



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11215/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	GMA Garnet Pty Ltd
Application received:	4 August 2025
Application area:	2.6 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical clearing
Tenure:	Mining Lease 70/204
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Northampton
Colloquial name:	Sirius Pit Extension

1.2. Description of clearing activities

GMA Garnet Pty Ltd (GMA) proposes to clear up to 2.6 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 4.6 hectares, for the purpose of expanding the existing Sirius Pit at the Lynton Mine (GMA, 2025a; GMA, 2025b). The project is located approximately 3.5 kilometres north-east of Port Gregory, within the Shire of Northampton (GMA, 2025b).

It is noted that there are multiple clearing permits in the area, including adjacent clearing permit 8825/2, however after consultation between the applicant and the Environmental Officer for 8825/2 at the time, the 2.6 hectare increase in clearing was recommended to be applied for under a new permit application; therefore clearing permit CPS 11215/1 was submitted on 4 August 2025 to account for this 2.6 hectares. The duration of the permit is to be until 15 May 2035 (GMA, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	13 August 2026
Decision area:	2.6 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 one submission was received. This submission was considered during this assessment (Appendix A).

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments, and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the purpose of the clearing permit application is to expand the existing Sirius Pit.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to the remnant Beard Vegetation Association (BVA) 371; and,
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined that the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation and can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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

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

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion;
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread as part of rehabilitation.

1.5. Site map

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



Figure 1. Map of the Lynton Mine area with the CPS 11215/1 application area in yellow (GMA, 2025b).

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)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act 1909* (MWSSD 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, 2014)
- Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits (DWER, 2021)
- Technical guidance – Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

GMA have outlined their avoidance and mitigation measures (GMA, 2025a), including:

- Avoiding/minimising clearing where possible and undertaking the following to minimise impacts:
 - Staged clearing to limit the extent of exposed ground to prevent soil erosion, prevent weed encroachment, minimise disturbance to the surrounding environment, and allow for more focused rehabilitation efforts.
 - Progressive rehabilitation by immediately replanting and soil stabilising following clearing activities; and regular monitoring to assess effectiveness and whether intervention is required.
 - Adhere to dust management protocols as per Dust Management Procedures (with measures including using water-sprays and dust-binding agents to reduce airborne dust; and scheduled application of dust control methods to minimise environmental impact and weed spread during dry or windy conditions).
- Weed Hygiene protocols, including all machinery being:
 - Inspected for any weed seeds, plant material or soil.
 - Cleaned where required to prevent weed transfer.
 - Certified as weed-free prior to entering the site and after completing operations.

GMA will have additional obligations under the *Mining Act 1978* to undertake and monitor rehabilitation efforts to ensure the land does not continue to degrade or have impacts such as dust smothering, to the surrounding environment and communities. 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 B) 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 could present a risk to the remnant vegetation (BVA 371), and to the land resources via erosion. 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. Land and water resources - Clearing principle (g)

Assessment

The mapped soils are considered moderately-to-highly susceptible to wind and water erosion (GHD, 2020; DPIRD, 2026). The risk of dust impacts has also been raised through a public submission, noting that a main road – George Grey Drive– is located approximately 238 metres west of the proposed clearing. GMA has provided a copy of their dust management plan, as well as outlined their measures to manage and suppress airborne dust (Section 3.1).

Conclusion

The proposed clearing is likely to result in an increased risk of wind and water erosion due to the removal of vegetation and disturbance of surface soils within the application area.

Conditions

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

- Avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- Staged clearing so that native vegetation is only cleared when production is meant to commence within a 6-month period (to prevent prolonged exposed land);
- Weed control; and
- Retain vegetative material and topsoil, revegetation and rehabilitation (to be compliant with rehabilitation standards).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 10 October 2025 by DMPE inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application (see Appendix A).

There is one native title claim (WCD2020/001 - Bundi Yamatji) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been determined by the Federal Court on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993*, and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 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.

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 (DWER) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), 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. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
Shire is unable to provide support as the available information does not allow the Shire to determine the potential visual or other impacts (i.e. dust) on vehicles using George Grey Drive being a substantial and well recognised tourist and transportation route (Submission, 2025).	• Dust impacts are to be managed via approvals under the <i>Mining Act 1978</i>, as well as conditions imposed on the clearing permit (see Sections 3.2.1).

