



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Permit number:        | 11246/1                                      |
| Permit type:          | Purpose permit                               |
| Applicant name:       | E-Collate Pty Ltd                            |
| Application received: | 31 August 2025                               |
| Application area:     | 70 hectares                                  |
| Purpose of clearing:  | Mineral production and associated activities |
| Method of clearing:   | Mechanical removal                           |
| Tenure:               | Mining Lease 39/318                          |
| Location (LGA area):  | Shire of Leonora                             |
| Colloquial name:      | Redcastle Gold Project                       |

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

E-Collate Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 70 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 99.473 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 57 kilometres east of Leonora, within the Shire of Leonora.

The application is to allow for mineral production and associated activities.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Decision:      | Grant                            |
| Decision date: | 19 March 2026                    |
| Decision area: | 70 hectares of native vegetation |

### 1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix F), supporting information provided by the applicant (Appendix A) including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate mineral production and associated activities.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- impacts to riparian vegetation and waterflows;
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion; and
- potential impacts to suitable habitat for southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).

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

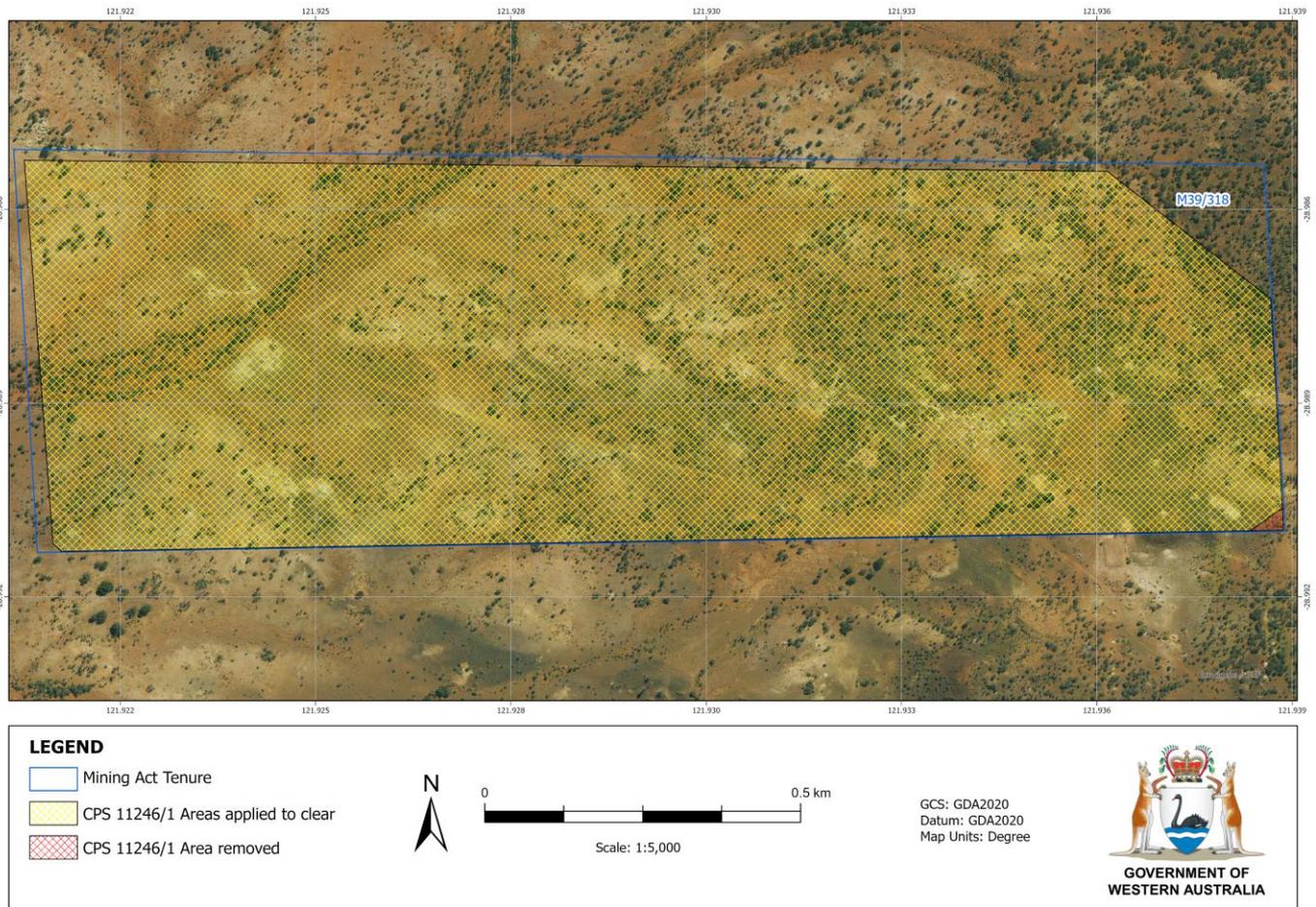
The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than three months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- restricted clearing within the creekline vegetation.

