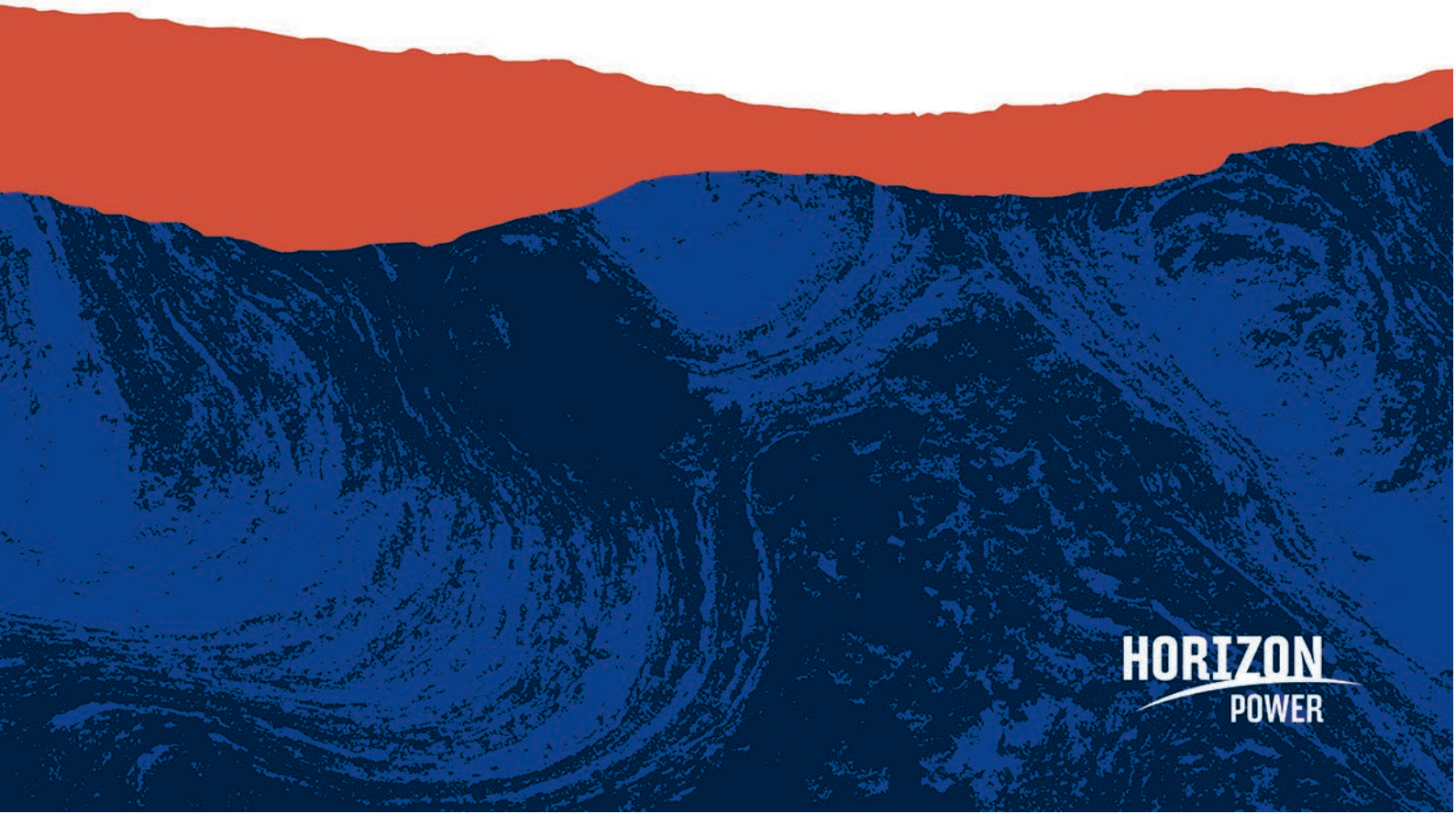
Halls Creek Power Project - Native Vegetation Clearing Permit

Supporting Document

July 2025



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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Context

Horizon Power is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy utility. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon Power is an experienced asset manager undertaking active management of vast electricity networks and generation assets across WA, utilising mature and robust operational, health and safety, and environmental systems.

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Halls Creek is due to expire, and Horizon Power is seeking to ensure the security of energy supply at Halls Creek after the expiry of the PPA.

Horizon Power is proposing to upgrade the power station in Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of WA (the Project). The Project will ensure security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the PPA. The power station is proposed within the existing Horizon Power lease area on Old Great Northern Highway approximately one kilometre south-west of Halls Creek townsite.

The Project will require the clearing of no more than 3.05 ha within a Development Envelope (DE) 5.15 ha in size (Figure 1). A Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) will be required from the Department of Water and Environment Regulation (DWER) to facilitate the clearing for the Project.

1.2 Scope and Purpose

This document has been prepared to support a NVCP application for the Project. Specifically, this document provides further detail regarding the proposed activities (Section 2) and related clearing (Section 3).

To support environmental approvals for the Project, a biological survey was undertaken by GHD (2024). The results of this survey, as relevant to the proposed clearing, are summarised in Section 4 of this document. Horizon Power commissioned the survey to support the development of a proposed future energy system, including ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a power generation system. The current proposal focuses solely on the thermal component, while the solar PV and BESS elements will be addressed under a separate Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. Due to changes in project scope, the biological survey did not encompass the full extent of the Development Envelope associated with the thermal component, and therefore the data has been extrapolated.

An assessment of the 10 Clearing Principles as outlined in '*A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*' (DER, 2014) has also been undertaken and is presented in Section 8.

A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) has also been prepared in support of the NVCP Application and is provided in Appendix A.

2 Description of the Activity

2.1 Project Location

The Project is located off Great Northern Highway, within the Town of Halls Creek. Land details of the DE are provided in Table 1 and the DE is shown in Figure 1.

Table 1 Development Envelope Location

Size of Development Envelope (ha)	Development Envelope location	Shire	Neighbouring land uses
5.15	Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970 Private Road	Shire of Halls Creek	Rural; Strategic infrastructure; Primary distributor road; Cultural and natural resource; General industry; Infrastructure services; Local roads.