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the intensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Geraldton Sandplains IBRA region and Geraldton Hills IBRA subregion (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). The proposed clearing is part of existing mining features and infrastructure for the Lynton Mine and overall Port Gregory Project (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). This Project is situated between agricultural land, and the Hutt Lagoon Salt Mine and Hutt Lagoon Australian Nature Conservation Agency (ANCA) Wetland System (GIS Database).
Ecological linkage	Aerial imagery shows the proposed clearing to be within a strip of native vegetation between agricultural land and the Hutt Lagoon wetland (GIS Database). This native vegetation is considered an informal linkage.
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation areas are the Utcha Well Nature Reserve located approximately 10.3 kilometres north-west, and the Port Gregory National Reserve System located approximately 8.4 kilometres south-west, of the application area (GIS Database). The ANCA Wetland (Hutt Lagoon System) is located approximately 0.3 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is mapped as the following BVA: 371: Low forest; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> (GIS Database) A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by GHD during December 2019 (GHD, 2020) and the following vegetation type was recorded: VT01: <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> open woodland to woodland over <i>Rhagodia preissii</i> subsp. <i>obovata</i>, <i>Pimelea microcephala</i> subsp. <i>microcephala</i>, <i>Olearia</i> sp. Kennedy Range (G. Byrne 66) and <i>Stylobasium spathulatum</i> open shrubland over <i>Austrostipa elegantissima</i> and <i>Ehrharta longiflora</i> open grassland to grassland. Other common species include <i>Alyogyne hakeifolia</i>, <i>Roepera fruticulosa</i>, <i>Commicarpus australis</i> and <i>Euphorbia boophthona</i>. Occurs over lower and middle slopes on brown to orange sands. Previously disturbed through historic clearing and heavily disturbed by grazing. It is noted that 1.7 hectares of the proposed clearing area has had no survey data provided (GIS Database).
Vegetation condition	A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by GHD during December 2019, which confirmed that the vegetation condition ranges from Good to Degraded (GHD, 2020). This was assessed in accordance with the Keighery (1994) condition rating scale (GHD, 2020), which is provided in Appendix D.

Characteristic	Details
Climate and landform	The climate of the Geraldton Sandplains region is described as semi-arid warm Mediterranean, with winter dominant rainfall (BoM, 2025; CALM, 2002; GHD, 2020). The nearest weather station (Lynton, Station Number 008075) recorded an average rainfall of approximately 403.3 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026).
Soil description	The soils are mapped as 75% calcareous shallow sand ('poor sand') and 25% red shallow sand ('good sand') (GHD, 2020; DPIRD, 2026).
Land degradation risk	The soils are within the Tamala North 2 soil subsystem which consists of low hills, relict dunes and some limestone outcrop (GHD, 2020; DPIRD 2026). The soil types range from loose/sandy to gravelly and have a potential moderate-to-high erodibility from water and wind (DPIRD, 2026).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses or water bodies intersect the application area, and that the nearest ANCA Wetland of National Importance is Hutt Lagoon, located approximately 300 metres west of the application area (GIS Database). The risk of moderate-to-very high flooding or waterlogging in the application area is <3% (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Kalbarri Water Reserve, located approximately 38 kilometres north of the application area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Gascoyne Groundwater Area, proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The groundwater salinity is mapped as 1000 - 3000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is described as brackish (GIS Database).
Flora	There are 51 records of Priority Flora and 8 records of Threatened Flora within 20 kilometres of the application area, including two records of Threatened Flora (<i>Caladenia bryceana subsp cracens</i> and <i>Drakaea concolor</i>) being within five kilometres (GIS Database). No conservation significant flora were recorded within the application area (GHD, 2020).
Ecological communities	There are three priority ecological communities within 20 kilometres of the application area: - One Priority 1 Kalbarri Ironstone Community, located approximately 8.5 kilometres north-east from the application area (GIS Database). - Two locations of Priority 1 Kockatea Shale (shrublands of Northampton area dominated by <i>Melaleuca</i> species over exposed Kockatea shale), located approximately 10 kilometres and 17.5 kilometres south-east respectively from the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	No Threatened or Priority fauna species were recorded in the application area (GHD, 2020). There are 34 records of fauna within five kilometres of the application area, including Carnaby's Cockatoo (<i>Zanda Latirostris</i>) and Eastern Osprey (<i>Pandion cristatus</i>) (GIS Database).
Fauna habitat	According to the provided survey (GHD, 2020), there are five broad habitat types: - Acacia woodlands (VT01); - Melaleuca shrublands or limestone (VT02); - Shrublands on seasonally wet brackish drainage flats (VT03); - Rehabilitated areas; and - Cleared areas. Majority of the vegetation within and surrounding the application area is identified as "Rehabilitated" with a smaller portion identified as "Acacia woodland" (VT01) which aligns with BVA 371. The Acacia woodland is not isolated to the application area, which is largely associated with BVA 17: "Shrubland, <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> thicket" (GHD, 2020; GIS Database).

