Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11242/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Minstrel Resources Pty Ltd
Application received:	22 August 2025
Application area:	95 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 30/257
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Menzies
Colloquial name:	Golden Lode Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Minstrel Resources Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 95 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 174 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 130 kilometres north-west direction of Kalgoorlie, within the Shire of Menzies.

The application is to allow for new infrastructure related to mineral production as well as infrastructure required for supporting mining operations.

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	31 March 2026
Decision area:	95 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 public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

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

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging and mound building habitat for *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl);
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable foraging and nesting habitat for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface); and
- potential land degradation in the form of water erosion.

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

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- conduct a pre-clearance survey to identify *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds; and
- conduct a pre-clearance survey to identify any active, in-use *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) nests.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2014)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2021)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016b)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016a)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values. The proponent has outlined the following management measures to minimise impacts to native vegetation (Minstrel Resources Pty Ltd, 2025a):

- Planned infrastructure will, where possible, be located in historically cleared or degraded areas and linked to existing area infrastructure to minimize the need for new clearing. (i.e. use of existing roads for haulage where present/pragmatic);
- Progressive clearing to be undertaken as required to accommodate project development stages;
- Progressive rehabilitation will be part of the mine planning process.
- Seasonal weed control will be ongoing throughout the active mining period in accordance with Minstrel Resources Weed Management Procedure.
- Progressive rehabilitation of areas disturbed by mining will be implemented where feasible, in accordance with the Mine Plan;
- Implementation of a progressive management approach to land clearing and site rehabilitation, such that the clearing will not cause appreciable long-term land degradation;
- Stormwater runoff diversion and control around mining infrastructure will be implemented as part of site water runoff management.

The applicant adequately demonstrated that reasonable efforts will be taken to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

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

3.2.1. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principle (b)

Assessment

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) undertook a fauna survey and assessment over the application area on two occasions: 28 November and 17-20 December 2024. No conservation significant fauna species were recorded within the application area, and no survey limitations were identified (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). One active and one inactive *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mound were recorded within the survey area, approximately 600 metres from the application area, as well as the opportunistic sighting of a malleefowl during the survey. Advice received from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (2026) has identified concerns regarding potential impacts to *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl).

***Leipoa ocellata* (Malleefowl) (VU)**

Malleefowl typically occur in arid to semi-arid woodlands dominated by mallee eucalypts on sandy soils (DCCEEW, 2024). They also inhabit mulga, *Acacia aneura* and associated habitats such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata* complex) and Scrub Pine (*Callitris verrucosa*) (DCCEEW, 2024; Gould, 1840). Malleefowl construct their mounds in sandy or loamy soils with abundant leaf litter (National Malleefowl Recovery Team, 2016).

Although no mounds were recorded within the application area during the 2025 survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025), suitable breeding habitat may still be present. This is supported by multiple malleefowl records within 50 km of the application area (GIS Database) and by the presence of soil types and vegetation communities capable of supporting mound building. Therefore, potential impacts to this species are still considered.

***Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface) (VU)**

Southern Whiteface (VU) construct large, domed nests from grass, bark and roots, typically within tree hollows, crevices or dense shrubs (Atlas of Living Australia, 2026). The species relies on open woodlands and shrublands with grass and shrub understorey, low tree density, and herbaceous litter for foraging, as well as living or dead trees that provide suitable roosting hollows (DCCEEW, 2023).

The Southern Whiteface has been recorded in numerous fauna surveys in the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025) and is therefore likely to occur within the application area. The application area contains suitable foraging habitat within shrubland and woodland communities and is also likely to support hollow-bearing trees required for roosting and nesting (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

***Nyctophilus major tor* (central long eared bat) (P3)**

The application area contains potential roosting habitat for *Nyctophilus major tor* (central long-eared bat). However, Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) reported that the application area represents only a small proportion of similar habitat within the broader landscape, and that recent records of the species are limited. As such, vegetation clearing associated with the application area is unlikely to result in a significant impact on the species.