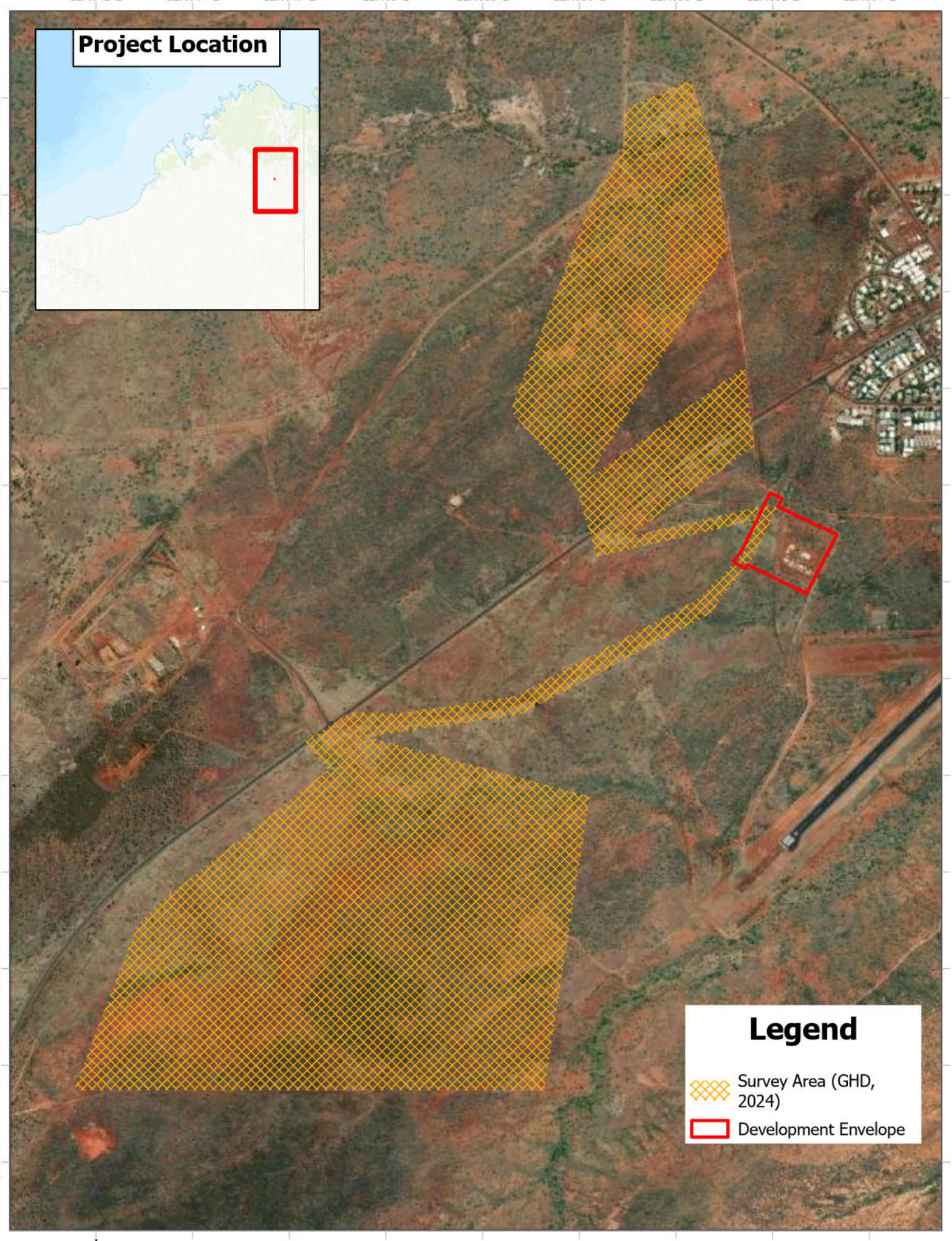

Figure 1 | Halls Creek Development Envelope

HORIZON POWER

2.2 Activity Overview and Timelines

Pre-construction works including geotechnical surveys will be required for the Project. The Project will consist of the construction of a thermal power station. A five-year clearing permit is requested to accommodate supplier readiness, with clearing undertaken within 3 months of construction.

2.3 Land Access

The power station is proposed within the existing Horizon Power lease area (J481416) on Old Great Northern Highway approximately one kilometre south-west of Halls Creek townsite.

3 Description of Proposed Clearing

3.1 Proposed Clearing Area

The final design and footprint required for the Project will be determined once geotechnical survey works are undertaken and will also depend on the engineering, environmental and social constraints of the site. The Project will clear no more than 3.05 ha of native vegetation within the DE. Clearing is required for the following:

- Geotechnical surveys,
- Power station infrastructure, and
- Laydown and construction areas, and ancillary infrastructure.

The construction of the Project will require the permanent clearing of no more than 3.05 ha.

3.2 Proposed Clearing Method

Geotechnical survey works will consist of mainly incidental clearing (driving over and parking on native vegetation) for vehicle / machinery access to test sites. Geotechnical tests will require the mechanical removal of native vegetation. Topsoil and vegetation will be respread over each test location once complete.

Clearing for the power station will be undertaken via mechanical removal.

4 Biological Survey

To inform the Project, a detailed (single season) flora and vegetation survey and a basic and targeted fauna survey has been undertaken by GHD (2024) on 24 March 2024. The biological survey was undertaken in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines (EPA, 2016 and EPA, 2020) and is summarised in Table 2.

Horizon Power commissioned the survey to support the development of a proposed future energy system, including ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, a battery energy storage system (BESS), and a power generation system. The current proposal focuses solely on the thermal component, while the solar PV and BESS elements will be addressed under a separate Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. Due to changes in project scope, the biological survey did not encompass the full extent of the Development Envelope associated with the thermal component.

Therefore, the biological survey only covers a small area of the DE (0.85 ha) (as shown in Figure 1). The remainder of the DE has therefore been extrapolated using aerial imagery and the adjacent areas surveyed by GHD. Vegetation is similar with the surrounding area as confirmed via aerial imagery and photography of the site.

Table 2 Summary of Biological Surveys Relevant to the DE

Survey	Summary of Findings
Kimberley IRP Biological Survey (GHD, 2024) (IBSA Number: IBSA-2024-0323)	**Survey Dates:** 22 – 26 April 2024 **Survey Area:** 195.14 ha, as shown in Figure 1 **Flora / Vegetation Findings**: – 135 flora taxa from 39 families and 93 genera (including subspecies and variants) were recorded during the field survey. – One Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) listed Priority (P) 3 flora taxa *Goodenia crenata* was recorded within the DE. A total of 3 individuals were recorded from three locations. – Nine introduced flora taxa were recorded in the DE. One was a Declared Pest (DP), **Azadirachta indica* (Neem) was recorded within the Survey Area but outside of the DE. No Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) were recorded. – Four vegetation types were recorded (excluding cleared areas): 1. VT09 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypohylla* over closed shrubland of *Acacia trachycarpa*, *Acacia colei* and *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line. 2. VT10 - Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypohylla* over closed shrubland of *Acacia colei* and *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes. 3. VT11 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica, Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Ehretia saligna* and *Gossypium australe* on brown loam clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line. 4. VT12 – Open woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* over isolated trees of *Melaleuca bracteate* over isolated shrubs of *Flueggea virosa* subsp. *melanthesoides* and **Leucaeana leucopehala* subsp. *leucocephala* on brown gritty sandy loam on a moderate drainage line. – One PEC was identified as occurring, the Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3 PEC). This PEC is described as a community consisting of grasslands, tall bunch grass savanna, Mitchell and blue grass species, including *Astrebla* sp. (DBCA, 2023). VT11 open woodland is representative of this PEC due to it having a grassland dominant understorey typical of a savanna on loam/clay plains. The PEC was assigned to VT11 where this vegetation type intersected with the pre-European vegetation association 834 boundary and/or the buffer of the PEC boundary (DBCA, 2024). – No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) or *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) were identified within the DE during the field survey. – The majority of the vegetation within the DE is in Excellent condition (125.5 ha (87%)) with some areas completely cleared. *Extrapolated area:* – Based on aerial imagery, approximately 1.9 ha of the extrapolated area has been cleared for an existing power station and access tracks (see Picture 1 below). The area is adjacent to mapped VT11 vegetation, with aerial imagery between the areas similar. Therefore, the remaining 1.21 ha is considered VT11 vegetation. This extrapolated area does not intersect the pre-European vegetation association 834 nor buffer of the PEC boundary (DBCA, 2024) and therefore is not considered representative of this PEC. – Excluding the 1.9 ha of this area considered cleared, the remainder 1.21 ha is conservatively considered to be in Excellent condition.

Survey	Summary of Findings

a)  b) 

Picture 1 (a) Aerial view of extrapolated area within DE (hatched orange = surveyed) (b) Google Street view of existing power station off Old Great Northern Highway Road looking South East towards existing Power Station.

Fauna / Fauna Habitat Findings:

- Four fauna habitats were identified:
  1. Acacia shrubland thicket: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over closed shrubland of *Acacia trachycarpa, Acacia colei* and *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* on red/brown sandy loam on rocky gentle slopes/low rise to minor drainage line.
  2. Minor drainage line: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* over isolated trees of *Melaleuca bracteata* over isolated shrubs of *Flueggea virosa* subsp. *melanthesoides* and **Leucaena leucocephala* subsp. *leucocephala* on brown gritty sandy loam on a moderate drainage line.
  3. Open *Eucalypt* woodland clay plain: open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica, Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei*, *Ehretia* clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line.
  4. Rocky hills and slopes: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica* and *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei*, *Grevillea pyramidalis* subsp. *pyramidalis* and *Acacia ancistrocarpa* on brown sandy loam on rocky low hills and slopes.
- The survey identified 69 species (45 birds, 17 mammals, 6 reptiles and 1 amphibian). Of these, three are introduced species (the Dingo (*Canis familiaris*), the Cat (*Felis catus*) and the Cane Toad (*Rhinella marina*)).
- Three significant fauna species were recorded:
  1. Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – Endangered under the *Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservations 1999* (EPBC Act) and P4 on the DBCA priority fauna list
  2. Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus*) – P1 on the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) priority fauna list
  3. Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (*Vespadelus douglasorum*) – P2 on the DBCA priority fauna list
- Fauna species listed as Threatened under the BC Act or by the DBCA that are considered likely to occur are:
  - Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucos*) – VU[1] under EPBC and *Biodiversity Conservation 2016* (BC Ac)
  - Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) – OS under EPBC and BC Act
  - Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – M under EPBC and BC Act
  - Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) – M under EPBC and BC Act
  - Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) – M under EPBC and BC Act
  - Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*) – VU under EPBC and BC Act
  - Northern Short-tailed Mouse (*Leggadina lakedownensis*) – P4 on the DBCA priority fauna list
  - Freshwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus johnstoni*) – OS under BC Act
  - Gravel Dragon (*Cryptagama aurita*) – P1 on the DBCA priority fauna list
  - Northern Blue-tongue Skink (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*) – CR under EPBC Act
  - Mitchell's Water Monitor (*Varanus mitchelli*) – CR under EPBC Act
  - Merten's Water Monitor (*Varanus mertensis*) – E under EPBC Act

[1] The following conservation codes have been used: VU = Vulnerable, OS = Other Specially Protected, M = Migratory, P = Priority, CR = Critically Endangered and E = Endangered.