B.2. Vegetation extent

Figure 1: 2018 Vegetation Statistics data for the application area

	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 - Geraldton Sandplains	3,136,037.83	1,404,424.32	~44.78	568,255.10	18.12
IBRA Subregion - Geraldton Hills	1,964,262.65	901,446.88	~45.89	355,757.17	18.11
Local Government - Shire of Northampton	1,258,428.76	930,228.68	~73.92	230,957.58	18.35
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 371	32,816.04	3,499.60	~10.66	242.15	0.74
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 371	32,807.53	3,499.10	~10.67	242.15	0.74
Beard vegetation associations - subregion					
Veg Assoc No. 371	32,807.53	3,499.10	~10.67	242.15	0.74
	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) (%)
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 17	76,633.84	67,605.49	88.22	8,831.50	11.52
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 17	54,078.08	45,159.85	83.51	6,067.99	11.22
Beard vegetation associations - subregion					
Veg Assoc No. 17	49,605.04	42,016.28	84.70	5,572.71	11.23

Figure 2: 2018 Vegetation Statistics data for the adjacent Beard vegetation association (BVA) 17

Government of Western Australia (2019)

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<u>Principle (a):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." <u>Assessment:</u> No Priority Ecological Communities or conservation significant flora were recorded within the application area. This native vegetation is considered an informal linkage; however, the size and location of the proposed clearing does not sever this linkage (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, or assemblages of plants (GHD, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The application area forms part of an informal ecological linkage, with Hutt Lagoon to the west and large areas of cleared farmland to the east (GIS Database). The proposed clearing of 2.6 hectares (GMA, 2025a) does not completely sever this ecological linkage. This area does not contain critical habitat for potential conservation significant fauna in the area, with the habitat type identified not being limited to the application area, and the conservation significant fauna likely to be observed are not constrained to, or reliant on, the vegetation within the application area (GHD, 2020). No Threatened or Priority fauna species were recorded in the application area (GHD, 2020). There are 34 records of fauna within five kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). These include: • Carnaby's Cockatoo (<i>Zanda Latirostris</i>) – although Port Gregory is within the suitable habitat range and distribution for Carnaby's Cockatoos (BirdLife Australia, 2026) it considered unlikely to occur due to the lack of suitable habitat in the application area (including foraging or roosting habitat). • Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) – this species is considered likely to occur due to historic sightings around the Port Gregory area, potentially for occasional foraging within the survey area (although no observations were recorded during the survey) (GHD, 2020). • Fork-tailed Swift (<i>Apus pacificus</i>) – this species is considered likely to occur however they are considered widespread across the surrounding coastal and subcoastal area, and only to utilise the survey area occasionally (although no observations were recorded during the survey) (GHD, 2020). • Eastern Osprey (<i>Pandion cristatus</i>) – this species was actively observed nesting in a dead Acacia tree during the survey; however, this record does not intersect the application area (located approximately 1.4 kilometres north-west) (GHD, 2020). Multiple coastal bird species (such as plovers, curlews and knots) were also recorded; however, these were localised to the Hutt Lagoon habitat, therefore the likelihood of occurrence within the application area is highly unlikely (GHD, 2020). No species of conservation significance are likely to be solely dependent on the habitats present within the survey area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.” <u>Assessment:</u> No Threatened or Priority flora were recorded within the application area. Two records of Threatened Flora were recorded being within five kilometres of the application area (GIS Database): • Northern Dwarf Spider-orchid (<i>Caladenia bryceana subsp cracens</i>) - this species is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and has a distribution range from north of Kalbarri (predominately the Kalbarri National Park) to south of Northampton (Commonwealth of Australia, 2026a; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). The survey was undertaken during December 2019, which is outside of the preferred survey season (EPA, 2016). However, this timing was considered appropriate to identify most species in the area (GHD, 2020). As per the survey recommendations (GHD, 2020), a follow-up survey was conducted in August 2020 to target <i>Caladenia bryceana subsp. cracens</i>, however this survey did not cover this application area. According to the survey (GHD, 2020), <i>Caladenia bryceana subsp. cracens</i> has a possible likelihood of occurring in Melaleuca shrubland (VT02). This vegetation type does not align with the vegetation description of the application area, therefore, this species is unlikely to occur within the application area. • Kneeling Hammer-orchid (<i>Drakaea concolor</i>): this species is listed as Vulnerable under the EPBC Act and has a patchy distribution range including Kalbarri National Park, inland of Geraldton, and between the localities of Eneabba and Coorow (Commonwealth of Australia, 2026b; Western Australian Herbarium, 1998-). Due to a lack of habitat suitability, <i>Drakaea</i>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<i>concolor</i> has a highly unlikely likelihood of occurring within the survey area (GHD, 2020). The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain suitable habitat for conservation significant flora species listed under the BC Act (GHD, 2020).		
