

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11183/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	White Star Minerals Pty Ltd
Application received:	11 July 2025
Application area:	79 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 51/888 Miscellaneous Licence 51/112
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Meekatharra
Colloquial name:	Tumblegum South Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

White Star Minerals Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 45 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 79 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 38 kilometres southeast of Meekatharra, within the Shire of Meekatharra (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the development of the Tumblegum South Project (White Star Minerals, 2025a). The development of this project will include an open pit gold mine, waste rock landform, run-of-mine pad and topsoil stockpile, internal haul road, temporary construction compound including site office and amenities, vehicle and plant parking, and laydown area (White Star Minerals, 2025b).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	6 March 2026
Decision area:	45 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 (White Star Minerals, 2025b) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (White Star Minerals, 2025b), 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 Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate mineral production and associated activities.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- potential impacts to three priority flora species; *Acacia speckii*, *Dodonaea ampleximena* and *Ptilotus luteolus*; and
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface).

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing may have long-term adverse impacts on the local populations of the three priority flora species *Acacia speckii*, *Dodonaea ampleximena* and *Ptilotus luteolus*; and long-term adverse impacts to *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface). These impacts can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an

unacceptable risk to environmental values through the implementation of the applicant's proposed avoidance and minimisation measures and the below permit conditions.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- limited clearing of priority flora identified within the application area;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity, and engage a fauna spotter to traverse the project area ahead of clearing machinery at the time of clearing and alert machinery operators to avoid fauna;
- vegetation management condition to avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and minimise the impacts of clearing on existing surface flows; 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.