Survey	Summary of Findings
	– There are no conservation reserves within the DE – The nearest Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) is located approximately 60 km north-east of the DE. *Extrapolated area:* – Based on aerial imagery, approximately 2.9 ha of the extrapolated area has been cleared. The area is adjacent to the mapped Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain fauna habitat, with aerial imagery and site photography identifying the vegetation between the areas is similar. Therefore, the remaining 2.21 ha is considered Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain fauna habitat.

5 Existing Environment

The existing environment is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Existing environment

<table>
<tr><th>Environmental value</th><th>Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation associations and condition</td><td>The Project is located within Pre-European Vegetation Associations 871 and 837. More than 99% of these vegetation associations remain at the state, bioregion, subregion and local government authority (LGA) scale.
<table>
<tr><th>Vegetation association</th><th>Scale</th><th>Pre-European extent (ha)</th><th>Current extent (ha)</th><th>% Remaining</th><th>% of current extent in all DBCA managed land (proportion of current extent)</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">871</td><td>State: WA</td><td>230,547.71</td><td>230,264.07</td><td>99.88</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Bioregion: Central Kimberly</td><td>230,415.48</td><td>230,131.84</td><td>99.88</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Hart Subregion</td><td>230,415.48</td><td>230,131.84</td><td>99.88</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>LGA: Shire of Halls Creek</td><td>230,547.71</td><td>230,264.07</td><td>99.88</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">837</td><td>State: WA</td><td>172,815.95</td><td>172,553.02</td><td>99.85</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Bioregion: Central Kimberly</td><td>151,537.39</td><td>151,274.46</td><td>99.83</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>IBRA Subregion: Hart Subregion</td><td>3,430.97</td><td>3,430.97</td><td>100.00</td><td>-</td></tr>
<tr><td>LGA: Shire of Halls Creek</td><td>151,971.74</td><td>151,708.81</td><td>99.83</td><td>-</td></tr>
</table>
Four vegetation types were identified in the GHD (2024) Survey Area, VT09, VT10, VT11 and VT12 with the remainder of the DE recorded as cleared.

The DE intersects 0.71 ha of vegetation type VT11 (GHD, 2024). 0.1 ha of this was mapped as the Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3 PEC). Within the extrapolated area, excluding the 2.9 ha of this area considered cleared, the remaining 1.21 ha is considered to be commensurate with VT11 vegetation type, described as: Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica, Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei, Ehretia saligna* and *Gossypium australe* on brown loam clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line.

Excluding the 2.9 ha of the DE already cleared, the remainder 1.21 ha is conservatively considered to be in Excellent condition. Majority of the Survey Area was recorded as Excellent condition.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna habitat</td><td>GHD (2024) recorded four fauna habitats within the Survey Area (excluding cleared areas): Acacia shrubland thicket, Minor drainage line, Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain and rocky hills and slopes.

0.71 ha of the DE intersects the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain habitat (GHD, 2024).

As discussed in Table 2, the DE is adjacent to the mapped Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain fauna habitat, with aerial imagery and site photography identifying the vegetation between the areas is similar. Therefore, excluding cleared areas, 1.21 ha is considered Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain fauna habitat.

This fauna habitat is considered to be of ‘High’ value habitat for fauna (GHD, 2024).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Significant fauna</td><td>Three fauna listed under the DBCA priority fauna list were recorded in the Survey Area during the GHD (2024) survey:

1. Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – P4 on the DBCA priority fauna list
2. Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus*) – P1 on the DBCA priority fauna list
3. Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (*Vespadelus douglasorum*) – P2 on the DBCA priority fauna list

All three species would likely utilise the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain fauna habitat within the DE.</td></tr>
</table>

Environmental value	Assessment
	A likelihood of occurrence assessment by GHD (2024) identified the following conservation State significant species as likely to occur: – Grey Falcon (V) – Likely: occurs locally and suitable foraging habitat – Peregrine Falcon (OS) – Likely (at least on occasional basis): occurs locally and suitable foraging habitat – Barn Swallow (M) – Likely (at least on occasional basis): suitable habitat for foraging – Yellow Wagtail (M) – Likely: expected to occur on a seasonal occasional basis – Oriental Pratincole (M) – Likely (aerially): occasional/seasonal basis – Ghost Bat (VU) – Likely: no suitable roost caves, however extensive potential roost habitat (rocky breakaway) in region. Likely to occur foraging (on at least occasional basis). – Northern Short-tailed Mouse (P4) – Likely: habitat appears suitable, sandplain with tussock and hummock grasses and sparse shrubland. – Gravel Dragon (P1) – Likely – suitable habitat.
Significant ecological linkage	The proposed area is not part of a significant ecological linkage.
Ecological communities	No State or Federally listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) were recorded within the Survey Area by GHD (2024). One Priority Ecological Community (PEC), the Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3 PEC) listed under DBCA, was recorded within the Survey Area. As described, the DE intersects 0.1 ha of this PEC. With up to 0.1 ha to be cleared for the Project.
Significant flora	One DBCA listed Priority 3 flora taxa, *Goodenia crenata* was recorded from the Survey Area. A total of 3 individuals were recorded from three locations (see Figure 2). This species has been previously collected over a wide area of the Central Kimberly, Ord Victoria Plain, Tanami bioregions including from the Halls Creek local government area (WA Herbarium 2025). This species is therefore considered likely to occur within the DE.
Wetlands and/or waterways	No *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act) Rivers overlap the DE (GoWA, 2025). The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Fitzroy River and Tributaries), RIWI Act Proclaimed Irrigation District (Camballin Irrigation District) and RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Ord River and Tributaries) (GoWA, 2025). There are no wetland features overlapping the DE. Two drainage lines were recorded with flowing water at the time of survey (GHD, 2024), however, they do not intersect the DE (with the closest approximately 900 m north of the DE). No significant or nationally important wetlands, rivers or watercourses were identified, and no RAMSAR-listed wetland ecosystems or communities were found in the survey area (GHD, 2024).
Water resources	The DE does not overlap a mapped Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) (GoWA, 2025). Halls Creek Water Reserve (P3) is the closest PDWSA and is located approximately 600 m from the DE. Standard mitigation measures are outlined in the CEMP and no additional impacts are expected to the water reserve. The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area. The *Halls Creek water reserve protection plan: Halls Creek Town Water Supply (*Water and Rivers Commission, 2012) reports the depth to the water table as about 50 m. Water required for construction activities (e.g., dust suppression, civil works and concrete batching) is expected to be sourced via trucking in water from local or regional sources. Operational water demand will be minimal and primary for equipment cleaning and routine maintenance and will be sourced from truck in water and/or rainwater tanks.
Conservation Reserves	No conservation reserves or estates were identified within the DE, and no national heritage places were located within the surrounding 20 km buffer zone.
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs)	The nearest Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) is located approximately 60 km north-east of the DE.
Land and soil quality	The DE is within the O'Donnell land systems, described as (Payne & Schoknecht, 2011): "*Stony undulating country with scattered hills, loamy skeletal soils, also restricted cracking clay plains, supporting open snappy gum woodlands with spinifex, arid short grasses and tussock grasses.*" According to the Atlas of Australian Acid Sulfate Soils (Fitzpatrick *et al*., 2011), the DE overlays class C extremely low probability of occurrence (1-5% change of occurrence in mapping unit). The DE does not intersect any contaminated sites (GoWA, 2025).

