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:	11209/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Pilgangoora Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	31 July 2025
Application Area:	87.34 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mining production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 45/1266
	Miscellaneous Licence 45/473 and 45/484
Location (LGA area):	Shire of East Pilbara
Colloquial name:	Pilgangoora Lithium Tantalum Project - Clearing Permit Lynas Find

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Pilgangoora Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 87.34 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 230 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Pilgangoora, 2025). The project is located approximately 80 kilometres south east of the town of Port Hedland, within the Shire of East Pilbara (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the construction of a proposed open pit mine and waste rock landform (WRL) located to the north of the current operations, as well as miscellaneous supporting infrastructure, including transport corridors and topsoil stockpiles (PLS, 2025). Ore removed from the Lynas Find pit will be processed at the current Pilgangoora site (PLS, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	29 May 2026
Decision area:	87.34 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 E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of flora and vegetation surveys and fauna surveys (APM, 2022; Specialised Zoological, 2022), 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;
- the loss of native vegetation that is critical and supporting habitat for threatened fauna of the region; and
- potential impacts to riparian vegetation.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- restrict the clearing within fauna habitats; and
- in alignment with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCEEW) conditional approval (EPBC 2023/09471), provide an offset proposal to counterbalance the significant residual impacts described in Section 4.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

Relevant policies considered during the assessment include:

- *Environmental Offsets Policy* (2011)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

- Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- China-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement
- Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement

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)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA, 2004a)
- Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors – *Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia* (EPA, 2004b)
- Environmental Offsets Guidelines (EPA, August 2014)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that the following environmental measures will be implemented (PLS, 2025):

- The location of the Waste Rock Landform (WRL) was originally planned to be located to the south of the pit to reduce haulage distance from the existing Pilgangoora operations. However, following the outcome of the fauna studies, the WRL was relocated away from Northern Quoll habitat. The new location of the WRL avoids Northern Quoll denning habitat and is not located adjacent to any creeks or waterways. This location was chosen to minimise the environmental impact on the landform.
- Vegetation clearing protocols and the potential impacts of unauthorised clearing are included in the site induction.
- A Land Use Certificate system is in place and requires sign off by the Site Environmental Advisor prior to clearing being undertaken.
- Survey control will be utilised to set out the limits of areas to be cleared using survey pegs and flagging tape.
- All site personnel will be made aware of the vegetation clearing procedure and permitting requirements.
- All topsoil stripped will be retained for use in rehabilitation activities.

- Progressively rehabilitate areas no longer required as soon as practicable.
- Where seed is required, only native plant species of local provenance will be used.
- To assist with ongoing review of the rehabilitation and impact assessment and environmental management at the site, the proponent will submit an annual environmental report to DMPE as required by tenement conditions

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 (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 (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.

Biological values (fauna habitats) - Clearing Principle (b)

Assessment

A detailed vertebrate fauna survey was conducted over the Application Area by APM during, August 2022 (Appendix D). The following fauna habitats were recorded within the Application Area (APM, 2022):

- FH1: Boulder Rock Outcrops (1.81%);
- FH2: Platy Rock Outcrops (0.08%);
- FH3: Low Hills (56.52%);
- FH4: Sandy Plains (4.33%);
- FH5: Stony Gullies (1.54%);
- FH6: Stony Plains (27.29%); and
- Disturbed (8.44%).

The Application Area contains suitable habitat for the species discussed below.

NORTHERN QUOLL (*Dasyurus hallucatus*)

This species has been recorded on several occasions within the broader Lynas Find Study Area (395 hectares) (APM, 2022; GIS Database). The Pilgangoora clearing permit Application Area (230 hectares) is located entirely within this study area, and records of the species also extend into the southern portion of the Application Area. Locally, this species appears to be commonly encountered in the boulder hill tops (FH1) of the north/south tending ridgeline, running along the eastern half of the Application Area (APM, 2022). This is the most rugged landform within the Application Area, with the highest elevations (APM, 2022). Boulders on the ridge tops form a mosaic of cracks and crevices large enough to provide denning habitat for the quoll. Two camera records and three quoll scats were recorded in this area (APM, 2022). Terrestrial Ecosystems (2020) recorded captures on 12 cameras within the rocky hills habitat type along the north-south rocky ridge line, two of these were located within the Application Area. Three quoll scats were recorded during the traverses within the Application Area, these scat locations correspond to the location of Northern Quolls in the camera trap images (APM, 2022). The lithology of the other lower hills and breakaways in the remainder of the Application Area differs significantly; these schists are more plate like and provide no denning opportunities, and trees were generally small and also did not provide hollows for denning opportunities (APM, 2022).