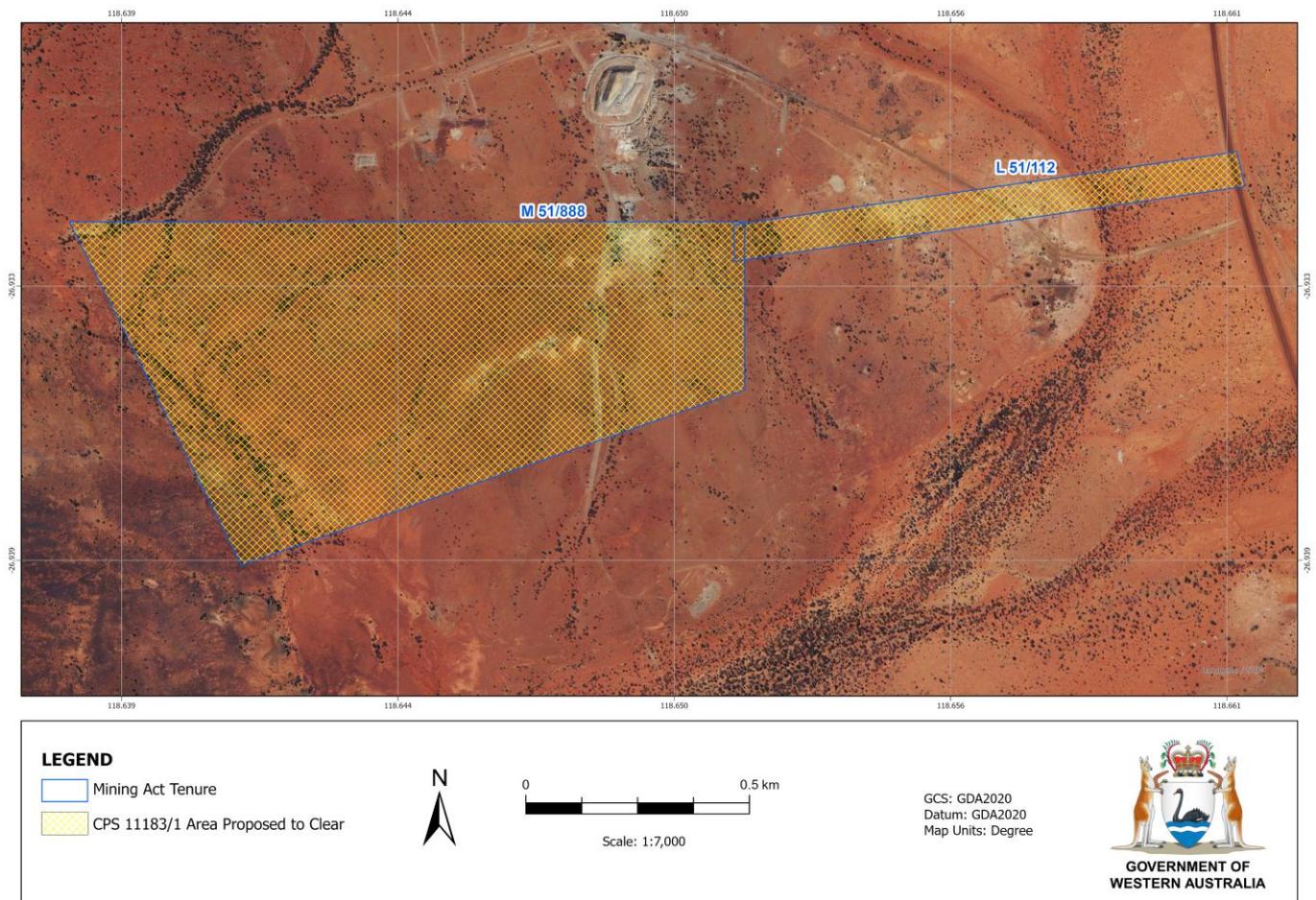


Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

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 (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)
- *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, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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.

The proponent has, as part of their supporting documentation, listed the following avoidance and mitigation measures to be implemented throughout the proposed clearing process (White Star Minerals, 2025b):

- all clearing to be managed under a clearing contractor's Ground Disturbance Permit (or similar);
- the clearing areas will be identified using GPS coordinates;
- all clearing kept to a minimum within the Permit Area and completed only when required;
- all vehicles, equipment and personnel will be inspected and cleaned as required to prevent the incidental spread of weeds;
- clearing limits for Priority Flora; and
- surface water management measures.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (flora and fauna). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

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

Assessment

Flora

A flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd in 2017, with a new edition of the report published in 2025 revising the report in line with updates to species nomenclature (Onshore, 2025). This survey was conducted across a large area covering historic exploration licences E51/843, E51/1396, and E51/1534, now updated to mining leases M51/888 and M51/878 (GIS Database).

Based on the survey results, the application area is known to contain the following three priority flora species (White Star Minerals, 2025b):

- *Acacia speckii* (P4);
- *Dodonaea amplisemina* (P4); and
- *Ptilotus luteolus* (P3).

***Acacia speckii* (P4)** is a bushy, rounded shrub or tree growing to 1.5-3 metres in height with yellow flowers. The flowering period is unknown, however mature fruiting bodies have been collected in September (WAH, 1998). This species has been recorded in the Gascoyne, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions, growing in rocky granitic soils with underlying basalt, granite or dolerite in shrubland or open scrub with *Acacia aneura* (WAH, 1998). There are 40 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium with 2-220 plants identified per record (WAH, 1998). The 2017 Onshore survey recorded 130 individuals of this species within the application area, with 73 falling within the planned site layout (White Star Minerals, 2025b). A larger number of individuals have been identified in the local area by surveys for adjacent proposals, cumulatively, 4,854 have been identified (White Star Minerals, 2025b). As this species is distributed across three IBRA bioregions and recorded in a wide variety of environments, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will significantly affect the conservation of this species, however it may significantly impact this species at a local level.

***Dodonaea amplisemina* (P4)** is a dioecious, multi-stemmed shrub growing to 0.3-1 metres in height. 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 (WAH, 1998). There are 40 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium, with 3-10,000 plants identified at each record (WAH, 1998). The 2017 Onshore survey recorded 527 individuals of this species within the application area, with 288 falling within the planned site layout (White Star Minerals, 2025b). The distribution of this species across four IBRA bioregions, combined with the large number of plants recorded by other surveys in the region (>10,000 individuals), makes it unlikely that the proposed clearing of 288 individuals will

affect the conservation significance of this species. However, it could represent a significant portion of the local population. As such, the proposed clearing may significantly impact this species locally but is not considered to impact the species at a regional or species level.

***Ptilotus luteolus* (P3)** is a small perennial shrub growing to 0.2-0.8 metres in height. This species has been recorded in the Carnarvon, Gascoyne and Murchison IBRA bioregions growing in gravelly clay loam soils, often associated with slopes or rocky outcrops (Davis, 2009). There are only 20 records of this species submitted to the Western Australian Herbarium, with 20-300 plants identified at each record (WAH, 1998). The 2017 Onshore survey recorded 842 individuals of this species within the application area, with 381 falling within the planned site layout (White Star Minerals, 2025b). While this species has been recorded across three IBRA bioregions and a variety of environments, the proposed clearing of 381 individuals within the application area may represent a significant impact on the local population.