Environmental value	Assessment
	Minor land degradation is likely within the O'Donnell Land System due to the grasslands being moderately susceptible to erosion (Payne & Schoknecht, 2011). Mitigation measures for erosion are outlined in the CEMP.
Environmental heritage	There are no National Heritage Area or World Heritage Areas mapped as overlapping the DE (DCCEEW, 2024).
Air quality	The proposed works are unlikely to contribute significantly to dust. Dust will be managed during construction in accordance with the CEMP. No significant receptors are directly adjacent to the Project and no significant air emissions are expected that would impact the airshed.
Amenity values	The proposed construction is expected to generate typical construction noise, no sensitive receptors are directly adjacent to the DE, therefore no significant noise or vibration impacts are expected. No heritage buildings are present that may be impacted by vibration.

6 Avoidance, Mitigation and Management Measures

6.1 Avoidance

The decision was made to utilise the existing power station lease area for the new power station, to minimise disturbance.

6.2 Mitigation and Management

A CEMP has been developed for the Project which lists the specific mitigation and management measures to be applied during construction of the Project (see Appendix A). Key management measures for the geotechnical works and Project infrastructure include:

- No clearing is permitted outside the DE.
- Clearing will be minimised where possible through placement of assets and access tracks in existing cleared locations where possible.
- Works will be undertaken systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks.
- Areas of degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared areas will be preferentially selected for the location of test pits and laydown areas.
- The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities.
- Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 3.05 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project.
- A pre-clearing environmental toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
- Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area.
- Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation.
- Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean, and weed control will be undertaken at the site post-construction as required.

7 Stakeholder Engagement

Horizon Power has undertaken consultation with a number of key stakeholders including the Shire of Halls Creek, Ngarrawanju Aboriginal Corporation, Jungarni-Jutiya Indigenous Corporation, Kimberley Land Council, and the East Kimberley Chamber of Commerce & Industry. A number of local residents and businesses also attended a community session held on the 17 August 2023. Recent engagement has also been undertaken with traditional owners.

8 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

An assessment against the 10 Clearing Principles has been undertaken to support the NVCP application for the Project, as presented in Table 4. The assessment found that the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project will not be at variance with the 10 Clearing Principles.

Table 4 Assessment Against the 10 Clearing Principles

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.	Up to 3.05 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project within the DE. **Vegetation** The DE is located in the Central Kimberly bioregion and the Hart sub-region as described by IBRA. The DE is assumed to be VT11, which is described as (GHD, 2024): "Open woodland of *Eucalyptus alba* var. *australasica*, *Corymbia ferruginea* subsp. *stypophylla* and *Lysiphyllum cunninghamii* over open shrubland of *Acacia colei*, *Ehretia saligna* and *Gossypium australe* on brown loam clay on clay flats and rocky plains with a minor drainage line." No TECs listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were identified within the DE. One PEC listed by DBCA was recorded: Kimberley Vegetation Association No. 834 (P3) (GHD, 2024). As described, the DE intersects 0.1 ha of this PEC. With up to 0.1 ha to be cleared for the Project. This vegetation type is representative of the vegetation associations in the region, with over 99% of pre-European extents remaining. Excluding the 2.9 ha of the DE considered cleared, the remainder 1.21 ha is conservatively considered to be in Excellent condition. **Flora** 135 flora taxa from 39 families and 93 genera (including subspecies and variants) were recorded within the Survey Area (GHD, 2024). No EPBC Act or BC Act listed flora were recorded. One DBCA listed P3 flora taxa *Goodenia crenata* was recorded within the Survey Area. A total of 3 individuals were recorded from three locations (as shown on Figure 2). This species is therefore likely to occur in the DE. This species has been collected over a wide area of the Central Kimberly, Ord Victoria Plain, Tanami bioregions including from the Halls Creek local government area (WA Herbarium, 2025). Advice from DBCA noted that this species is widely distributed in the East Kimberly, therefore the species is not at an immediate risk from limited local development. No other significant flora species were identified as likely to occur post-survey. Nine of the 135 flora taxa were introduced flora taxa. No Weeds of National Significance (WoNS) or DPs were recorded within the Survey Area. **Fauna and fauna habitat** One fauna habitat, Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain, is identified within the DE (excluding cleared areas). There is 0.71 ha of this fauna habitat within the DE (GHD, 2024). The remainder area within the extrapolated area (excluding cleared areas) is considered Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain (1.21 ha), totalling to 2.21 ha of this habitat within the DE. This fauna habitat is considered to be of 'High' value habitat for fauna (GHD, 2024). The survey identified 69 species (45 birds, 17 mammals, 6 reptiles and 1 amphibian). Of these, three are introduced species. Three significant fauna species were identified, and a further 9 species are considered likely to occur (see Principle b). Up to 3.05 ha of native vegetation is proposed to be cleared for the Project. This vegetation is considered to be well represented locally and regionally). Given the small scale of proposed clearing, the works are unlikely to be at variance to this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance
(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or part of, or is necessary for the	One fauna habitat type was identified in the DE, the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain habitat. There is 2.21 ha this fauna habitat within the DE. This fauna habitat is considered to be of 'High' value habitat for fauna (GHD, 2024). A total of 69 species (45 birds, 17 mammals, 6 reptiles and 1 amphibian) were identified within the Survey Area. This included three State listed Priority fauna:	Unlikely to be at variance.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous Western Australia.	1. Gouldian Finch (*Chloebia gouldiae*) – P4 on the DBCA priority fauna list 2. Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat (*Ozimops cobourgianus*) – P1 on the DBCA priority fauna list 3. Yellow-lipped Cave Bat (*Vespadelus douglasorum*) – P2 on the DBCA priority fauna list A further nine state listed conservation significant species were considered likely to occur by GHD (2024) in a post survey likelihood assessment. 1. Grey Falcon (V) – Likely: occurs locally and suitable foraging habitat 2. Peregrine Falcon (OS) – Likely (at least on occasional basis): occurs locally and suitable foraging habitat 3. Barn Swallow (M) – Likely (at least on occasional basis): suitable habitat for foraging 4. Yellow Wagtail (M) – Likely: expected to occur on a seasonal occasional basis 5. Oriental Pratincole (M) – Likely (aerially): occasional/seasonal basis 6. Ghost Bat (VU) – Likely: no suitable roost caves, however extensive potential roost habitat (rocky breakaway) in region. Likely to occur foraging (on at least occasional basis). 7. Northern Short-tailed Mouse (P4) – Likely: habitat appears suitable, sandplain with tussock and hummock grasses and sparse shrubland. 8. Freshwater Crocodile (OS) – Likely – nearby suitable habitat and nearby records. 9. Gravel Dragon (P1) – Likely – suitable habitat. The conservation significant species including habitat preferences are described below. **Gouldian Finch** The Gouldian Finch inhabits open woodlands that are dominated by *Eucalyptus* trees and support a ground cover of Sorghum and other grasses (Boekel, 1980). This species prefers grass (especially Sorghum) that is nearby to water. In the breeding season they inhabit unburnt hollow-bearing *Eucalyptus* trees (Higgins et al., 2006). The Gouldian Finch would likely utilise the Open Eucalypt clay plain habitat. This species was recorded within the Minor drainage line habitat with flowing water in the Survey Area (700 m from DE) and is highly likely to forage within the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain habitat. The GHD (2024) survey did not identify any suitable breeding trees within the Survey Area. Habitat critical to the survival of the Gouldian Finch is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. The GHD (2024) survey identified 190.31 ha of suitable habitat within the Survey Area that has been mapped outside of the DE. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Gouldian Finch is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat** The Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat is usually associated with mangroves and coastal woodlands, where they roost in tree hollows (GHD, 2024). Based on the GHD (2024) report, it is assumed that the Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat would likely utilise the Open Eucalypt clay plain habitat . The GHD (2024) survey did not identify any suitable breeding trees within the Survey Area. Habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Coastal Free-tailed Bat is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Northern Coastal Free-tailed is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE.	