The Commonwealth Government's referral guidelines for the Northern Quoll (Department of the Environment, 2016) identify habitat critical to the species' survival as including ranges, escarpments, mesas, gorges, breakaways, boulder fields, major drainage lines, treed creek lines, and structurally diverse woodland or forest areas containing large-diameter trees, termite mounds, or hollow logs. In addition, dispersal and foraging habitats, as well as areas that provide connectivity between zones of critical habitat, are recognised as important for the species' persistence. Applying these criteria to tenement M45/1266, the rocky ridges, breakaways, treed creek lines, and associated habitat corridors—together with an appropriate buffer of approximately 500 metres—are considered to constitute habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Quoll.

The Northern quoll within FH1 (boulder rock outcrops) are a population important for the long-term survival of the Northern quoll as it is a population occurring in habitat that is free of cane toads and unlikely to support cane toads upon arrival i.e. granite habitats in WA, populations surrounded by desert and without permanent water.

Habitat critical to the survival of the Northern quoll is present in the Application Area and includes:

- habitat FH1 (boulder rock outcrops) (4.19 hectares);
- areas of native vegetation within one kilometre of FH1 (the remaining vegetation in the Application Area – 82.72 hectares); and
- dispersal and foraging habitat associated with or connecting the population within FH1 to other nearby populations or foraging habitats (also includes the remaining vegetation in the Application Area – 82.72 hectares).

GHOST BAT

There are no Category 1, 2 or 3 sites/caves available for this species within the Application Area / Survey Area (APM 2022; Ecologia Environmental, 2018; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). The FH1 habitat (boulder top outcrops) may provide Category 4

nocturnal roost caves with opportunistic usage, however, no Ghost bats were recorded during the acoustic survey (REFERENCE). A visual inspection of the FH1 habitat did not record scats or food scraps from the species (Specialised Zoological, 2022). Within the Application Area / Study Area, there are scattered *Corymbia hamersleyana* trees available for perching. The Ghost bat is known to occur within the local area and records of the species within a 20 kilometre radius (GIS Database). Ghost bats are known to travel up to 15 kilometres from a roost site for foraging and up to 30 kilometres in one night to alternative roosting sites, indicating the Application Area may be within range of a Category 1, 2 or 3 roost (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). It is possible that the Application Area offers foraging habitat to Ghost bat across all habitats and Category 4 nocturnal roosts in habitat FH1.

PILBARA LEAF NOSED BAT

The Pilbara leaf-nosed bat was recorded in the local area during targeted survey for individuals and roost sites (360 Environmental, 2015; 2016b). The Application Area did not contain any Category 1, 2, 3 or 4 roosts and no call sequences of the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat were recorded (APM 2022; Ecologia Environmental, 2018; Specialised Zoological, 2022; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2020). A Category 1 or 2 roost was located 2.2 kilometres from the Application Area (360 Environmental, 2016b). An estimate of the number of Pilbara leaf-nosed bat at the roost based on ultrasonic calls and video counts ranged between 25 and 50 individuals. There are additional known permanent diurnal Category 1 or 2 Pilbara leaf-nosed bat roosts approximately 20 kilometres to the southwest and southeast of the Study Area (APM, 2022).

Foraging habitats used by the Pilbara leaf-nosed Bat are prioritised as:

- Priority 1 - Gorges with pools;
- Priority 2 – Gullies;
- Priority 3 – Rocky Outcrop;
- Priority 4 – Major Watercourses; and
- Priority 5 – Open Grassland and Woodland (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008).

Habitat types in the Pilbara have been classified and assigned foraging habitat ratings (Bat Call WA, 2021). The plains and low hills within the Study Area align with the description of open plains with a single vegetation layer (excluding scattered trees), which are considered to have low habitat value. Pilbara leaf-nosed bats are unlikely to forage in these areas, although they may pass through when moving to more suitable habitats.

The FH1 and FH5 habitats correspond to mesa slopes or long ridgelines with deeply incised gullies in weathered strata (approximately 45° slopes), where caves and overhangs are present, along with shrubs in gully bases and nearby or ephemeral watercourses. These habitats are rated as having moderate value (Bat Call WA, 2021). Pilbara leaf-nosed bats may occasionally forage in these areas due to the presence of suitable vegetation and seasonal water, and they may also use them as movement corridors.