Discussion

While the proposed clearing may not have a significant impact on the overall conservation of the three priority species discussed above, further analysis has been provided in White Star Minerals' supporting documentation compiling flora survey data from other projects in the region. With the additional data from these projects, there are 4,964 individuals of *Acacia speckii* recorded, 12,841 individuals of *Dodonaea amplisemina* recorded and 3,767 individuals of *Ptilotus luteolus* recorded; all from the following projects (White Star Minerals, 2025b):

- Gabanintha Vanadium Project – approximately 0.5 kilometres northwest of the application area;
- Australian Vanadium Project – approximately 1.5 kilometres southwest of the application area;
- Yogi Magnetite Project – approximately 223 kilometres southeast of the application area;
- Weld Range Iron Ore Project – approximately 75 kilometres west of the application area; and
- Iron Ridge Project – approximately 94 kilometres west of the application area.

With this additional data, the proposed clearing of *Acacia speckii* and *Dodonaea amplisemina* is unlikely to have a significant impact on the local population of these species. However, the proposed clearing of *Ptilotus luteolus* could have an impact on the local population as the 381 individuals proposed to be cleared represent 10.11% of the known individuals in the area (White Star Minerals, 2025b).

Additionally, the cumulative impact of the proposed projects in the region on the three priority species listed have been compiled with 16.98% of known *Acacia speckii* individuals, 5.26% of known *Dodonaea amplisemina* individuals, and 17.28% of known *Ptilotus luteolus* individuals projected to be cleared; 10.11% of which will be cleared by the Tumblegum South project alone (White Star Minerals, 2025b). The other projects in the region include the Gabanintha Vanadium Project, Yogi Magnetite Project, Australian Vanadium Project, Iron Ridge Project and Weld Range Iron Ore Project. With the exception of the Iron Ridge Project, the clearing for which was assessed and approved under CPS 8891/3, these projects are either under assessment by the EPA or have been assessed and approved by the EPA (EPA, 2026).

It has been noted that all three species grow in a variety of soils and vegetation associations across the IBRA bioregions they have been recorded in and that they are likely to have been under surveyed (DBCA, 2026). At a regional and species level, the three species are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing (DBCA, 2026).

At a local level, there may be significant impacts to subpopulations of the three priority flora species, in particular for *Ptilotus luteolus* as cumulatively 17.28% of the known individuals in the area are projected to be cleared (DBCA, 2026). It is noted that as all three species occur across varied landforms, soils and geological settings, and do not appear to exhibit strong habitat specificity, it is likely that the subpopulations extend beyond the surveyed areas and the proposed disturbance footprint, which would result in a reduced impact on local significance, however further surveying is required to confirm this (DBCA, 2026).

Adjacent biological surveys identified 2,503 individuals of *Ptilotus luteolus* approximately 1.5 kilometres northwest of the application area in addition to 335 individuals of *Acacia speckii* and 574 individuals of *Dodonaea amplisemina*, with all three species growing in association with each other along a basalt hill complex (Biologic, 2021). As a result, it is expected these species are inhabiting the vegetation in the surrounding area as the vegetation assemblages in which the priority species were identified in both the 2025 Onshore and 2021 Biologic survey reports are well represented in the area surrounding the proposed developments (Biologic, 2021; DBCA, 2026; Onshore, 2025).

As the three priority species present within the application area are unlikely to be significantly impacted at a species or regional level, and the local populations are likely to extend beyond their known/surveyed subpopulations, the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact the three priority species identified within the application area. In addition to the mitigation measures proposed by White Star Minerals in section 3.1, and the conditions proposed by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions have advised the implementation of the following mitigation measure:

- Priority flora within the application area and in close proximity to the application area should be demarcated.

Additionally, the application area provides suitable habitat for the following priority flora species recorded within 20 kilometres of the area (GIS Database):

- *Drummondita miniata* (P3);
- *Euploca mitchellii* (P1);
- *Eremophila fasciata* (P3);
- *Ptilotus lazaridis* (P3); and
- *Tribulus adelacanthus* (P3).