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	Yellow-lipped Cave Bat The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is confined to the West Kimberley and mostly occurs in high rainfall areas (>800 mm). The species forages in woodlands, particularly riparian vegetation in proximity to rocky habitat where it will roost in caves and crevices (GHD, 2024). This species was recorded within the Minor drainage line and Rocky hills and slopes habitats (GHD, 2024) within the Survey Area. The Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is likely to forage within the Open Eucalypt woodland habitat, there is no caves present that would be suitable for breeding/roosting in the Survey Area (GHD, 2024). Habitat critical to the survival of the Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Yellow-lipped Cave Bat is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Grey Falcon** The Grey Falcon is an Australian endemic, usually confined to the arid inland. It inhabits *Triodia* grassland, *Acacia* shrubland, and lightly timbered arid woodland especially stony, inland plains, gibber deserts, sand ridges, pastoral lands, and timbered watercourses, but seldom in driest deserts (Morcombe, 2004). This species is known to occupy a wide range of habitats. It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Grey Falcon is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Grey Falcon is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Peregrine Falcon** The Peregrine Falcon is found on and near cliffs, gorges, timbered watercourses, riverine environments, wetlands, plains, open woodlands, and pylons and spires of buildings, though less frequently in desert regions (Morcombe, 2004; Pizzey & Knight, 2012). Peregrine Falcons are not common but can be found almost anywhere throughout WA. The Peregrine Falcon is likely to use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain habitat for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Peregrine Falcon is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Peregrine Falcon is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Barn Swallow** The Barn Swallow inhabits open country in coastal lowlands near water, towns and cities. They often occur on overhead wires, over freshwater wetlands, paperbark Melaleuca woodland, mesophyll shrub thickets and tussock grassland (Pizzey, 1980; Blakers et al., 1984; Schodde & Mason, 1999). The Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain provides suitable foraging habitat. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Barn Swallow is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Barn Swallow is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Yellow Wagtail**	

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	The Yellow Wagtail occurs in open country near swamps, salt marshes, sewerage ponds, grasses surrounding airfields, bare ground, and occasionally on drier inland plain. This species roosts in mangroves and other dense vegetation (GHD, 2024). The Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain provides suitable foraging habitat. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Barn Swallow is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Yellow Wagtail is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Oriental Pratincole** This species usually inhabits open plains, floodplains or short grasslands. GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain for foraging (GHD, 2024). GHD (2024) reported the species as likely to occur on an occasional or seasonal basis when foraging plants (grasses) are present and when water is available. Habitat critical to the survival of the Oriental Pratincole is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Oriental Pratincole is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Ghost Bat** The Ghost Bat occurs in a wide range of habitats ranging from the arid Pilbara to tropical savanna woodlands and rainforests (TSSC, 2016). They require an undisturbed cave, deep fissure or disused mine shaft to roost in. The species' range is discontinuous with geographically disjunct colonies in the Pilbara, Kimberley, north Northern Territory, Gulf of Carpentaria, coastal and near coastal eastern Queensland from Cape York to near Rockhampton, and Western Queensland (TSSC, 2016). The Ghost Bats in the Kimberley are distinct from all other Australian populations with genetic structure evident in the Kimberley populations (Worthington Wilmer, 1996). A targeted assessment was undertaken for the Ghost Bat during the GHD (2024) survey and the Ghost Bat was not recorded. There is no suitable roost habitat for the Ghost Bat within the Survey Area, however there is extensive potential roost habitat in the surrounding region as well as foraging habitat within the Survey Area (Rocky hills and slopes and Minor drainage line). Therefore, the species is likely to forage within the Survey Area, at least on an occasional basis (GHD, 2024). These habitats were not recorded within the DE, therefore habitat for the Ghost Bat is not expected to be impacted. **Northern Short-tailed Mouse** The Northern Short-tailed Mouse is known to occur on sandy soils and cracking clays in WA. They have also been recorded on tussock grasslands in northern Australia and stony clay hummock grasslands in the Pilbara (GHD, 2024). It is likely this species will use the Open Eucalypt woodland clay plain for foraging (GHD, 2024). Therefore, the species is likely to occur in the DE. Habitat critical to the survival of the Northern Short-tailed Mouse is not defined, therefore this is considered supporting habitat. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA, 2025) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA, 2025) datasets, habitat for the Northern Short-tailed Mouse is widespread within a 20 km radius of the DE. **Freshwater Crocodile**	

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	Freshwater Crocodiles are widespread across northern Australia and occupy permanent freshwater rivers, gorges and billabongs (Wilson & Swan, 2017). The species can persist in small seasonal creeks that have pools present year-round. The minor drainage line habitat within the Survey Area is suitable for the Freshwater Crocodile with nearby records. Therefore, the species is likely to occur in the DE. The Project will not clear the minor drainage line habitat type, therefore habitat suitable for the Freshwater Crocodile is not expected to be impacted. **Gravel Dragon** The Gravel Dragon is found within the north-east interior of WA within a notable habitat preference for stony soils and spinifex vegetation (Wilson & Swan, 2017). The Rocky hills and slopes habitat within the Survey Area is suitable habitat for the species with nearby records. Therefore, the species is likely to occur in the DE. The Project will not clear this habitat type, therefore habitat suitable for the Gravel Dragon is not expected to be impacted. Overall, the fauna values of the DE are highly represented on a local and regional scale (GHD, 2024) and clearing of up to 2.21 ha of fauna habitat is not considered significant for any specific species. The Project is therefore unlikely to be at variance with this principle.	
(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.	GHD (2024) undertook a detailed assessment for flora and vegetation in April 2024. The survey timing (April) is appropriate for the Northern botanical province (January to March) due to adequate rainfall in the region. No flora species listed under the EPBC Act or BC Act were recorded during the survey. GHD (2024) undertook a likelihood of occurrence assessment post-field survey and concluded that no Threatened flora were considered likely to occur within the Survey Area. Native vegetation necessary for the continued existence of rare flora is not considered to occur within the Survey Area. The proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is therefore not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(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.	The survey by GHD (2024) did not record any threatened ecological communities listed under the EPBC Act, BC Act or by DBCA, nor were any considered likely to occur. Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(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.	The two vegetation associations within the DE have more than 99% pre-European extent remaining. The DE is not considered to be within an area that has been extensively cleared given they have more than 99% of pre-European extent. This vegetation forms part of a large continuous tract of habitat and has a high degree of habitat connectively with surrounding vegetation, which has similar or better condition vegetation. The vegetation type identified during the survey is not confined to the Survey Area and is considered well represented in the local and regional area. Therefore, it is considered that the native vegetation proposed to be cleared for the Project is not significant as a remnant of native vegetation within an area that has been extensively cleared.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in or in association with a	There are no wetland features overlapping the DE. No significant or nationally important wetlands, rivers or watercourses were identified, and no RAMSAR-listed wetland ecosystems or communities were found in the survey area (GHD, 2024).	Unlikely to be at variance.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
watercourse or wetland.	Two drainage lines were recorded with flowing water at the time of survey (GHD, 2024), however, they do not intersect the DE (with the closest approximately 900 m north of the DE). There will be no clearing of native vegetation associated with a watercourse or wetland and no indirect impacts are expected from the Project. The proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	
(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.	The DE intersects the O'Donnel land system which is described as (Payne & Schoknecht, 2011: – stony undulating country with scattered hills, loamy skeletal soils, open woodlands with short grasses and restricted areas of cracking clay plains. Grasslands are prone to degradation, interfluves and drainage floors have moderately susceptibility to erosion. The DE contains soils which may be susceptible to erosion. However, standard management practices will be implemented to prevent erosion. Additionally, the DE is located in an area which has previous disturbance, next to and within the existing power station lease area. The Project will incorporate standard construction management measures to reduce the risk of soil erosion as a result of ground disturbance and clearing (Appendix A). Any dust produced during construction will also be managed through the implementation of a CEMP. Given the small area to be cleared, it is not likely that the clearing will cause appreciable land degradation. Based on the above, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(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.	There are no conservation areas overlapping the DE or within 50 km of the DE. No impacts to conservation areas are anticipated in association with the Project. No off-site impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed clearing of native vegetation within the DE. It is noted that management measures regarding weeds and disease will be implemented to ensure that weeds are not spread as a result of clearing activities (Appendix A). The proposed clearing is not expected to impact any adjacent conservation areas.	Unlikely to be at variance.
(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.	No RIWI Act Rivers overlap the DE (GoWA, 2025). The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area, RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Fitzroy River and Tributaries), RIWI Act Proclaimed Irrigation District (Camballin Irrigation District) and RIWI Act Proclaimed Surface Water Area (Ord River and Tributaries) (GoWA, 2025). There are no wetland features overlapping the DE. Two drainage lines were recorded with flowing water at the time of survey (GHD, 2024), however, they do not intersect the DE (with the closest approximately 900 m north of the DE). No significant or nationally important wetlands, rivers or watercourses were identified, and no RAMSAR-listed wetland ecosystems or communities were found in the survey area (GHD, 2024). The DE does not overlap a mapped Public Drinking Water Source Areas (PDWSA) (GoWA, 2025). Halls Creek Water Reserve (P3) is the closest PDWSA and is located approximately 600 m from the DE. Standard mitigation measures are outlined in the CEMP and are expected to make any impacts to water resources negligible. The DE overlaps the draft RIWI Act Canning-Kimberley Groundwater Area. The *Halls Creek water reserve protection plan: Halls Creek Town Water Supply (*Water and Rivers Commission, 2012) reports the depth to the water table as about 50 m. Water required for construction activities (e.g., dust suppression, civil works and concrete batching) is expected to be sourced via trucking in water from	Unlikely to be at variance.