## 1.5. Site map

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



**Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit, the red area indicates the area that has been removed from the application area to apply a buffer to nearby priority flora species.**

## 2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act)*
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA) (CALM Act)*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*
- *Mining Act 1978 (WA)*

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, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2020)

### 3. Detailed assessment of application

#### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant has applied 30 metre buffers around priority flora identified in the southeast corner of the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions (2025). In addition to this, E-Collate Pty Ltd has committed to sterilization of drilling for the placement of Waste Landforms and infrastructure, as well as the rehabilitation of disturbed areas (E-Collate Pty Ltd, 2025).

#### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing 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 (flora) - Clearing principle (a)

###### Assessment

A reconnaissance flora and vegetation survey was conducted by Native Vegetation Solutions (2025) on Mining Lease 39/318 and Mining Lease 39/1171 on 14 May 2025. The survey identified 12 vegetation groups within the survey area (NVS, 2025). Two priority flora species were recorded at three separate locations within the survey area on Mulga over laterite breakaway (NVS, 2025). There were four additional species located within 20 kilometres of the application area (NVS, 2025; GIS Database).

It is noted that Priority flora species *Conospermum toddii*, *Hemigenia exilis*, *Pigea* sp. *Chloroxantha* (E. Bennett & D. Bright EUC 1810) and *Cratystylis centralis* are located within the local surrounds of the application area, however do not have any suitable habitat within the application area and were not recorded in recent flora and vegetation surveys (NVS, 2025).

###### ***Calytrix hislopii*, Priority 3**

*Calytrix hislopii* is an erect shrub with yellow/green flowers that grows in red/brown loam/clay on laterite breakaway or rocky ground (WA Herbarium, 1998-). Eight Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records are distributed across the Coolgardie, Great Victoria Desert, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1974 and 2012 (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

###### ***Verticordia jamiesonii*, Priority 3**

*Verticordia jamiesonii* is a shrub with white/pink flowers that grows in sandy clay soils on lateritic breakaways (WA Herbarium, 1998-). The 35 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records are distributed across the Gascoyne, Gibson Desert, Great Victoria Desert, Murchison and Yalgoo IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1968 and 2016, with the majority of records collected since 2005 (WA Herbarium, 1998-).

###### Conclusion

*Calytrix hislopii* and *Verticordia jamiesonii* were both recorded at three separate locations, located within close proximity of the application area. The proponent has applied a 30 metre buffer from the known locations and excluded suitable habitat from the application area (see Section 1.5). The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significantly environment impact on the above conservation significant flora species.

###### Conditions

No flora management conditions required.

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

###### Assessment

A basic vertebrate fauna survey and assessment was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) on Mining Lease 39/318 and Mining Lease 39/1171 on 14 May 2025. The survey identified five broad fauna habitats (see Appendix B.1). One Vulnerable fauna species was identified within the application area, and three other conservation significant species may occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) occur in open woodlands and shrublands with an understorey of grasses and shrubs (DCCEEW, 2023). They occupy living or dead tree hollows which are essential for breeding and roosting. Southern

whiteface has been recorded at two locations within the creekline vegetation in the northwest corner of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). It is noted that the species will move if disturbed to nearby suitable habitat which is plentiful.

Long-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis longicaudata*) occur in rocky landscapes that support a low open woodland or shrubland of Acacia particularly with an understorey of spinifex hummocks, perennial grasses and cassias (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). While long-tailed dunnart have not been recorded within the application area, there is suitable habitat within the *Eucalyptus oleosa* over laterite breakaway; Mulga over laterite breakaway; and Mulga over quartz outcrop vegetation groups.

Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) occur in areas near cliffs along coastlines, rivers, and ranges as well as within woodlands adjacent to watercourses (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). Peregrine falcon may be observed within the application area infrequently and will move away to other regions if necessary.