The aforementioned priority flora species have the potential to occur within the application area due to suitable habitat being present and the presence of nearby records. However, the proposed clearing is not expected to significantly impact on these species as their habitat and associated vegetation is abundantly present in the surrounding bioregion and they have not been identified within the application area during the 2017 flora and vegetation survey conducted by Onshore (Onshore, 2025).

Conclusion

The impacts to the three priority species identified by the 2017 Onshore survey are considered unlikely to be significant at a regional or species level. The impacts to these species at a local level, as a result of the likelihood that the known populations extend beyond their known or surveyed subpopulations, are also considered unlikely to be significant and can be mitigated by the implementation of the below conditions.

While the additional priority species identified within 50 kilometres of the application area may have extended into the application area since the 2017 Onshore survey, the small size of the application area (79 hectares) means that any individuals occurring within the application area are unlikely to represent a significant population, and as such any impacts to these species if present are considered to be negligible.

Potential impacts to the priority species discussed above can be further mitigated by the implementation of the conditions below.

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;
- clearing of priority flora identified within the application area by the 2017 Onshore survey is kept to the minimum amount necessary to develop the proposed site envelope and known individuals within the application area but not proposed to be cleared shall be demarcated, with a 10 metre buffer where practicable;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- vegetation management condition to avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and minimise the impacts of clearing on existing surface flows.

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

Fauna

Two fauna surveys were conducted within the application area by Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd in 2017, one targeting vertebrate fauna and one targeting Short Range Endemic (SRE) invertebrate fauna (Biologic, 2024). Both surveys have received updated reports, the vertebrate survey with an additional desktop review of more recent local data and the SRE invertebrate survey with molecular analysis of some specimens collected during the 2017 field survey (Biologic, 2024).

The SRE invertebrate survey did not locate any significant or priority invertebrate species within the application area, and while some potential SRE invertebrate fauna species were located in the wider survey area, no suitable habitat for these species was identified within the application area, thus the impacts on these species by the proposed clearing are considered to be negligible (Biologic, 2024).

The vertebrate fauna survey did not locate any priority fauna species within the application area; however, four priority fauna species were recorded within the wider survey area that may utilise the application area for foraging and/or nesting. These species are:

- *Antechinomys longicaudatus* (long-tailed dunnart), P4;
- *Lerista eupoda* (West Coast mulga slider), P1;
- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon), OS; and
- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), VU.

***Antechinomys longicaudatus* (long-tailed dunnart)** is an Australian dunnart characterised by a tail longer than its body, growing in length from 260-306 millimetres, making it one of the larger known dunnart species (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). In Western Australia, the long-tailed dunnart is distributed from the Pilbara to the northeast of the goldfields, favouring Acacia, rocky screes with hummock grass and shrubs, and tall open shrublands and woodlands (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). Of the two primary fauna habitats identified within the application area by Biologic (2024a), stony plains and drainage lines, neither provide suitable habitat for the long-tailed dunnart. The stony plain habitat may provide suitable habitat for foraging, however any impacts to the long-tailed dunnart from the proposed clearing can be mitigated by the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

***Lerista eupoda* (West Coast mulga slider)** is a pale brown slider species with a sharp-edged vertebral and upper lateral stripe, growing up to 87 millimetres in length (Wilson and Swan, 2021). This species prefers open mulga woodland on red loams and sandy loam soils, only being recorded between Meekatharra and Cue (Wilson and Swan, 2021). There is a limited understanding of this species, though it is known to occur in accumulated leaf-litter (Wilson and Swan, 2021). There was one instance of this species recorded within the survey area, approximately 8 kilometres south of the application area. The individual was found in the mulga woodland habitat identified in the survey, which does not occur within the application area. While the likelihood of this species occurring within the application area is low due to its known characteristics and preferred habitat, the poorly understood nature of the species means that it may still be impacted by the proposed clearing. Potential impacts to the West Coast mulga slider can be mitigated by the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

***Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon)** is a large, powerfully built raptor with a black hood, blue-black upperparts and white chin, throat and underparts (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The species is widespread across Australia but is not commonly found across its range. It is found in a variety of habitats ranging from rainforest to arid zones, and from coastlines to alpine zones. This species prefers to nest along cliff faces, tall trees and even skyscrapers if suitable foraging habitat is nearby (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). A single individual of this species was recorded within the wider survey area along a rocky outcrop approximately one kilometre southwest of the application area (Biologic, 2024). This recording is near the abandoned Gabanintha mine, approximately 1.5 kilometres north of the application area, which may provide suitable breeding habitat for the peregrine falcon. The habitats recorded within the application area do not provide suitable breeding habitat for this species

but may be utilised as potential foraging habitat. Any impacts to the peregrine falcon from the proposed clearing can be mitigated by the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

***Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface)** is a small bird similar to thornbills but with a stockier build, with brownish-grey upperparts with a pale white underside (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). This species is widespread across the south of Australia but patchily distributed throughout its range, preferring woodlands and tall shrublands with grassy understorey or low shrub layer (Commonwealth of Australia). There are seven records of this species from the 2017 Biologic survey, and while none of these occur within the application area, three of them were recorded in the stony plains habitat that dominates the application area, the closest of which is less than five kilometres of the application area. The drainage line habitat in the western section of the application area has also been noted to provide suitable habitat for this species (Biologic, 2024). There is a high likelihood that this species may be utilising the application area as breeding/foraging habitat, with an element of uncertainty due to the nine-year gap since the last survey was conducted in the area. As such, the proposed clearing is likely to impact suitable habitat for the southern whiteface. To minimise impacts to this species; identified southern whiteface nests should be avoided by 50 metres between the months of July and October, and clearing should be undertaken in a slow directional manner with a trained fauna spotter present.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on the listed priority fauna species can be managed by the implementation of slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation with a trained fauna spotter present to identify any priority species at immediate risk of the clearing activities. Additionally, clearing should not be undertaken within 50 metres of any identified *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) nests between the months of July and October to minimise the impacts of clearing on this species.

Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity, and engage a fauna spotter to traverse the project area ahead of clearing machinery at the time of clearing and alert machinery operators to avoid fauna; 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 9 October 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration for 21 days inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

A letter was received from the Shire of Meekatharra Council on 12 November 2025 advising that after considering the application for CPS 11183/1 at the Shire of Meekatharra's Ordinary Council meeting on 25 October 2025 the council had no objections to the proposed clearing (Shire of Meekatharra, 2025).

There is one native title claim (WCD2021/008) over the area under application (DPLH, 2025). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal / 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). However, there are two registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance approximately 3 kilometres north of the application area. These are the Mount Yagahong and Yakong registered sites. It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*; and
- 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

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is located 38 kilometres southeast of the Meekatharra townsite on Crown Reserve (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is located immediately south of the Tumblegum Pit mined by Dominion from 1987 to 1992, surrounded by sparse vegetation in the Extensive Land Use Zone of Western Australia (White Star Minerals, 2025a; GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is within the Murchison IBRA bioregion and the Eastern Murchison subregion. This subregion has been heavily disturbed by over a century of pastoral grazing and mining activities, with additional erosional impacts due to the loss of vegetation structure (GIS Database).</p> <p>The primary land uses in the region are grazing, Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Crown Reserves, mining, and conservation (CALM, 2002).</p>
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within 50 kilometres of the application area, with the closest being the Tijwarl National Park, located approximately 90 kilometres southeast of the application area.
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>Wiluna 18: low woodland, mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and Wiluna 39: shrublands, mulga scrub (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area, by Onshore Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (Onshore, 2025) during 2017. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (White Star Minerals, 2025b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HP Mp: Low Shrubland (to Low Open Shrubland) of <i>Maireana pyramidata</i>, <i>Cratystylis subspinescens</i> and <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> over Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida contorta</i>, <i>Eriachne pulchella</i> subsp. <i>pulchella</i> and <i>Tripogon loliiformis</i> with Scattered Tall Shrubs of <i>Hakea preissii</i>, <i>Acacia pteraneura</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> on orange sandy loam on hardpan plain; • ME AiAaAf: Low Open Forest of <i>Acacia incurvaneura</i>, <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> and <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid) over Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Iseilema membranaceum</i>, <i>Dactyloctenium radulans</i> and <i>Aristida contorta</i> on brown loamy sand on medium drainage lines; • SP At Eg PoSl: Low Woodland of <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i>, <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> and <i>Acacia caesaneura</i> (narrow phyllode variant) over High Shrubland of <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i>, <i>Acacia craspedocarpa</i> (hybrid), and <i>Acacia tetragonophylla</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila galeata</i>, <i>Sida ectogama</i> and <i>Rhagodia drummondii</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i>, <i>Solanum lasiophyllum</i> and <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> over Open Tussock (to Tussock) Grassland of <i>Aristida contorta</i>, <i>Eriachne pulchella</i> subsp. <i>pulchella</i> and <i>Paspalidium clementii</i> on brown clay loam on stony plains; and • UH EmCd: Scattered Low Trees of <i>Acacia fuscaneura</i> and <i>Acacia aptaneura</i> over Open Shrubland of <i>Eremophila macmillaniana</i> over Low Open Shrubland of <i>Calytrix desolata</i>, <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> and <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>helmsii</i> over Very Open Tussock Grassland of <i>Aristida contorta</i> on orange, brown sandy loam on undulating low hills.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (White Star Minerals, 2025b) and aerial imagery (GIS Database) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in good to very good condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate for the East Murchison subregion is arid to semi-arid, with a mean annual rainfall of 231.7 millimetres recorded at Meekatharra Airport (BoM, 2026). The application area is mapped within an elevation area of 480 meters Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).
Soil description and land degradation risk	<p>The soil is mapped as part of the following land systems and soil descriptions (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiluna System: low greenstone hills with lateritic breakaways and broad stony slopes, lower saline stony plains and broad drainage tracts; supports sparse mulga shrublands with patches of halophytic shrubs (Curry et al., 1994). Soils associated with this land system are dark red gravelly loamy sands or brown earthy sands, shallow red earths or hard-setting duplexes on weathered basalt or greenstone, hardpan loams or shallow red earths, and alluvial dark red fine sandy loams (Curry et al., 1994). This land system