Principle	Assessment	Outcome
	local or regional sources or temporary groundwater bores licences from DWER. Operational water demand will be minimal and primary for equipment cleaning and routine maintenance and will be sourced from truck in water and/or rainwater tanks. Potential impacts to surface water quality from erosion, sedimentation or hydrocarbons are unlikely. Clearing within the DE is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water, therefore the Project is unlikely to be at variance to this principle.	
(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the intensity of flooding.	No impacts to flood risk are expected as a result of the proposed clearing. Therefore, the proposed clearing of native vegetation for the Project is not considered to be at variance with this principle.	Unlikely to be at variance.

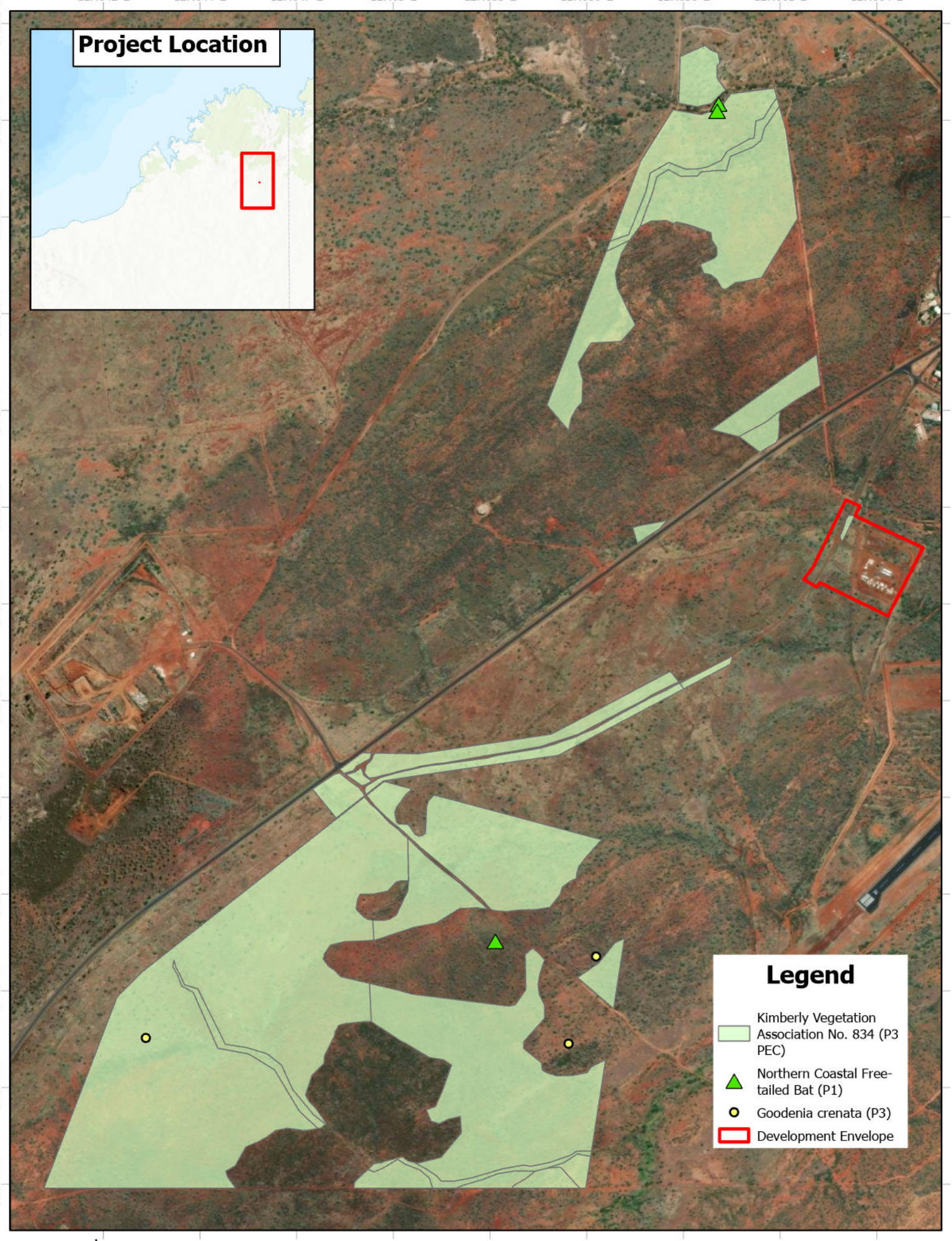

Figure 2 | Halls Creek Environmental Constraints

N

0 150 300 600 Meters

Scale: 1:15,000

HORIZON POWER

9 Other matters

9.1 Land Planning

The Project will be considered Public Works and is expected to be exempt from development approval under Section 6 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, however, due regard is required with respect to:

- The purpose and intent of any planning scheme that has effect in the locality where, and at the time when, the right is exercised;
- The orderly and proper planning, and the preservation of the amenity, of that locality at that time; and
- Any advice provided by the responsible authority in the course of the consultation required.

9.2 Other Approvals

In considering a clearing matter under section 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) CEO shall have regard to any planning instrument and other relevant matters when making decisions as to clearing permits. 'Other matters' are not defined in the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act), and consequently are any matters the CEO considers relevant. Other matters are generally environmental issues not directly within the scope of the clearing principles, but within the object and principles of the Act. Other approvals that may apply to this Project are detailed Table 5. Land access is detailed in Section 2.3.

Table 5 Other approvals

Other approvals	Assessment
Referral to Environmental Protection Authority	Due to the small scale of the Project in a remote location, it is considered that all environmental impacts can be managed under Part V of the EP Act and referral to the EPA is not considered necessary.
Referral to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)	*Threatened flora, fauna and ecological communities* A search of the DCCEEW PMST identified 13 Threatened fauna species within 20 km of the DE. Habitat for the Gouldian Finch, Grey Falcon, Peregrine Falcon and Northern Blue-Tongue Skink is present in the DE. No TECs were recorded in the DE or surrounds. Based on aerial imagery and the Soil Landscape Mapping (spatial dataset DPIRD-027, GoWA 2022) and Pre-European Vegetation (spatial dataset DPIRD-006, GoWA 2022) datasets, habitat for the Threatened fauna is widespread within a 10 km radius of the DE. An assessment of Matters of National Environmental Significance was undertaken by GHD (2024b) with no significant impacts anticipated for Halls Creek for Threatened species, with the exception of the Northern Blue-tongue Skink. GHD (2024b) concluded that clearing of habitats within the DE where the Northern Blue-tongue Skink was recorded may contribute to the decline of the population in the local area and clearing of understorey may reduce foraging opportunities and contribute to increased predation by feral cats. The cane toad was also recorded in the biological survey, and therefore pressure on the populations of Skink is already present. This assessment was based on construction of a solar farm, the proposed thermals will have a significantly smaller footprint and therefore is considered unlikely to have a significant impact on Northern Blue-tongue Skink. Overall, the fauna values of the DE are highly represented on a local and regional scale (GHD, 2024) and clearing of fauna habitat for the Project is not considered significant for biodiversity of any specific species and unlikely to trigger a significant impact under the Significant Impact 1.1 Guidelines (DoE, 2013). Given the abundance of alternative habitat, no significant impacts are expected to Threatened fauna, and referral to DCCEEW is not considered to be required. *Migratory fauna* A search of the DCCEEW PMST identified 10 Migratory species within 20 km of the DE. Habitat for the Oriental Pratincole, Fork-tailed Swift, Yellow Wagtail and Barn Swallow is present in the DE. These species have a wide-ranging habitat and no significant habitat for Migratory species is likely to be removed. *National and World heritage* No World Heritage places overlap the DE or are within 20 km of the DE. No National Heritage Places occur within the DE. *Wetlands of international importance*