Greater stick-nest rat, 'wopikara' (*Leporillus conditor*) occur in perennial shrublands, especially of succulent and semi-succulent plant species. It is also known to inhabit crevices among rocks for shelter (DEWHA, 2008). There is one record within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Despite this, the fauna survey undertaken by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) did not identify any records of Greater stick-nest rat within the application area.

### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing is unlikely to represent a loss of critical habitat for conservation significant fauna. However, suitable habitat for the southern whiteface should be avoided where possible. Mechanical clearing can pose a risk of injury or mortality to terrestrial fauna if they were to occur within the application area.

### Conditions

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

- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- restricted clearing within the creekline vegetation to avoid minimise impact to suitable habitat for the Southern whiteface.

### **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 is one native title claim (WCD2023/002 - Nyalpa Pimiku) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

There are no registered Aboriginal Sites of Significance within the application area (DPLH, 2026). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on the Southern whiteface, which is 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. Additional information provided by applicant

| Summary of comments             | Consideration of comment        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Change to the clearing envelope | Addressed throughout assessment |

## Appendix B. Site characteristics

### B.1. Site characteristics

| Characteristic         | Details   |
|------------------------|---|
| Local context          | The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion.  |
| Ecological linkage     | According to available datasets, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).  |
| Conservation areas     | The application area is not located in any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record is the Goongarrie National Park, located approximately 100 kilometres south southwest of the application area (GIS Database).   |
| Vegetation description | <p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18: Low woodland; mulga (<i>Acacia aneura</i>); and</li> <li>• 39: Shrublands; mulga scrub (GIS Database).</li> </ul> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions during May 2025. The following vegetation groups were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulga shrubland over <i>Eremophila latrobei</i> on laterite stoney hills;</li> <li>• Mulga over laterite breakaway;</li> <li>• Mulga shrubland;</li> <li>• Low <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland with other sclerophyll shrubs;</li> <li>• <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> over open chenopod shrubland;</li> <li>• Open mulga shrubland;</li> <li>• <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> over laterite breakaway;</li> <li>• <i>Casuarina</i> woodland over <i>Eremophila scoparia</i>;</li> <li>• Mulga over chenopod shrubland; and</li> <li>• Mulga over quartz outcrop.</li> </ul> <p>Representative photos are available in Appendix E.</p> |
| Vegetation condition   | <p>Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in 'Completely Degraded' to 'Very Good' condition (Trudgen, 1991).</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.</p>  |
| Climate and landform   | The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, an average rainfall of approximately 236.4 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).   |
| Soil description       | The soil in the application area is, in the majority, mapped as red shallow loam and stony soil (DPIRD, 2026)   |
| Land degradation risk  | <p>The application area lies within the Bevon and Violet land systems (GIS Database).</p> <p>The Bevon land system is described as featuring low hills and rises with limonitic duricrust and stony lower slopes, supporting acacia shrublands. Minor areas with duplex soils on breakaway footslopes and narrow drainage tracts are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed (Waddell &amp; Galloway, 2023).</p> <p>The Violet land system is described as gently undulating gravelly plains on greenstone, laterite and hardpan, with low stony rises and minor saline plains; supporting groved mulga and bowgada shrublands and occasionally chenopod shrublands. Soil that has been disturbed becomes moderately susceptible to water erosion (Pringle et al., 1994).</p>   |
| Waterbodies            | The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that one minor, non-perennial watercourse transects the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).   |
| Hydrogeography         | The application area is not within any legislated surface water areas. There are two non-perennial lake systems located to the east and southwest of the application area; Lake Carey and Lake Raeside, respectively. The Leonora Water Reserve is the closest Public Drinking  |

| Characteristic         | Details  |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | <p>Water Source Area (PDWSA) located approximately 52 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area which has a mapped groundwater salinity of 14,000-25,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (GIS Database).</p>                          |
| Flora                  | There are no records of conservation significant flora within the application area (NVS, 2025; GIS Database). There are four conservation significant flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area, including two priority species within 50 metres of the application area (NVS, 2025).   |
| Ecological communities | The application area does not form part of any known or mapped Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is part of the Priority 1 Ecological Community 'Mount Morgan Calcrete' located approximately 34 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).  |
| Fauna                  | There are two records of conservation significant fauna within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS Database). There are four records of conservation significant fauna that have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).  |
| Fauna habitat          | <p>The fauna survey undertaken by Terrestrial Ecosystems during May 2025 identified five broad scale fauna habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low sclerophyll shrubland;</li> <li>• Mixed Mallee and Mulga over laterite stony soils;</li> <li>• Mulga and mixed shrubland;</li> <li>• Mulga creek line; and</li> <li>• Salon gum woodland.</li> </ul> |