Characteristic	Details
	<p>is mildly to moderately susceptible to erosion when degraded by grazing and mining activities (Curry et al., 1994).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gabarintha System: Ridges, hills, and footslopes of various metamorphosed volcanic rocks (greenstones), supporting sparse acacia and other mainly non-halophytic shrublands (Curry et al., 1994). Soils associated with this land system are stony lithosols over greenstone, dark red fine sandy loams or clays, and dark red soft surfaced duplexes (Curry et al., 1994). This land system is not normally susceptible to erosion. • Koonmarra System: quartz-strewn stony plains and low rises with outcropping granite, gneiss and schists; supports scattered mulga and other mainly non-saline shrubs (Curry et al., 1994). Soils associated with this land system are dark red hardpan loams or red earths overlying gneiss or granite, dark red stony lithosols, and red earth sands to shallow and deep red earths overlying granitic or alluvial material (Curry et al., 1994). This land system is not normally susceptible to erosion except for along major drainage tracts (Curry et al., 1994).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the application area (GIS Database). There are three minor non-perennial lakes to the south of the application area, and a major non-perennial lake, Lake Annean, approximately 23 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The area proposed to be cleared is located within the East Murchison Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The application area occurs within the Murchison River Catchment and is located approximately 40 kilometres south of the Meekatharra Water Reserve (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is of 1000 to 3000 milligrams per total dissolved solids, which is described as brackish (GIS Database).
Flora	<p>There are records of seven priority flora within 20 kilometres of the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database). Furthermore the 2017 Onshore survey recorded three priority flora species within the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia speckii</i> (P4), 130 individuals recorded; • <i>Dodonaea amplisemina</i> (P4), 527 individuals recorded; and • <i>Ptilotus luteolus</i> (P3), 842 individuals recorded.
Ecological communities	There five records of Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) within 20 kilometres of the application area, the closest being the Yagahong land system (priority 3) three kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	<p>There are 15 records of conservation significant fauna species within 50 kilometres of the application area, with one record of <i>Antechinomys longicaudata</i> (long-tailed dunnart) and one record of <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon) within five kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The Biologic fauna surveys (2017) recorded four priority fauna species within the wider survey footprint that may utilise the application area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Antechinomys longicaudata</i> (long-tailed dunnart), P4; • <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface), VU; • <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon), OS; and • <i>Lerista eupoda</i> (West Coast mulga slider), P1.
Fauna habitat	<p>Two fauna habitats were recorded within the application area (White Star Minerals, 2025b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor Drainage Line: Minor Drainage Lines comprise drainage systems that are dominated by dense stands of Mulga and other <i>Acacia</i> species over sandy creek beds. The vegetation adjacent to the main channel or channels is denser, taller, and more diverse than adjacent terrain. The microhabitats within these areas are similar to surrounding Mulga Woodlands but with a high density of vegetation, leaf litter, woody debris, and often sandier alluvial soils; and • Stony Plain: Stony Plains comprise low-lying open plains. The habitat is defined by the stony substrate that extends through its distribution, and the lack of continuous vegetation. The vegetation varied throughout the extent but was dominated by scattered Mulga and Gidgee (<i>Acacia pruinocarpa</i>) over-storey, with a midstorey comprising <i>Eremophila</i> and <i>Ptilotus</i> species.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.4	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.39	6,613,567.48	6,602,578.44	99.83	795,070.69	12.02
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.39	1,148,400.30	1,138,064.63	99.10	40,834.41	3.56