Otherwise specially (OS) protected and Migratory (M) Species

Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) identified that *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine Falcon - OS) and *Apus pacificus* (Fork-tailed Swift - M) have the potential to occur within the application area. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact on these species, as they are highly mobile and are expected to readily move away from the area in response to disturbance.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing has the potential to impact *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) and *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Southern Whiteface). Potential impacts to these species can be appropriately managed through the implementation of the specific fauna management conditions outlined in the permit.

Conditions

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- no clearing should occur within 50 metres of any identified *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mound during the non-breeding season;
- Where an active (in-use) mound is identified, no clearing should occur within 200 metres of the mound between September and January;
- For inactive *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) mounds during this same period, clearing should not occur within 50 metres of the identified mound between the months of September to January; and
- Identified *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) nests should be avoided by 50 metres between the months of July and October.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 10 October 2025 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2026).

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.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) and *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) which are a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the *EPBC Act*). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

- A Programme of Work approved under the *Mining Act 1978*
- A Mining Development and Closure Proposal approved under the *Mining Act 1978*

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td>Local context</td><td>The area proposed to be cleared is located within the Southern Cross subregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Coolgardie Bioregion (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>The application area is not likely to form part of any formal or informal ecological linkages (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The application area intersects Unallocated Crown Land with Department Interest to be designated as a conservation area (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:
40: Shrublands; acacia scrub, various species; and
468: Medium woodland; salmon gum & goldfields blackbutt (GIS Database).

A Reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS) during November and December 2024. The following vegetation group were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2025):

<table>
<tr><th>Veg Group Code</th><th>Vegetation Group</th></tr>
<tr><td>A</td><td>Eucalyptus griffithsii over Acacia acuminata thicket</td></tr>
<tr><td>B</td><td>Eucalyptus griffithsii and Eucalyptus lesouefii woodland</td></tr>
<tr><td>C</td><td>Eucalyptus over Acacia and sclerophyll shrubland</td></tr>
<tr><td>D</td><td>Acacia burkittii shrubland with emergent Eucalypts</td></tr>
<tr><td>E</td><td>Eucalyptus oleosa woodland</td></tr>
<tr><td>F</td><td>Eucalyptus salubris woodland</td></tr>
<tr><td>G</td><td>Mulga over laterite breakaway</td></tr>
<tr><td>H</td><td>Mixed Eucalyptus over mixed sclerophyll shrubland on undulating rises</td></tr>
<tr><td>I</td><td>Eucalyptus dundasii woodland</td></tr>
<tr><td>Existing Disturbance</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>The vegetation survey (NVS, 2025) as well as aerial imagery indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in “Completely Degraded to “Very Good” condition.

The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>The application area has an annual average rainfall (Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport) of 254 millimetres (BOM, 2026).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>According to NVS (2025) the dominant soil type is Calcareous earth, which cover most of the plains and greenstone areas. The land system found within the application area.

