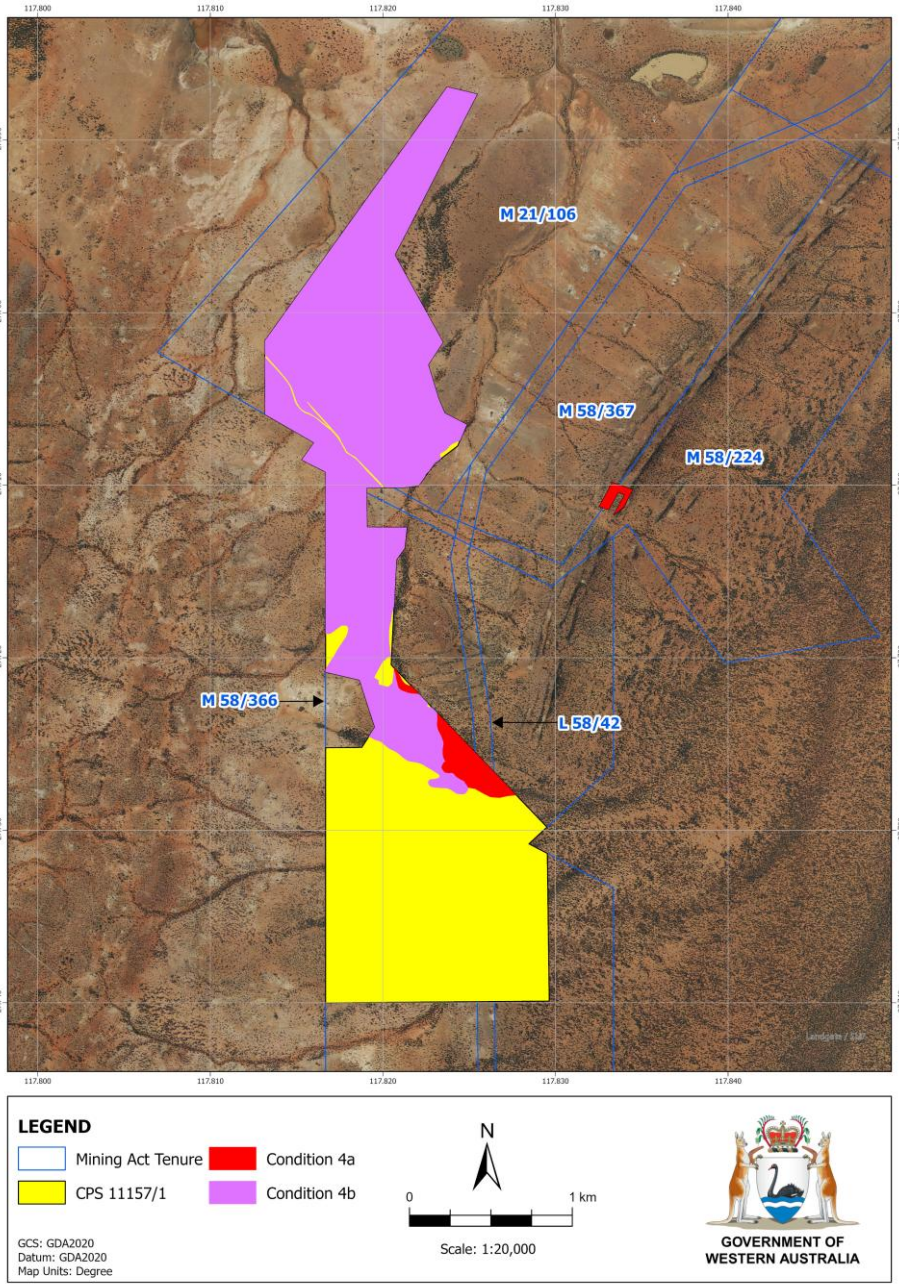

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *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

Musgrave have outlined the following avoidance and mitigation measures:

- the permit area has been designed to avoid impacts to Lake Austin; and
- the permit area has been designed to minimise clearing within banded ironstone formation (BIF) rises habitats and vegetation associated with BIFs, breakaways and rocky areas;
- the permit area has been designed to avoid large impacts to Priority flora species;
- dust management will be implemented;
- vehicle traffic will be confined to defined roads and tracks and are speed limited;
- disturbed areas will be rehabilitated upon completion of mining activities or where progressively able to do so;
- internal Vehicle Hygiene and Weed Inspection Procedure will be maintained (Ramelius Resources Limited, 2025).