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and survey information compiled by White Star Minerals (2025b), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Priority 1			
<i>Euploca mitchellii</i>	Y	<5	7
Priority 3			
<i>Drummondita miniata</i>	Y	<20	26
<i>Eragrostis</i> sp. Erect spikelets (P.K Latz 2122)	N	<10	6
<i>Eremophila fasciata</i>	Y	<5	8
<i>Ptilotus lazaridis</i>	Y	<15	15
<i>Tribulus adelacanthus</i>	Y	<5	19
Priority 4			
<i>Acacia speckii</i>	Y	<5	40

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and survey information compiled by White Star Minerals (2025b), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Birds			
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	<5
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (fork-tailed swift)	MI	N	<25
<i>Calidris acuminata</i> (sharp-tailed sandpiper)	MI	N	<40
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (curlew sandpiper)	CR	N	<40
<i>Calidris melanotos</i> (pectoral sandpiper)	MI	N	<40
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i> (grey falcon)	VU	N	<45
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)	OS	N	<5
<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> (gull-billed tern)	MI	N	<30

<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl)	VU	N	<40
<i>Tringa glareola</i> (wood sandpiper)	MI	N	<45
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (common greenshank)	MI	N	<40
Invertebrates			
<i>Branchinella simplex</i> (a fairy shrimp (inland WA))	P1	N	<35
Mammals			
<i>Antechinomys longicaudata</i> (long-tailed dunnart)	P4	Y	<5
<i>Bettongia anhydra</i> (desert bettong)	EX	N/A*	<30
Reptiles			
<i>Lerista eupoda</i> (West Coast mulga slider)	P1	Y	<10

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

*Species is listed as extinct and not considered for the purpose of this report

Appendix B. 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>The area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for conservation significant flora species.</p>	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> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant fauna.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No threatened flora species have been identified within the application area or its surrounds, and no flora species listed under the BC Act have been identified within the application area (White Star Minerals, 2025b; GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities or Priority Ecological Communities located within the application area (GIS Database). No vegetation analogous to TECs/PECs was recorded within the application area by the survey compilation provided (White Star Minerals, 2025b).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.		
<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>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area (Tijwarl National Park, located approximately 90 kilometres southeast of the application area), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).</p>	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given one minor non-perennial water course is recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is likely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality. Potential impacts to vegetation associated with this watercourse can be minimised by the implementation of a vegetation management condition.</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> The mapped soils are not generally susceptible to erosion. Noting the sparse nature of the vegetation present and the exposed stony soil of the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the proclaimed East Murchison groundwater area under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Due to the climate and salinity of the area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or ground water (BoM, 2026 GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands recorded within the application area, with one minor non-perennial water course intersecting the application area (GIS Database). There is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains due to the climate of the application area (BoM, 2026 GIS Database). Larger rainfall events may result in flooding of the area; however the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incidence or intensity of flooding.</p>	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 Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

- Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd (Biologic) (2021) Detailed Flora and Vegetation and Targeted Flora Survey. Prepared for Technology Metals Australia Ltd by Biologic, February 2021.
- Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd (Biologic) (2024a) Detailed Vertebrate Fauna Survey. Prepared for Australian Vanadium Ltd by Biologic, August 2024.
- Biologic Environmental Survey Pty Ltd (Biologic) (2024b) Short-range Endemic Invertebrate Fauna Survey Report – Update 2024. Prepared for Australian Vanadium Ltd by Biologic, August 2024.
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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.