Other approvals	Assessment
	No Ramsar Wetlands overlap the DE, with the closest Ramsar Wetland to the DE being Lake Argyle and Kununurra, located approximately 150-200 km upstream. This Ramsar Wetland is not expected to be impacted by the Project as no impacts are expected outside of the DE. Based on the above, the Project is unlikely to result in a significant impact to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES).
Works Approval or Licence under EP Act	No works approvals or licences are expected to be required. If any works approvals or licences are needed for construction, these will be sourced by the construction contractor.
Groundwater or surface water licence under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*	Horizon Power is permitted to access water under Section 42 and 49 of the *Electricity Operator (Powers) Act 1979*. Any licences required for construction water will be acquired by the construction contractor.
Notice of Intent to Clear system under the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*	Not Applicable.
State and municipal heritage	There are no known municipal or State heritage sites within or adjacent to the DE (GoWA, 2025). The Project is not expected to impact municipal or State heritage.
Native title	The DE is not currently subject to any native title determinations, claims, or applications. However, the DE consists of: Lot 9005 on Deposited Plan 69970 (2783-64) which is freehold land tenure, which is considered inconsistent with native title rights and interests.
Aboriginal Sites of Significance under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*	A search of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (ACHIS) shows that the following Aboriginal Heritage registered site overlaps the DE: – Registered site (ID 14324), Creation / Dreaming Narrative, Painting. According to the ACHIS, the DE does not overlap any lodged sites or historic records. In the absence of known native title holders or claimants, Horizon Power has sought advice from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to determine an appropriate pathway forward to ensure compliance with relevant legislation. Horizon Power has an external Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Policy, that details our commitment to *avoid impacting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage whenever and wherever possible*. A Heritage Protection Plan will be developed based on the outcomes of conversations with DPLH as well as any Aboriginal community consultation that may occur to ensure impact on heritage values is avoided. As appropriate, management measures will be implemented during activities.

10 References

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Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)

RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)

RIWI Act Surface Water and Irrigation District (DWER-037)

DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)

Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems (DPIRD-064)

Heritage Council WA - State Register (DPLH-006)

Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)

Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)

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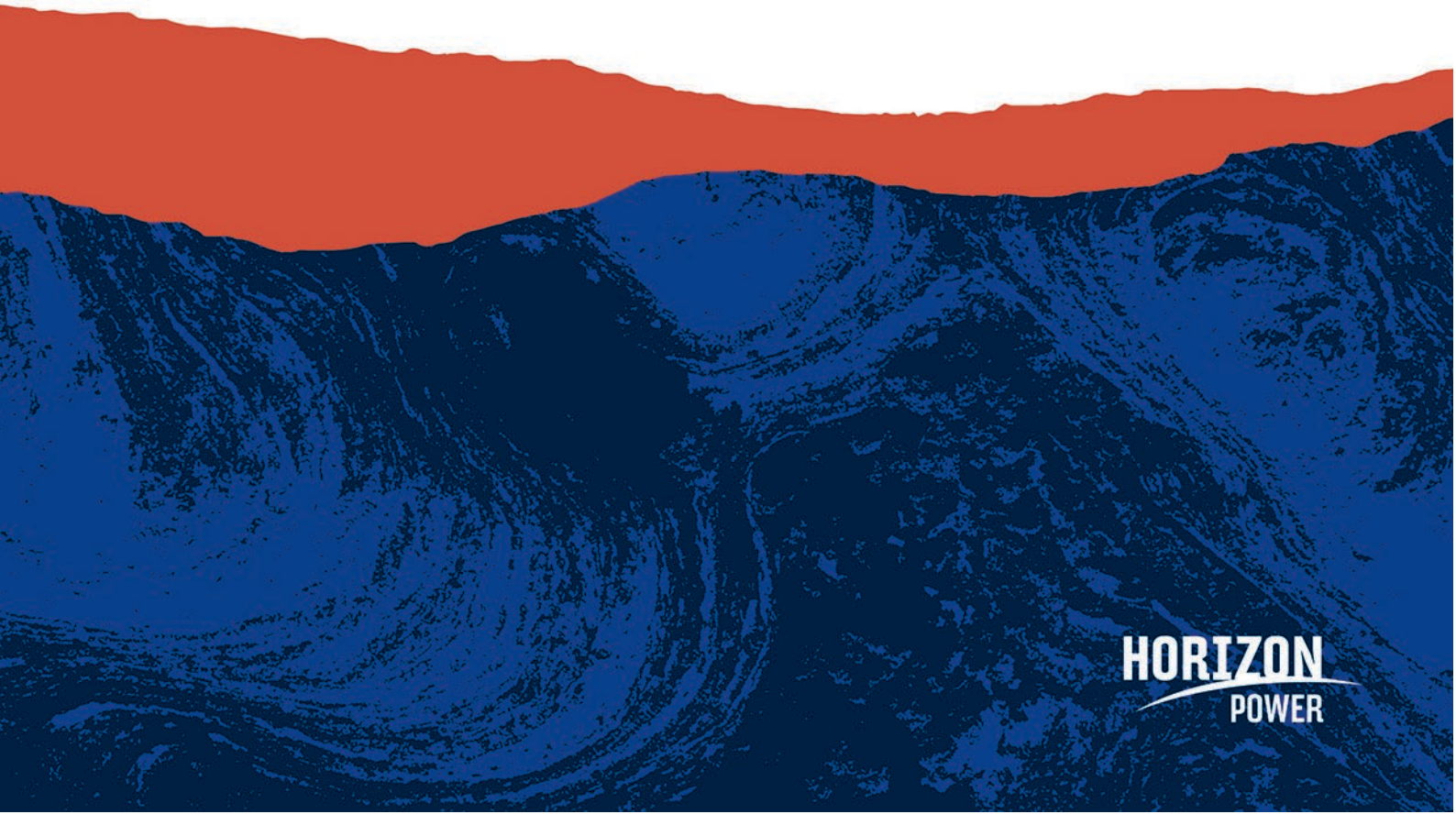
Appendix A: Construction Environmental Management Plan

PROTECTED

Halls Creek Power Project

Construction Environmental Management Plan

July 2025



Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Context and Scope

Horizon Power is a Western Australian (WA) Government Trading Enterprise (GTE) and the state's regional and remote energy utility. Horizon Power operates under the *Electricity Corporations Act 2005* and is governed by a Board of Directors accountable to the Minister for Energy. Horizon Power is an experienced asset manager undertaking active management of vast electricity networks and generation assets across WA, utilising mature and robust operational, health and safety, and environmental systems.

The Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Halls Creek is due to expire, and Horizon Power is seeking to ensure the security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the PPA.

Horizon Power is proposing to upgrade the thermal power station in Halls Creek in the Kimberley region of WA (the Project). The Project will ensure security of energy supply to Halls Creek after the expiry of the PPA. The thermal power station is proposed within the existing Horizon Power lease area on Old Great Northern Highway approximately one kilometre south-west of Halls Creek townsite. All disturbance will be contained within a defined Development Envelope (DE; Figure 1).

1.2 Scope and purpose

This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed to outline environmental management measures to be implemented by Horizon Power and its contractors during the construction of the Project. This includes, but is not limited to, measures to manage dust, erosion and spread of weeds during clearing of native vegetation.