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

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

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

Assessment

360 Environmental (2021) undertook a single-phase flora and vegetation survey during August to September 2020, and Maia Environmental Consultancy (2023) undertook a targeted flora survey of the application area October 2022 (spring) and January 2023 (summer). The flora surveys identified 298 species of flora from 120 genera and 46 families (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). No threatened flora species were recorded within the application area and surrounding survey area, however two Priority Flora species was recorded within the application area (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023).

Hibiscus sp. Perrinvale Station, Priority 1, is a small, upright shrub growing to 1.5 metres high, and this species has been recorded on Banded Ironstone Formation (BIF) hill slopes, rocky areas and within drainage lines (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). This species has been recorded within the Gascoyne and Murchison Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregions from 17 locations (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The targeted flora survey identified six individuals within the application area and an additional 43 individuals (from 34 locations) within the surrounding areas (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). The proponent has committed to retaining all six individuals of the species found within the application area. This will be ensured through a flora management condition on the permit, which prohibits clearing of the species unless secondary approval is obtained.

Calotis sp. Perrinvale Station, Priority 3, is a small annual daisy which has been recorded on rocky areas, usually on BIF or laterised ridges and outcrops on yellow or red-brown soils (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). This species has been recorded within the Coolgardie, Murchison and Yalgoo bioregions from 24 locations (Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The targeted flora survey identified 612 individuals within the Survey Area, of these 295 individuals were located within the application area (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). The proponent has committed to minimise the impact of disturbance to up to 35 individuals of this species (5.7% impact to the local population). This will be ensured through a flora management condition on the permit, which prohibits the clearing of more than 35 individuals of this species unless secondary approval is obtained.

Eleven additional Priority flora species are considered to potentially occur within the application area (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; GIS Database). These species were not recorded during the flora surveys and as suitable habitat is available within the surrounding areas, the clearing is not considered to have a significant impact to these species at a regional level.

An estimated 11.12 hectares of the application area is mapped within the Priority Ecological Community (PEC) 'Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)' (Priority 1), and up to 10.5 hectares are proposed to be disturbed. Given the Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)' (Priority 1) PEC is mapped over approximately 35,510 hectares, the proposed clearing will result in the removal of 0.03 percent of the total mapped Priority 1 PEC (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). An estimated 212.8 hectares of the application area is mapped within the 'Lake Austin Land System' (Priority 3) PEC, and up to 140 hectares of this PEC are proposed to be disturbed (Botanica Consulting; 2023; Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). The 'Lake Austin Land System' Priority 3 PEC is mapped over approximately 22,443 hectares (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). The proposed clearing will result in the removal of 0.62 percent of the total

mapped Priority 3 PEC. The proposed disturbance to the PECs is not considered to be significant as the PEC is present in large areas in the surrounding areas/bioregion, however, accumulative disturbances to the PEC can be managed by implementing a restricted clearing condition ensuring the proposed disturbance is being adhered to.

The clearing permit area has been designed to avoid clearing impacts to Lake Austin and to minimise clearing within BIF habitats with vegetation associated with banded ironstone rises, breakaways and rocky areas, resulting in only 0.48 hectares of the application area exhibiting this habitat.

Conclusion
For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by avoiding and minimising disturbance and by taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- no clearing is permitted within 10 metres of any individuals of *Hibiscus* sp. Perrinvale Station;
- no more than 35 individuals of *Calotis* sp. Perrinvale Station are permitted to be disturbed;
- up to 10.5 hectares of 'Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation)' (Priority 1) PEC permitted to be disturbed; and
- up to 140 hectares of 'Lake Austin Land System' (Priority 3) PEC is permitted to be disturbed.

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

Assessment

A detailed terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey was undertaken within the application area and the surrounding area from August to September 2020. The survey included trap sites installed within areas of suitable and representative habitat (360 Environmental, 2021). Motion sensitive cameras were also used in conjunction with systematic trapping sites and positioned in locations of particular interest and Autonomous Recording Units (ARUs) were used to target bat species and the Night Parrot (*Perzoporus occidentalis*) (360 Environmental, 2021). Sixty-three fauna species from 40 families were recorded within the survey area (360 Environmental, 2021). No conservation significant species or evidence of conservation significant species were recorded during this survey, however the habitat present within the application area provides habitat for several conservation significant fauna species (360 Environmental, 2021; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) undertook a basic vertebrate fauna survey assessment in December of 2022. The survey identified following eight fauna habitats within the application area:

- Banded Ironstone Formation (BIF) rises, breakaways and rocky areas: 0.13%;
- Disturbed: 4.46%;
- Mixed open shrubland: 45.64%;
- Mulga drainage: 8.85%; and
- Mulga woodland: 40.93%.