The recorded locations of the Pilbara leaf-nosed bat are consistent with the habitat rating. The FH1 (boulder rock outcrops) and FH5 (stony gullies) habitats are of moderate quality and the remaining habitats are of low quality. Man-made open water such as the turkey's nest may attract suitable prey and therefore attract Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (APM, 2022).

GREY FALCON

Local records of Grey falcon are centred on the Turner Rivera approximately 23 kilometres from the Study Area, with the closest record of this species being 17 kilometres from the Application Area (GIS Database). The plains habitat (FH4 and FH6) in the Application Area is suitable foraging habitat for this species, and within range of the population likely to be nesting in the Turner River riparian zone, however, no nesting habitat is present in the Application Area / Study Area.

THE NIGHT PARROT

The species and growth pattern of the spinifex in the FH6 (stony plains) habitat in the Study Area may be suitable for the Night parrot, however there are no samphire or chenopod habitats proximal to the Study Area. Foraging habitats are limited locally; however, Night parrots have been known to fly up to 40 kilometres or more in a night during foraging expeditions, so foraging habitat is not necessarily within or adjacent to roosting areas (APM, 2022). The Study Area is on the northwestern edge of the area classed as a high priority for survey (GIS Database). Due to the inclusion of the site in the high priority survey area and the presence of suitable spinifex habitat, a passive acoustic survey was conducted at locations where the best spinifex habitat was identified for the species (Specialised Zoological, 2022). Four devices were deployed for 16 trap nights. No Night parrot calls were recorded in the 56 hours of assessed recordings (Specialised Zoological, 2022). Foot traverses through the plains habitat, where the largest and oldest hummock grasses occur, did not encounter any signs of Night parrot (360 Environmental, 2016a; APM, 2022).

GREATER BILBY

Suitable habitat for the bilby occurs in the Application Area across the sandy plains, stony plains and low hills habitats (FH4, FH6 and FH3) (APM, 2022). Extensive foot transects were walked across these habitats at 10 to 20 metre intervals (APM, 2022). No burrows, tracks, or other secondary evidence were recorded (APM, 2022).

WESTERN PEBBLE-MOUND MOUSE

Targeted searches were performed using foot transects in suitable habitat (APM, 2022). Eleven active and inactive mounds were recorded (APM, 2022). Suitable habitat was recorded within the FH3 and FH6 habitats (low hills and stony plains), with this habitat confined to the northern central section of the Study Area (APM, 2022).

BRUSH-TAILED MULGARA

Suitable habitat for the mulgara within the Study Area includes sandy plain and some areas of stony plain (FH4 and FH6); however, the preferred sand dune habitat for this species is not present (APM, 2022; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Targeted searches were conducted in suitable habitat for signs (tracks and burrow entrances) of mulgara, but none were recorded. Based on somewhat limited habitat, the mulgara is considered to possibly occur within the Application Area (APM, 2022).

SPECTACLED HARE-WALLABY (MAINLAND)

There are many local records, including some within the FH3 habitat (low hills) (habitat of the Study Area and in the surrounding plains habitats) to the west of the Study Area, from the 1990s (APM, 2022; GIS Database). No evidence of spectacled hare-wallaby were recorded in the Study Area, despite targeted searches for individuals or secondary evidence (e.g. scats), motion triggered camera deployment and spotlighting (APM, 2022). The absence of this species is likely a consequence of the broader regional decline (APM, 2022). The presence of suitable habitat and the historic records indicate it is possible for the species to occur. Whilst it has been recorded in the FH3 habitat historically, the largest hummock grasses presenting the highest quality habitat for the species is currently found in the Sandy Plains (FH4) habitat (APM, 2022).

LONG-TAILED DUNNART

Local records for this species occur at two sites approximately 25 kilometres southeast and southwest of the Study Area (GIS Database). The FH1 habitat (boulder rock outcrops) is suitable for the Long-tailed dunnart, and the species may occur within the application area.

PIN-STRIPED FINESNOUT CTENOTUS

The Pin-striped finesnout ctenotus has been recorded on spinifex plains on granitic soils near watercourses (Wilson and Swan, 2021). Known records are near granite outcrops in the hilly interior of the Pilbara (GIS Database). Very little information is available for the species. It is possible that the FH1 and FH5 habitats (boulder rock outcrops and stony gullies) are suitable for the species (APM, 2022). Local records are located outside the Study Area and are associated with a larger watercourse than those present within it (APM, 2022). This species is considered to possibly occur within the Application Area.