The Illaara system consists of low rises (relief typically <10 metres) have mantles of abundant ironstone gravels and/or calcrete pavement often associated with greenstones. Soils include very shallow soil over ferruginous duricrusts, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, shallow loamy grave land calcareous loamy ironstone gravel (DPIRD, 2025).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The application area falls within the Illaara system and Kanowna system. These land systems are described below (DPIRD, 2026):
<table>
<tr><th>System</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>Illaara system</td><td>Plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga-casuarina shrublands.
The gently undulating plains have mantles of abundant fine to course ironstone gravels. Soils range from loamy gravels, calcareous shallow loam to red loamy earths.
This land system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Kanowna system</td><td>Stony plains on metasedimentary and felsic volcaniclastic rock with saline drainage tracks supporting scattered eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands.
Erosional and depositional surfaces, occasional low plateaus and scarps, foot slopes and gently inclined sheetwash plains. Level drainage tracks that may become channelised in central parts where flows are concentrated. Loamy plains with gently inclined slopes merging into level plains subject to sheet flow, may have mantle of fine ironstone gravel.</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	This land system is susceptible to water erosion ; however this does not include the loamy plains landforms (DPIRD, 2025).
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no drainage lines that occur within the application area (GIS Database). There are no wetlands in the application area (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	The application area is not mapped within any Public Drinking Water Source Areas (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is 14, 000 - 35, 000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish – saline /hypersaline (GIS Database). The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area, which is proclaimed area under section 26B (1) of the *RIWI Act 1914.*
Flora	No Priority or Threatened flora species were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2025). One Threatened flora species has been recorded approximately five kilometres from the application area, while another has been documented around 40 kilometres away (GIS Database).
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities are found within the application area. The nearest records of Priority Ecological Communities are: Perrinvale/Walling vegetation complexes (banded ironstone formation) (Priority one) situated 30 kilometres to the northwest of the application area, and Emu Land System (Priority three) southeast of the application area.
Fauna	Malleefowl was sighted within the survey area by Terrestrial Ecosystems in the 2024 survey (Minstrel Resources, 2025b) approximately 600 metres from the application area. Another vulnerable species has been noted by Terrestrial Ecosystems in the same 2024 survey as 'possibly present' due to presence of suitable breeding habitat (Minstrel Resources, 2025b). Four other Priority species have been recorded within a 50 kilometre radius of the application area (GIS Database). Multiple records of migratory birds species exist within 50 kilometre radius of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS database).
Fauna habitat	Two broad fauna habitats were identified within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025): • Mixed Eucalyptus woodland over thick acacia and sclerophyll shrubland; and • Mixed Eucalyptus woodland over open acacia and sclerophyll shrubland.

A.2. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (m)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Leipoa ocellata (malleefowl)	VU	Y	Y	600	Y
Aphelocephala leucopsis (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	Y	NA	Y
Nyctophilus major tor (central long eared bat)	P3	Y	Y	NA	Y

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants. *Eucalyptus crucis* subsp. *crucis* (T) has been recorded approximately five kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). However, during the 2025 survey conducted by NVS, no individuals of this species were recorded within the application area, nor were any other priority or threatened flora species identified.	May be at variance	No
Principle (b): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment:	May be at variance	Yes *See section 3.2.1*

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging and breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna, specifically the *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) and *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl). The application area contains potential roosting habitat for *Nyctophilus major tor* (central long eared bat).		
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for flora species listed under the *BC Act*.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or near to the application area (GIS Database). A flora and vegetation survey completed by Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS) in November and December 2024 did not identify any TECs within the application area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (DCCEEW, 2026). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the environmental values of the adjacent the ex-Credo Pastoral Lease (proposed Conservation Reserve) (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no water courses 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 at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: Two land systems were identified within the application area Illaara system and Kanowna system (GIS Database). The Illaara system is generally not susceptible to soil erosion (DPIRD, 2025), whereas the Kanowna system is known to be susceptible to water erosion (DPIRD, 2025). Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation specifically within the Kanowna system. Potential impacts as a result of land degradation can be effectively managed by the implementation of a staged clearing condition on the permit.	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given no water courses, wetlands or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	Not at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- 2 metre contours (DPIRD-072)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)

- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Title (Fed Court) (LGATE-005)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

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Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Kalgoorlie-Boulder Airport. Bureau of Meteorology. https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/ (Accessed 10 March 2026).

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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (2023) Conservation Advice for *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface), March 2026.

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

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (2026) Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System. Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. https://espatial.dplh.wa.gov.au/ACHIS/index.html?viewer=ACHIS (Accessed 11 March 2026).

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Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2004b) Guidance for the Assessment of Environmental Factors - Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia, No. 51, June 2004.

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Glossary

Acronyms:

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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