Although no individuals or evidence of conservation significant species were identified, 23 conservation significant fauna species have previously been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area, and 13 of these species are considered to potentially occur within the application area based on suitable habitat and historical records (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database). The clearing permit area has been designed to avoid clearing impacts to Lake Austin and to minimise clearing within BIF habitats with vegetation associated with banded ironstone rises, breakaways and rocky areas, which only represent 0.13% of the total permit area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

Of the 13 conservation significant fauna species that could potentially be present within the application area, the Southern whiteface requires further consideration as suitable breeding habitat is present within the application area. Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (Vulnerable – EPBC Act) occurs across most of mainland Australia south of the tropics, from the north-eastern edge of the Western Australian wheatbelt, east to the Great Dividing Range (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is known to inhabit a wide range of open woodlands and shrublands where there is an understory of grasses or shrubs, or both which are usually dominated by acacias or eucalypts on ranges, foothills and lowlands, and plains (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The Southern whiteface forages on the ground, favouring habitat with low tree densities and an herbaceous understory litter cover (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is known to breed between July and October by building large bulky domed nests of grass, bark and roots, usually in a hollow or crevice, although sometimes in low bushes (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Terrestrial Ecosystems did not record this species during the fauna survey, however due to the presence of suitable breeding habitat and records within the surrounding areas, it is considered possible this species could occur in the application area.

The fauna habitat types represented in the permit area are abundant and in similar condition within the Murchison bioregion and in adjacent areas, and the permit area is unlikely to support a high level of fauna diversity due to a lack of understorey and leaflitter (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). The fauna assemblage that is present in the project area is also present and abundant in the adjacent areas (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). The proposed clearing is therefore not considered to likely significantly impact on conservation significant species.

Conclusion

Based on the reasons outlined above, the proposed clearing is not expected to have a significant impact on conservation significant fauna. Most species are considered infrequent visitors and do not rely specifically on the habitat within the application area. The exception is the Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) that may potentially nest in the area.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:

- undertake slow progressive clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent environments; and
- when clearing between 1 July and 31 October the Permit Holder must undertake pre-clearance inspections for active Southern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nests.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 11 July 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 over the area under application (Badimia People (WAD6123/1998)) (DPLH, 2025). 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 Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The application area is located approximately 30 kilometres south south-west of Cue within the Shire of Mount Magnet (GIS Database). The area is located within the East Murchison subregion of the Murchison bioregion as described by the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation of Australia (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The dominant land uses for the bioregion are native pasture to support grazing and crown land reserves, and to a lesser extent mining and exploration (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023). The region surrounding the application area has been disturbed for minerals exploration and there are many operational and non-operational mining projects in the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>The application is not known to provide and important ecological linkage (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The application area is not located within a conservation area (GIS Database). The nearest conservation area is the Lakeside National Park (DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters) located approximately five kilometres north west of the application area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
18: Low woodland; mulga (Acacia aneura); and
313: Succulent steppe with open scrub; scattered Acacia sclerosperma and A. victoriae over bluebush (GIS Database).
The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Botanica Consulting, 2023; Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023):
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation Type</th><th>Representative Priority Ecological Community</th><th>Extent within application area (hectares)</th></tr>
<tr><td>Disturbed</td><td></td><td>2.36049</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mixed Acacia Tall Shrubland / Low Woodland to Isolated Tall Shrubs / Low Trees mainly of Acacia aptaneura, A. fuscaneura and A. incurvaneura with a Sparse Shrubland of Eremophila georgei and E. forrestii and a Low Sparse Shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus and Isolated Low Trees of Acacia pruinocarpa</td><td>Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) P1 PEC</td><td>0.00035</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Mixed Acacia Tall Shrubland mainly of A. tetragonophylla, A. craspedocarpa and A. caesaneura with a mixed Sparse Shrubland mainly of Eremophila forrestii, Solanum lasiophyllum and Ptilotus obovatus</td><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>14.99801</td></tr>
<tr><td>No</td><td>76.02903</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mixed Acacia Tall Shrubland mainly of Acacia aptaneura, A. fuscaneura and A. grasbyi with a Sparse mixed Shrubland mainly of Eremophila georgei, E. forresti and E. latrobei subsp. Glabra and a Low Sparse Shrubland of Ptilotus obovatus and P. schwartzii</td><td>Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) P1 PEC</td><td>0.4764</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Mixed Acacia Tall Shrubland mainly of Acacia aptaneura, A. ramulosa var. ramulosa and A. caesaneura with a mixed Sparse Shrubland of Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, E. latrobei subsp. latrobei and E. georgei and Isolated Low Shrubs of Ptilotus obovatus</td><td>Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) P1 PEC</td><td>9.54362</td></tr>
<tr><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>43.27806</td></tr>
<tr><td>No</td><td>39.774</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Mixed Acacia Tall Shrubland mainly of Acacia tetragonophylla, A. craspedocarpa and A. caesaneura with a mixed Sparse Shrubland of Eremophila galeata and / or Teucrium teucriiflorum and Isolated Low Shrubs of Ptilotus obovatus</td><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>115.19783</td></tr>
<tr><td>No</td><td>23.6469</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mixed Sparse Shrubland mainly of Eremophila longifolia, Hakea preissii and Acacia victoriae with a mixed Sparse Low Shrubland mainly of Frankenia</td><td>No</td><td>0.00684</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
<table>
<tr><td>laxiflora, Maireana pyramidata and Solanum lasiophyllum</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Mixed Tall Acacia Shrubland mainly of Acacia fuscaneura, A. grasbyi and A. tetragonophylla with a Sparse Low Shrubland of Maireana triptera, Solanum lasiophyllum and Sclerolaena densiflora and Isolated Low Trees of Acacia fuscaneura</td><td>Lake Austin vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) P1 PEC</td><td>1.09674</td></tr>
<tr><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>3.32535</td></tr>
<tr><td>No</td><td>35.3486</td></tr>
<tr><td>Mixed Tall Shrubland mainly of, Acacia tetragonophylla, A. eremaea and A. caesaneura with a mixed Shrubland mainly of Eremophila forrestii subsp. forrestii, E. galeata and Senna sp. Meekatharra and mixed Isolated Low Shrubs mainly of Enchylaena tomentosa subsp. tomentosa, Rhagodia drummondii and Maireana trichoptera.</td><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>8.72879</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Open Low mixed Shrubland mainly of Maireana pyramidata, M. triptera and Ptilotus obovatus with a Sparse mixed Shrubland mainly of Eremophila galeata, Rhagodia drummondii and Senna sp. Meekatharra (E. Bailey 1-26) and Isolated Tall Shrubs of Hakea preissii, Acacia tetragonophylla and A. aptaneura.</td><td>Austin Land System (P3) PEC</td><td>27.2661</td></tr>
<tr><td>No</td><td>11.87567</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation survey (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023) indicated the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Degraded to Excellent (Trudgen, 1991) condition, described as
Excellent: Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
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.
Degraded: 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.
The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate</td><td>The application area experiences a semi-arid climate with an annual rainfall of 231.1 millimetres (BoM, 2025).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description and Land degradation risk</td><td>The soils of the application area are broadly mapped as the following soil types:
Austin System: mainly erosional surfaces dominated by gently sloping plains with moderately dense to very dense mantles of quartz or ironstone gravels and pebbles. Soils are predominately shallow hard setting duplex types such as sandy loams over light clays. The vegetation is a mixture of scattered trees and low shrublands;
Carnegie System: salt lakes and fringing level to gently sloping plains with saline alluvium and low sand dunes above surrounding saline plains. The lack of slope renders most of the system generally not susceptible to soil erosion except at lake margins where wind erosion may be exacerbated by loss of stabilising vegetation;
Gabanintha System: erosional surfaces with long ranges of low hills and ridges, rough rounded crests and concave footslopes. The vegetation varies from a mixed hill shrubland to a stoney mulga shrubland with a halophytic shrubland on the accessible footslopes;
Jundee System: mainly Hardpan Mulga Shrubland of low to moderate productivity; groves and drainage tracts receive more lasting soil moisture for plant growth than wash plains; palatable perennials widley reduced through overgrazing; concentrated draingage zones are mildly susceptible to accelerated erosion when degraded; hardpan plains otherwise not normally susceptible to erosion unless severely degraded (Curry et al., 1994);
Violet System: undulating stony and gravelly plains with low rises supporting mulga shrublands. Extensive, gently undulating to level plains and low rises with mantles of ironstone pebbles and level to very gently inclined plains subject to sheet flow with mantles of fine ironstone gravel. Soils vary from dark red gravels, clayey sands or fine sandy loams to shallow red earths, clay loams or fine sandy loams. Abundant mantles provide effective protection against soil erosion over most of this land system, except where the soil surface</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	has been disturbed. In such circumstances, the soil becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion. The narrow drainage tracts are mildly susceptible to water erosion (DPIRD, 2024; 2025).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are three minor non-perennial water courses that intersect the application area (GIS Database). Lake Austin is located directly north of the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is not mapped within a proclaimed public drinking water area (GIS Database). The area is mapped within the East Murchison Groundwater Area, proclaimed under the Rights in Water Irrigation (RIWI) Act (GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 13 priority flora species within a 20 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). Two Priority flora species were recorded within the application area.
Ecological communities	There are no Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) within the application area (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; GIS Database). The application area is partially mapped within the Austin Land System (P3) Priority Ecological Community (PEC) and is adjacent to mapped areas of the Lake Austin BIF (Banded Ironstone Formation) P1 PEC (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; GIS Database).
Fauna	There are records of 22 priority fauna species within a 50 kilometres radius of the application area (GIS Database). There are no records of conservation significant fauna species within the application area (GIS Database)
Fauna habitat	Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) undertook a basic vertebrate fauna survey assessment in December of 2022. The survey identified following eight fauna habitats within the application area: • Banded Ironstone rises, breakaways and rocky areas (0.48 hectares); • Disturbed (16.63 hectares); • Mixed open shrubland (169.97 hectares); • Mulga drainage (32.94 hectares); and • Mulga woodland (152.42 hectares) (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023).