Other fauna

Suitable habitat for the Abydos antichiropus millipede, fork-tailed swift, Gane's blind snake and Pilbara barking gecko occur in the Application Area.

Conclusion

NORTHERN QUOLL

The Application Area will impact a maximum of 4.19 hectares of critical denning habitat, corresponding to 25% of the 17.2 hectares of rocky hills habitat surveyed within the Survey Area. An avoidance area has been implemented by the Proponent to ensure the remaining denning habitat within the project area is uncleared. Approximately 82.58 hectares of supporting foraging habitat will also be cleared for the project.

PILBARA LEAF NOSED BAT

The FH1 and FH5 habitats (boulder rock outcrops and stony gullies) are of moderate quality, and the remaining habitats are of low quality. The Application Area contains 7.75 hectares of moderate quality habitat and is located within 20 kilometres of known critical caves, therefore providing 7.75 hectares of supporting foraging habitat for this species.

Other fauna

Fauna habitats are not restricted to the Application Area and all habitats recorded extend outside of the Application Area. Suitable habitat for the Abydos antichiropus millipede, fork-tailed swift, Gane's blind snake, Ghost Bat, Grey Falcon, and Pilbara barking gecko occur in the Application Area. The habitat within the proposed clearing area is not likely to be significant habitat or necessary for the maintenance of a significant habitat for these species and they are therefore not considered further.

The applicant has contacted the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements and received approval with conditions. In accordance with Part 9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) the proposed activities were granted under conditional approval (EPBC 2023/09471).

Conditions

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

- Slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individuals.
- restrict the clearing within fauna habitats; and
- in alignment with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCEEW) conditional approval (EPBC 2023/09471), provide an offset proposal to counterbalance the significant residual impacts described in Section 4.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 13 February 2026 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 (Nyamal People #1 - WAD20/2019, WC1999/008) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). 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, 2026). 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.

In February 2023 the proposed activities were referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCEEW) due to the proposed impacts to Northern Quoll and Pilbara Leaf-Nosed Bat critical habitats. DCEEW assessed the impacts of the proposed development on these species and granted approval (EPBC 2023/09471) with conditions on 13 March 2025. The approval was to construct and operate an open pit mine which involves land clearing, site preparation, drilling, blasting, excavation, haulage of material mine closure and rehabilitation. The approval was for the clearing of 87.34 hectares of native vegetation, including critical and supporting habitat which required an offset to be provided. The approval was granted with the following clearing limits:

- 4.62 hectares of critical habitat for the Northern Quoll (any foraging and dispersal habitat within a one kilometre buffer of denning habitat).
- 82.72 hectares of supporting habitat for the Northern Quoll (any foraging and dispersal habitat outside of the areas defined as critical habitat).
- 5.56 hectares of supporting habitat for the Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (foraging and dispersal habitats within 12 kilometres of critical habitat that is outside of the areas defined as critical habitat).

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.

4. Suitability of offsets

Through the detailed assessment outlined in Section 3.2 above, the Delegated Officer has determined that the following significant residual impacts remain after the application of the avoidance and mitigation measures summarised in Section 3.1.

In accordance with Part 9 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), the proposed action was granted conditional approval (EPBC 2023/09471). To address residual significant impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance, specifically Northern Quoll critical and supporting habitat and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat supporting habitat, the approval holder is required to provide financial contributions to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund (PEOF), in accordance with the conditions of approval issued by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEW). In accordance with the DCCEW approval documents, the approval holder may clear no more than:

- 4.62 hectares of critical habitat for the Northern Quoll (any foraging and dispersal habitat within a one kilometre buffer of denning habitat);
- 82.72 hectares of supporting habitat for the Northern Quoll (any foraging and dispersal habitat outside of the areas defined as critical habitat); and
- 5.56 hectares of supporting habitat for the Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat (foraging and dispersal habitats within 12 kilometres of critical habitat that is outside of the areas defined as critical habitat).

The offset requirements prescribed under the EPBC Act approval are distinct from, and are not intended to duplicate, any offset obligations that may arise under the Native Vegetation Clearing Permit issued pursuant to State legislation. Each approval regime operates independently, and offsets are applied in respect of separate statutory requirements; accordingly, there is no double counting or duplication of offset obligations.