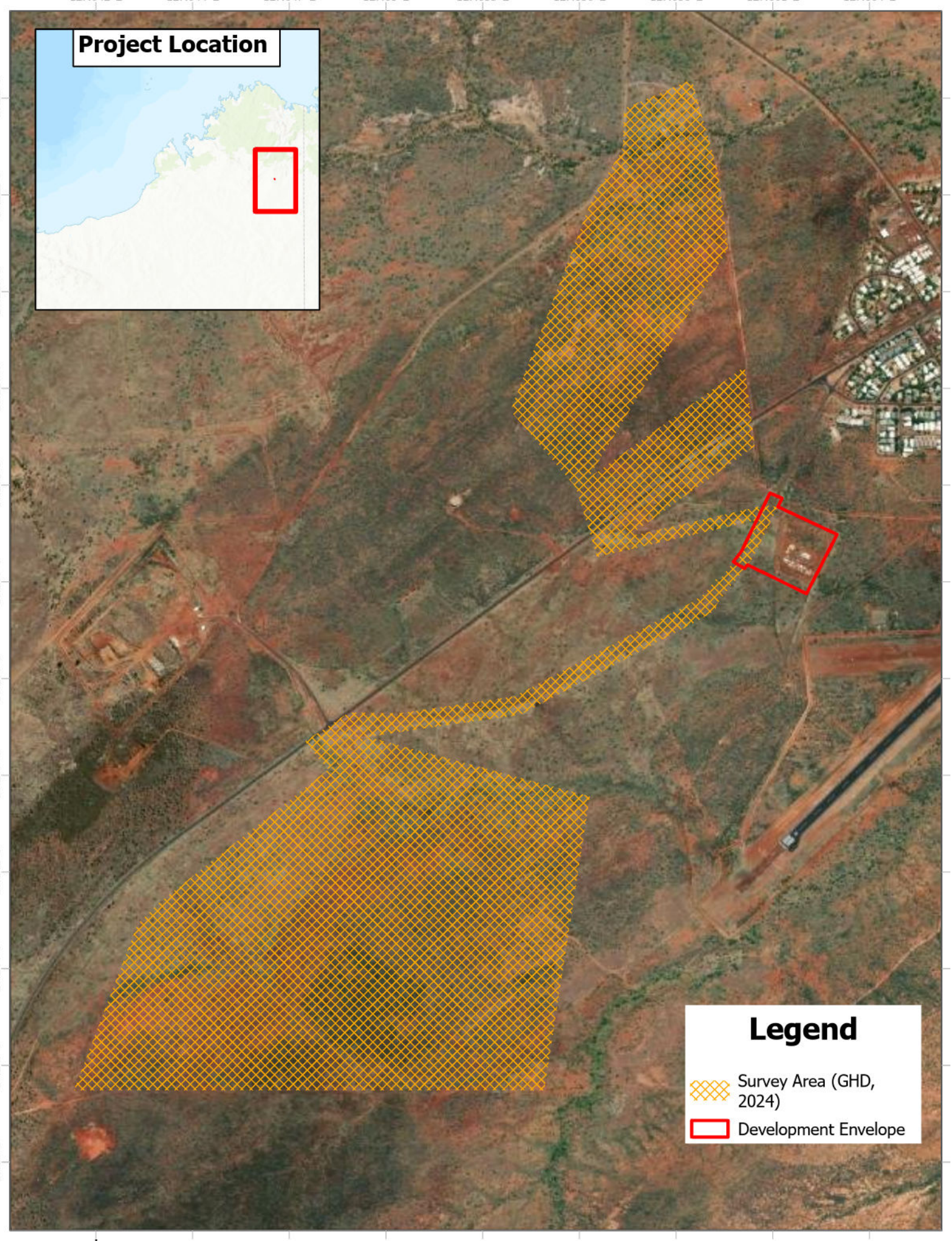


Figure 1 | Halls Creek Development Envelope

HORIZON POWER

2 Description of the Activity

2.1 Activity Overview

Geotechnical survey works will be required for the Project and will consist of mainly incidental clearing (driving over and parking on native vegetation) for vehicle / machinery access to test sites. The Project is expected to consist of a thermal power station.

2.2 Clearing of Native Vegetation

The Project will require 3.05 ha of clearing within the 5.3 ha DE (as shown in Figure 1). Clearing is required for the following:

- Geotechnical surveys
- Thermal power station infrastructure, and
- Laydown and construction areas, and ancillary infrastructure.

Geotechnical survey works will consist of mainly incidental clearing (driving over and parking on native vegetation) for vehicle / machinery access to test sites. Clearing for the power station infrastructure will be undertaken via mechanical removal.

Clearing of native vegetation within the DE will only be undertaken as specified by the Clearing Permit, including the extent and method of clearing to be undertaken and any specific management measures outlined in the permit conditions.

3 Avoidance Measures

The decision was made to utilise the existing power station lease area for the new power station, to minimise disturbance.

4 Management Measures

The management measures listed in Table 1 will be implemented during geotechnical investigations and construction of this Project. Clearing of native vegetation will occur as per the conditions in the Native Vegetation Clearing Permit (NVCP) issued by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER).

Table 1 Management Measures to be Implemented During Geotechnical Investigations and Construction

Aspect	Management Measure
Extent of Clearing	– No clearing is permitted outside the DE (Figure 1) including driving over native vegetation. – Clearing will be minimised where possible through placement of assets and access tracks in existing cleared locations where possible. – Works will be undertaken systematically to minimise re-run and compaction of access tracks. – The clearing locations are to be demarcated with flagging tape, GPS or similar prior to clearing activities. – Clearing areas are to be checked by an Environmental Specialist or Site Supervisor prior to clearing to ensure no more than 3.05 ha of clearing is undertaken for the Project. – A pre-clearing toolbox will be held so all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the permit.
Flora and vegetation	– Areas of degraded, sparsely vegetated and/or previously cleared areas will be preferentially selected for the location of test pits, access tracks and laydown areas. – Trees and tall shrubs will be avoided, where possible. – The clearing area allows for driving over vegetation to access geotechnical sites. Driving on vegetation will be kept to the minimum required to perform the works. – Movement of vehicles and machinery will be in convoy along access tracks/ routes and will not go into adjacent vegetation.

Aspect	Management Measure
Fauna	– Clearing of native vegetation will be undertaken in a slow, progressive manner in one direction to allow fauna to move away from the clearing area. – Construction personnel will not touch, feed or otherwise directly interact with fauna. – Vehicle and machinery speeds within the DE will be restricted to reduce the likelihood of fauna strike.
Weeds	– The Contractor will ensure that no weed-affected soil, mulch, fill or other material is brought into the DE. – Vehicles and machinery will arrive clean, and weed control will be undertaken at the site post-construction as required. – Movement of vehicles and machinery will be restricted to the DE or established tracks and roads.
Erosion and soils	– Standard construction measures regarding erosion and sediment control will be implemented during construction works. – Designated access tracks will be applied to prevent additional disturbance. – Erosion and surface water controls are to be included in project design to prevent erosion.
Dust	– Standard construction dust control and mitigation measures will be implemented during clearing. This may include the use of a water trucks, or similar. – Ground disturbance and clearing of vegetation will be restricted during high winds if dust cannot be adequately controlled. – Reduced vehicle speed limits will be applied in areas of unconsolidated soil. – Use of defined routes for machinery/ vehicles travelling on unsealed roads.
Noise	– The contractor will comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 – Complaints regarding noise will be recorded and investigated by Horizon Power.
Waste	– Rubbish will be disposed of in appropriate containers and all waste will be removed from the site.
Contamination	– Works are to immediately cease if hydrocarbons affected soil are seen or smelled, or if suspected asbestos containing materials are uncovered during works. – Works may recommence once the contamination status has been determined and the contamination is addressed.
Hydrocarbons and chemicals	– Hydrocarbons and chemicals will be appropriately managed on site to prevent spills, including maintaining equipment in good working order in accordance with manufacturers specifications. – No refuelling will be undertaken within 50 m of a waterway, drain or drainage line. – Hydrocarbons will be appropriately stored at least 50 m away from drainage lines and stored in an appropriate bunded container. – Refuelling will be undertaken on hardstand or using catch trays only. Uncontrolled refuelling is not permitted. – Chemicals will be appropriately stored.
Heritage	– Should Aboriginal Cultural Heritage materials be uncovered during construction works, works are to stop immediately within 20 m of the find. The Contractor is to contact the Horizon Project Manager and an incident will be raised. The area will be cordoned off and no access permitted to the area by people until the incident is investigated and resolved.