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent Remaining %	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA Managed Lands
IBRA Bioregion Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 18	19,892,306.46	19,843,148.07	99.75	1,317,179.00	6.62
Veg Assoc No. 313	68,843.52	65,261.44	94.80	1.79	0.00
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 18	12,403,172.30	12,363,252.47	99.68	614,964.13	4.96
Veg Assoc No. 313	68,843.52	65,261.44	94.80	1.79	0.00

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-) impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Acacia burrowsiana	P3	Y	<25	28
Acacia lapidosa	P1	Y	<20	11
Acacia speckii	P4	Y	<1	40
Alyxia tetanifolia	P3	Y	<25	14

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Angianthus microcephalus	P2	Y	<5	17
Angianthus uniflorus	P1	Y	<10	2
Calotis sp. Perrinvale Station (R.J. Cranfield 7096)	P3	Y	0	24
Euryomyrtus recurva	P3	Y	<15	31
Grevillea inconspicua	P4	Y	<1	63
Hibiscus sp. Perrinvale Station (J. Warden & E. Ager WB 10581)	P1	Y	0	18
Minuria sp. Murchison (T. Lowrey 1713)	P1	Y	<10	14
Petrophile pauciflora	P3	Y	<25	24
Tecticornia fimbriata	P3	Y	<1	31

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix D.1), and biological survey information (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023) impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Common Name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
Aphelocephala leucopsis	Southern Whiteface	VU	<50	Y
Actitis hypoleucos	common sandpiper	MI	<50	N
Apus pacificus	fork-tailed swift	MI	<50	Y
Calidris acuminata	sharp-tailed sandpiper	MI	<15	Y
Calidris ferruginea	curlew sandpiper	CR	<15	Y
Calidris ruficollis	red-necked stint	MI	<50	N
Charadrius cucullatus	hooded plover, hooded dotterel	P4	<15	N
Chlidonias leucopterus	white-winged black tern	MI	<20	Y
Cyclodomorphus branchialis	gilled slender blue-tongue	VU	<40	Y
Egernia stokesii badia	western spiny-tailed skink	VU	<50	N
Falco hypoleucos	grey falcon	VU	<35	N
Falco peregrinus	peregrine falcon	OS	<25	Y
Gelochelidon nilotica	gull-billed tern	MI	<15	Y
Idiosoma clypeatum	northern shield-backed trapdoor spider	P3	<40	Y
Leipoa ocellata	malleefowl	VU	<25	N
Lerista eupoda	West Coast mulga slider	P1	<45	Y
Limosa lapponica	bar-tailed godwit	MI	<35	Y
Petrogale lateralis lateralis	black-flanked rock-wallaby, black-footed rock-wallaby, moororong	EN	<40	N
Pezoporus occidentalis	night parrot	CR	<25	N
Plegadis falcinellus	glossy ibis	MI	<50	N
Tringa glareola	wood sandpiper	MI	<15	Y
Tringa nebularia	common greenshank	MI	<15	Y
Tringa stagnatilis	marsh sandpiper	MI	<50	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority, OS: other specially protected