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 area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Pilbara bioregion and the Hamersley subregion (GIS Database). The dominant land uses in the Pilbara bioregion are pastoralism, conservation, mining, agriculture, tourism and urban (APM, 2022).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>Aerial imagery shows that the Application Area does not form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The Application Area does not form part of any known or mapped conservation areas (GIS Dabatase). There are no conservation areas within 50 kilometres 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:
82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappy gum over Triodia wiseana; and
93: Hummock grasslands, shrub steppe; kanji over soft spinifex (GIS Database).
A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the Application Area (230 hectares) and surrounding area (394 hectares) by APM during August, 2022. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the Application Area (APM, 2022):
<table>
<tr><th>Code</th><th>Landform</th><th>Vegetation Description</th><th>Extent within the Study Area (ha)</th><th>Extent within the Application Area (ha)</th></tr>
<tr><td>6a</td><td>Gully</td><td>Scattered low trees of Corymbia hamersleyana over high open shrubland of Acacia acradenia and Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula over scattered shrubs of Acacia bivenosa and Cajanus cinereus over open hummock grassland of Triodia epactia and Triodia wiseana over very open tussock grassland of Eriachne mucronata and Cymbopogon ambiguous</td><td>1.26</td><td>0.20</td></tr>
<tr><td>7a</td><td>Valley Flat</td><td>Low Corymbia hamersleyana and Acacia inaequilatera isolated trees over Acacia colei, Acacia ancistrocarpa, and Acacia bivenosa sparse mid shrubland and Triodia epactia, Triodia angusta and *Cenchrus setiger mid open hummock grassland.</td><td>11.13</td><td>10.02</td></tr>
<tr><td>8a</td><td>first order creeklines and drainage gullies</td><td>Low Corymbia hamersleyana isolated trees over Acacia colei, Grevillea wickhamii, and Acacia inaequilatera open mid shrubland and Triodia epactia, Triodia wiseana and Triodia chichesterensis (P3) mid open hummock grassland</td><td>3.4</td><td>2.89</td></tr>
<tr><td>8b</td><td>Creekline</td><td>Low Corymbia hamersleyana isolated trees over Acacia colei, Grevillea wickhamii, and Acacia inaequilatera sparse mid shrubland and Triodia wiseana Triodia angusta and Cajanus cinereus mid open hummock grassland/forbland</td><td>2.96</td><td>0.48</td></tr>
<tr><td>9a</td><td>Stony Plains</td><td>Low Corymbia hamersleyana isolated trees over Acacia colei, Acacia ancistrocarpa, and Grevillea wickhamii sparse mid shrubland and Triodia wiseana Triodia epactia and Triodia chichesterensis (P3) mid hummock grassland</td><td>25.79</td><td>23.10</td></tr>
<tr><td>9b</td><td>Stony Plains</td><td>Acacia ancistrocarpa, Acacia bivenosa and Acacia inaequilatera mid open shrubland and Triodia wiseana, Alysicarpus muelleri and Aristida holathera mid hummock grassland/forbland/tussock grassland</td><td>40.1</td><td>40.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>10a</td><td>Ridge</td><td>Tall, isolated shrubs of Acacia inaequilatera, Atalaya hemiglauca and Acacia colei over a low sparse shrubland of Hibiscus sturtii, Acacia acradenia, *Aerva javanica, and Triodia wiseana, Triodia brizoides and Triodia chichesterensis (P3) mid open hummock grassland.</td><td>10.15</td><td>2.29</td></tr>
<tr><td>11a</td><td>Hill</td><td>Tall, isolated shrubs of Acacia inaequilatera, Acacia colei and Acacia acradenia over Triodia brizoides, Triodia wiseana, and Triodia epactia mid hummock grassland.</td><td>74.78</td><td>74.78</td></tr>
<tr><td>11b</td><td>Hill</td><td>Low isolated trees of Corymbia hamersleyana over tall, isolated shrubs of Acacia colei, Acacia inaequilatera, and Senna glutinosa subsp. glutinosa over Triodia wiseana, Triodia chichesterensis (P3), and Triodia brizoides mid hummock grassland.</td><td>151.24</td><td>56.46</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>-</td><td>Disturbed areas cleared of vegetation. Including rehabilitated areas where revegetation has not yet reestablished.</td><td>72.96</td><td>19.53</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation survey (APM, 2022) and aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Completely Degraded, Good and Very Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition.</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The Application Area is located in an arid zone with an annual average rainfall (Port Hedland Airport) of 313.0 millimetres (BoM, 2026).
Soil description	The following land systems are mapped within the Application Area: • **Talga system:** Hills and ridges of greenstone and chert and stony plains supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands; and • **Macroy system:** Stony plains and occasional tor fields based on granite supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Land degradation risk	The intersecting mapped land systems have the following geomorphology: • **Talga system:** Erosional surfaces; hill tracts and ridges on basalt, greenstones, schist, other metamorphics and chert with rocky rounded crests and ridge tops extending for many kilometres; very steep upper slopes, more gently inclined lower footslopes, restricted lower stony plains and interfluves; moderately spaced tributary and strike aligned drainage floors and channels. Relief is up to about 100 metres. The system is prospective and localised areas have been disturbed by exploration and mining activity. The system is not susceptible to erosion (Van. Vreeswyk et al., 2004). • **Macroy system:** Erosional surfaces; gently undulating stony plains and interfluves with quartz surface mantles, sandy surfaced plains, minor calcrete plains, closely spaced tributary drainage lines in upper parts of system becoming much wider downslope; minor granite hills, tor fields and quartz ridges. Relief is up to 25 metres. Vegetation is generally not prone to grazing induced changes but fairly regular fires change botanical composition and vegetation structure in the short term. The system has low or very low erosion hazard (Van Vreeswyk et al., 2004).
Waterbodies	Northern Creek, Houston Creek, Pilgangoora Creek and Southern Creek drain in a roughly east to west direction across the Application Area (PLS, 2025). All these creeks flow into Chinnamon Creek, directly to the south of the Application Area (PLS, 2025). Confluence of Chinnamon Creek and Turner River West occurs approximately 12 kilometres downstream of the permit Application Area (PLS, 2025). All creeks and drainages in the vicinity of the Application Area are typical of watercourses in the Pilbara in that they are ephemeral and highly variable with flows that can increase from zero to hundreds of cubic metres per second in a matter of hours as a result of precipitation from tropical cyclones and low-pressure weather systems (PLS, 2025).
Hydrogeography	The Application Area is located within the Pilbara Groundwater Area, which is legislated by the RIWI Act 1914. The mapped groundwater salinity is 500-1,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as marginal quality (GIS Database).
Flora	No Threatened flora are known to occur within the Application Area, or were recorded during the flora and vegetation survey (APM, 2022). Two Priority 3 flora were recorded – *Rothia indica* and *Triodia chichesterensis* (APM, 2022).
Ecological communities	The Application Area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (APM, 2022; GIS Database).
Fauna	Three fauna species of significance were confirmed as occurring within the Application Area based on the fauna identified during the field surveys (APM, 2022; Specialised Zoological, 2022): • Northern Quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) • Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (*Rhinonicteris aurantia* (Pilbara form)); and • Western Pebble-mound Mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*). Several additional conservation significant fauna species were considered likely to occur in the Application Area (see Section A.2) (APM, 2022).
Fauna habitat	A detailed vertebrate fauna survey was conducted over the Application Area by APM during, August 2022. The following fauna habitats were recorded within the Application Area (APM, 2022): • FH1: Boulder Rock Outcrops (1.81%); • FH2: Platy Rock Outcrops (0.08%); • FH3: Low Hills (56.52%); • FH4: Sandy Plains (4.33%); • FH5: Stony Gullies (1.54%); • FH6: Stony Plains (27.29%); and • Disturbed (8.44%).