<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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is not mapped within, nor does it contain any species that can indicate, a threatened ecological community (GHD, 2020; GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<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.” <u>Assessment:</u> The remaining extent of mapped BVA 371 is not consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001), with the vegetation extent trending towards <10% which would update its status from ‘Vulnerable’ to ‘Endangered’ (Department of Natural Resources and Environment, 2002). However, the <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> (identified as VT01 in GHD, 2020) is dominant across Port Gregory Project. This vegetation type is identified as being more associated with BVA 17: “Shrublands; <i>Acacia rostellifera</i> thicket” which has an extent of 83-88% remaining. Therefore, the 2.6 hectares proposed to be cleared is not considered to be impactful to the informal ecological linkage, nor be significantly impactful in this instance to the overall vegetation association or condition (GHD, 2020; GIS Database). Aside from VT01, majority of the vegetation intersecting and surrounding the application area is considered “Rehabilitated”, with current aerial imagery showing progressive clearing of this “Rehabilitated” area as part of the Lynton Mine operations under other approved clearing permits (GHD, 2020, GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (h):</u> “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.” <u>Assessment:</u> Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<u>Principle (f):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.” <u>Assessment:</u> Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
<u>Principle (g):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.” <u>Assessment</u> The mapped soils are considered moderately-to-highly susceptible to wind and water erosion (GHD, 2020; DPIRD, 2026). Noting the location and size of the application area, and the avoidance mitigation measures proposed, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation. The mitigation measures include staged clearing, progressive rehabilitation and adherence to dust management procedures (GMA, 2025a; GMA, 2025b).	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1 above</i>
<u>Principle (i):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.” <u>Assessment:</u>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Given no watercourses or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, and the nearest ANCA Wetland of National Importance (Hutt Lagoon) which is located approximately 300 metres west of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality (GIS Database).		
<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> <u>Assessment:</u> Given no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging. Although the soils are predominantly sandy and the proposed clearing is located approximately 300 metres west from the Hutt Lagoon wetland, the risk of moderate-to-very high flooding or waterlogging in the application area is <3% (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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 Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Bush Forever Areas 2000 (DPLH-019)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- Consanguineous Wetlands Suites (DBCA-020)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia - Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- EPA Redbook Recommended Conservation Reserves 1976-1991 (DBCA-029)
- EPP 2011 Western Swamp Tortoise Policy Boundary (DWER-062)

- 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)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- Waterways Conservation Act Management Areas (DWER-072)
- Wild Rivers (DWER-087)

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

- BirdLife Australia (2026) Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo. BirdLife Australia. <https://birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/carnabys-black-cockatoo/> (Accessed 10 May 2026).
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2025) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Classification Maps. Bureau of Meteorology. https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/maps/averages/climate-classification/?maptype=seasonal_rainfall_zones_major_AGCDv2_&period=1991-2020 (Accessed 8 June 2026).
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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.