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: Flora and fauna surveys identified 298 species of flora from 120 genera and 46 families (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). No threatened flora or fauna species were recorded, however two Priority Flora species was recorded within the application area (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023). The application area consists of 9 vegetation associations and five Land Systems (DPIRD, 2025). A portion of the application area is mapped as the Austin Land System (P3) Priority Ecological Community (PEC) and adjacent to the Lake Austin BIF (Banded Ironstone Formation) P1 PEC (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; GIS Database).	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared may contain foraging habitat for several conservation significant fauna species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2023; GIS Database).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: There are no known records of Threatened flora within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any species of Threatened flora (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within the application area and the flora and vegetation survey did not identify any TECs (Maia Environmental Consultancy, 2023; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given multiple non-perennial water courses transect the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality. Impact	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
to these water courses may be managed by implementing a watercourse management condition.		
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The application area is mapped within the Austin, Carnegie, Gabanintha, Jundee and Violet Land Systems, which may experience erosional surfaces (DPIRD 2024; 2025). Land degradation may be managed by implementing a staged clearing condition.	May be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given multiple non-perennial water courses transect the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database). Impact to these water courses may be managed by implementing a watercourse management condition.	May be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from 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.

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.
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 D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976-1991 (DBCA-029)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

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)

D.2. References

360 Environmental (2021) Moyagee Gold Project Biological Survey. Report prepared for Musgrave Minerals, February 2021.

Botanica Consulting (2023) Environmental Assessment. Cue Gold Project Clearing Permit Application M21/106, M21/107, M58/224, M58/366, M58/367 & L58/42. Report prepared for Ramelius Resources Limited, December 2023.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Weather Station: 007017. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 19 September 2025).

Commonwealth of Australia (2001) *National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005*, Canberra.

Commonwealth of Australia (2008) Species Profile and Threats Database. Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australia. https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/sprat.pl (Accessed 25 September 2025).

Department of Environment Regulation (DER) (2014) *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Perth. https://www.der.wa.gov.au/images/documents/your-environment/native-vegetation/Guidelines/Guide2_assessment_native_veg.pdf

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2025) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 19 September 2025).

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2024) Advice received in relation to Clearing Permit Application CPS 10464.1. Office of the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, January 2024.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) (2025) NRInfo Digital Mapping. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Government of Western Australia. https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=662e8cbf2def492381fc915aaf3c6a0f (Accessed 19 September 2025).

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) (2021) Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits. Joondalup. https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-11/procedure-native-vegetation-clearing-permits.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016a) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf

Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2020) Technical Guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys. https://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/2020.09.17%20-%20EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Vertebrate%20Fauna%20Surveys%20-%20Final.pdf

Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics

Maia Environmental Consultancy (2023) Musgrave Minerals Limited (Musgrave): Cue Gold Project. Single-Phase Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment and Targeted Flora Survey (Spring / Summer / 2022 / 2023). Report prepared for Musgrave Minerals Limited, September 2023.

Musgrave Minerals Limited (2025) Clearing permit application form, CPS 11157/1, received 30 June 2025.

P.J. Curry, A.L. Payne, K.A. Leighton, P. Hennig and D.A. Blood (1994) An inventory and condition survey of Murchison River Catchment, Western Australia. Technical Bulletin 84. Department of Agriculture and Food, Perth, Western Australia.

Ramelius Resources (2025) Clearing Permit Application Environmental Assessment Cue Operations - Stage 2. Prepared for Musgrave Minerals Limited by Ramelius Resources, June 2025.

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2023) Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Assessment. Report prepared for Musgrave Minerals Ltd, May 2023.

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.

Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) FloraBase - the Western Australian Flora. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia. https://florabase.dpaw.wa.gov.au/ (Accessed 19 September 2025).

4. Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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