A.1. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix E.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (AMP, 2022; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to Application Area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Abutilon sp. Pritzelianum (S. van Leeuwen 5095)	3	Y	<40	52
Acacia leeuweniana	1	Y	<35	28
Acacia levata	3	Y	<45	21
Bulbostylis burbidgeae	4	Y	<20	40
Cochlospermum macnamarae	1	Y	<40	11
Dolichocarpa sp. Hamersley Station (A.A. Mitchell PRP 1479)	3	N	<40	46
Euphorbia clementii	3	Y	0	32
Euphorbia inappendiculata var. *inappendiculata*	3	N	<40	17
Euploca mutica	3	Y	<5	77
Gomphrena leptophylla	3	Y	<25	8
Goodenia obscurata	3	Y	<30	29
Gymnanthera cunninghamii	3	Y	<25	45
Nicotiana umbratica	3	Y	<25	18
Phyllanthus hebecarpus	3	Y	<30	8
Ptilotus mollis	4	Y	<35	48
Quoya zonalis	T	Y	<20	28
Rothia indica subsp. *australis*	3	Y	<30	23
Stylidium weeliwolli	3	N	<25	30
Terminalia supranitifolia	3	N	<20	54
Themeda sp. Panorama (J. Nelson et al. NS 102)	1	Y	<20	10
Triodia basitricha	3	Y	0	49
Triodia chichesterensis	3	Y	0	43
Vigna triodiophila	3	Y	<5	21

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

A.2. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets, and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (APM, 2022; Specialised Zoological, 2022; GIS Database).

Species name	Common Name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to Application Area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
Actitis hypoleucos	common sandpiper	MI	<25	N
Anilios ganei	Gane's blind snake (Pilbara)	P1	<5	Y
Antechinomys longicaudata	long-tailed dunnart	P4	<30	Y
Antichiropus forcipatus	Abydos antichiropus millipede	P1	<5	Y
Apus pacificus	fork-tailed swift	MI	<5	Y
Arenaria interpres	ruddy turnstone	MI	<45	N
Calidris acuminata	sharp-tailed sandpiper	MI	<45	N
Calidris ruficollis	red-necked stint	MI	<45	N
Charadrius veredus	oriental plover	MI	<5	N
Ctenotus nigrilineatus	pin-striped finesnout Ctenotus	P1	<50	Y

Species name	Common Name	Conservation status	Distance of closest record to Application Area (km)	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]
Dasycercus blythi	brush-tailed mulgara	P4	<20	Y
Dasyurus hallucatus	northern quoll	EN	<5	Y
Falco hypoleucos	grey falcon	VU	<20	Y
Falco peregrinus	peregrine falcon	OS	<5	N
Fregata ariel	lesser frigatebird	MI	<45	N
Glareola maldivarum	oriental pratincole	MI	<40	N
Hydroprogne caspia	Caspian tern	MI	<45	N
Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti	spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland)	P4	0	Y
Leggadina lakedownensis	northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga	P4	<50	N
Liasis olivaceus barroni	Pilbara olive python	VU	<20	N
Macroderma gigas	ghost bat	VU	<20	Y
Macrotis lagotis	bilby, dalgyte, ninu	VU	<5	Y
Pandion haliaetus	osprey	MI	<45	N
Pezoporus occidentalis	night parrot	CR		Y
Pluvialis fulva	Pacific golden plover	MI	<45	N
Pseudomys chapmani	western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji	P4	0	Y
Rhinonicteris aurantia	orange leaf-nosed bat	P4	<25	Y
Rhinonicteris aurantia (Pilbara form)	Pilbara leaf-nosed bat	VU	0	Y
Thalasseus bergii	crested tern	MI	<45	N
Trichosurus vulpecula arnhemensis	northern brushtail possum (Kimberley)	VU	<45	N
Tringa brevipes	grey-tailed tattler	P4 & MI	<45	N
Tringa glareola	wood sandpiper	MI	<45	N
Tringa nebularia	common greenshank	MI	<45	N
Actitis hypoleucos	common sandpiper	MI	<25	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: The area proposed to be cleared contains habitat for conservation significant flora and fauna (APM, 2022). None of the mapped vegetation communities were considered representative of any listed Priority Ecological Communities (APM, 2022). A total of 113 species of flora were recorded within the Study Area, comprising 110 native species and three introduced species (APM, 2022). Two Priority 3 flora species were recorded within the Application Area (*Triodia chichesterensis* and *Rothia indica* subsp. *australis*) (APM, 2022). Both species are distributed within the Pilbara bioregion, with *Rothia indica* subsp. *australis* dispersing into additional bioregions (Dampierland, Great Sandy Desert, Pilbara, Victoria Bonaparte) (WAH, 1998-). The proposed clearing is not considered to significantly impact these flora species as	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
available habitat is present within the surrounding bioregions and additional records are noted nearby (APM, 2022; GIS Database). In total, three introduced flora species (weeds) have been recorded within the Application Area (APM, 2022). None of these taxa were listed as Declared Pests or Weeds of National Significance (APM, 2022). Weeds have the potential to significantly change the dynamics of a natural ecosystem and lower the biodiversity of an area. Potential impacts to the biodiversity as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a weed management condition.		
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 contains critical and supporting habitat for conservation significant fauna.	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2, 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 records of Threatened flora within the Application Area (GIS Database). No Threatened flora species were recorded during the flora survey of the Application Area and surrounding area (APM, 2022).	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: None of the mapped vegetation communities were considered representative of any known Threatened Ecological Communities (APM, 2022).	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 Application Area falls within the Pilbara Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation still exists in the Pilbara Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The Application Area is broadly mapped as Beard vegetation associations 82 and 93 (GIS Database). These vegetation associations have not been extensively cleared as over 99 per cent of the pre-European extent of these vegetation associations remain uncleared at both the state and bioregional level (Government of Western Australia, 2019).	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 any known or mapped 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 several water courses are recorded within the Application Area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing will impact vegetation growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse. No groundwater dependent vegetation was identified from the proposed Application Area. Potential impacts to riparian vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are not susceptible to erosion (Van Vreeswyk, et al., 2004). Noting the location of the Application Area, the proposed clearing is not likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	Not likely to 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 no permanent water courses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Source Areas are recorded within the Application Area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: Given no permanent water courses or wetlands are recorded within the Application Area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.	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. Biological survey information excerpts

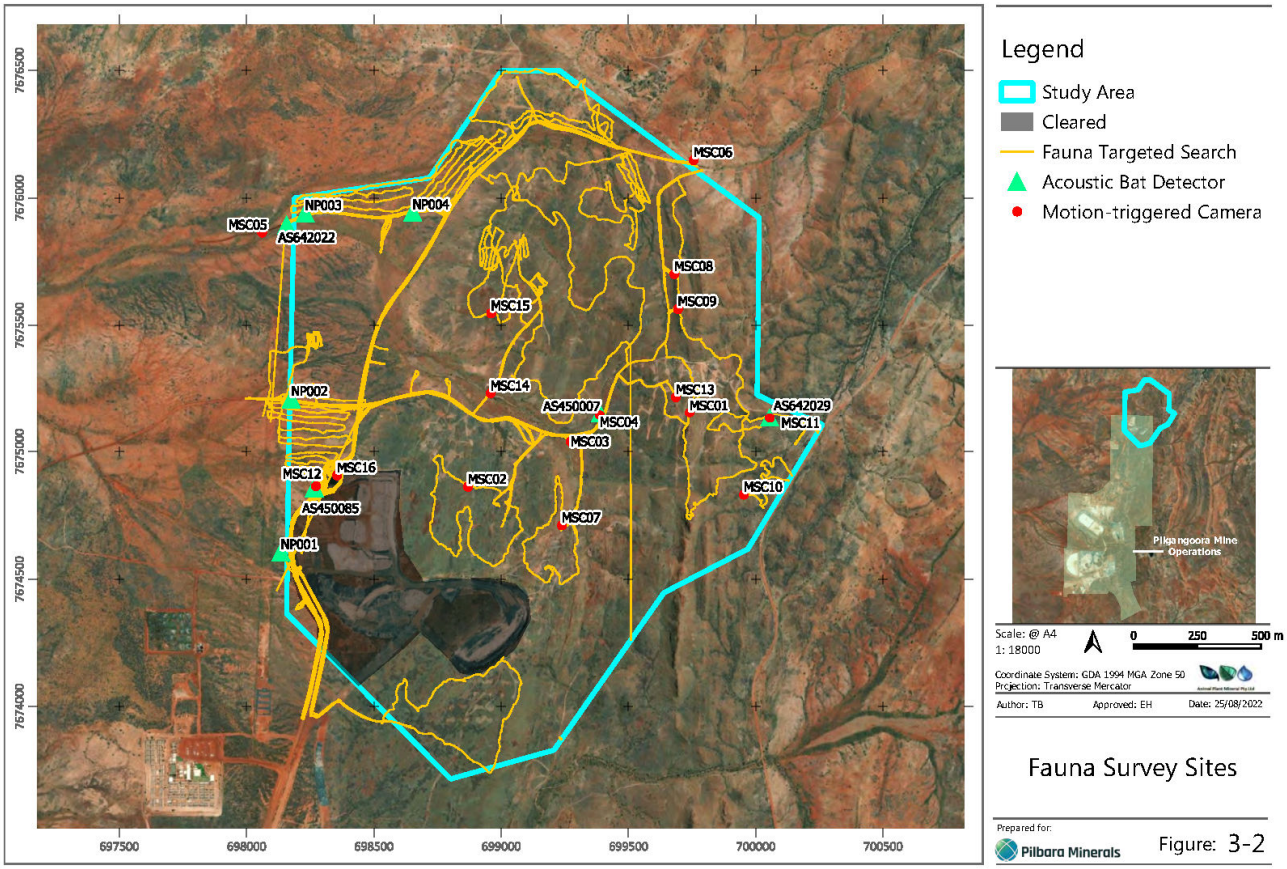

Figure 1. Fauna survey sites and Study Area from the Lynas Find Project Biological Study (APM, 2022).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- 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)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- 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)

E.2. References

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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