**B.2. Vegetation extent**

|   | Pre-European area (ha) | Current extent (ha) | Extent remaining (%) | Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha) | Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%) |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| IBRA Bioregion - Murchison                | 28,120,586.77          | 28,044,823.42       | 99.73                | 2,185,987.96                                 | 7.77  |
| Beard vegetation associations - State     |                        |                     |                      |  |   |
| Veg Assoc No. 18                          | 19,892,306.46          | 19,843,148.07       | 99.75                | 1,317,179.00                                 | 6.62  |
| Veg Assoc No. 39                          | 6,613,567.48           | 6,602,578.44        | 99.83                | 795,070.69                                   | 12.02   |
| Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion |                        |                     |                      |  |   |
| Veg Assoc No. 18                          | 12,403,172.30          | 12,363,252.47       | 99.68                | 614,964.13                                   | 4.96  |
| Veg Assoc No. 39                          | 1,148,400.30           | 1,138,064.63        | 99.10                | 40,834.41                                    | 3.56  |

Government of Western Australia (2019)

**B.3. Flora analysis table**

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

| Species name                  | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Likelihood of occurrence                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| <i>Calytrix hislopii</i>      | P3                  | N                                | <5  | 8                               | Not present – discussed in Section 3.2.1 |
| <i>Verticordia jamiesonii</i> | P3                  | N                                | <5  | 35                              | Not present – discussed in Section 3.2.1 |
| <i>Conospermum toddii</i>     | P4                  | N                                | <10   | 56                              | Unlikely                                 |

| Species name  | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (total) | Likelihood of occurrence |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Hemigenia exilis</i>   | P4                  | N                                | <15   | 45                              | Unlikely                 |
| <i>Pigea</i> sp. Chloroxantha (E. Bennett & D. Bright EUC 1810) | P3                  | N                                | <15   | 26                              | Unlikely                 |
| <i>Cratystylis centralis</i>                                    | P3                  | N                                | <20   | 13                              | Unlikely                 |

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

**B.4. Fauna analysis table**

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025; GIS Database).

| Species name   | Conservation status | Suitable habitat features? [Y/N] | Distance of closest record to application area (km) | Number of known records (local area) | Likelihood of occurrence              |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface)            | VU                  | Y                                | 0   | 1                                    | Present – discussed in Section 3.2.1  |
| <i>Sminthopsis longicaudata</i> (long-tailed dunnart)          | P4                  | Y                                | <15   | 2                                    | Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1 |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)                     | OS                  | Y                                | <20   | 1                                    | Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1 |
| <i>Leporillus conditor</i> (greater stick-nest rat, wopilkara) | CD                  | Y                                | <20   | 1                                    | Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1 |
| <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl)                            | VU                  | N                                | <20   | 1                                    | Unlikely                              |

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

**Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles**

| Assessment against the clearing principles   | Variance level               | Is further consideration required?           |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Environmental value: biological values</b>  |                              |  |
| <p><u>Principle (a):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The vegetation associations, fauna habitats and landform types present within the application area, are well represent in surrounding areas (Terrestrial Ecosystem, 2025). The application area is unlikely to represent an area of higher biodiversity than surrounding areas, in either a local or regional context.</p> | Not likely to be at variance | Yes<br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (b):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area may contain suitable habitat for some conservation significant fauna species.</p>  | May be at variance           | Yes<br><i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i> |
| <p><u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no records of Threatened flora within the application area, or within the local surrounds (NVS, 2025; GIS Database)</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | No   |

| Assessment against the clearing principles  | Variance level               | Is further consideration required? |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Principle (d):</u> <i>“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.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities within the application area (GIS Database). Flora surveys of the application area did not record any Threatened flora species (NVS, 2025).</p>   | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |
| <b>Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas</b>   |                              |                                    |
| <p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped vegetation type is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p>                                       | Not at variance              | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>   | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |
| <b>Environmental value: land and water resources</b>  |                              |                                    |
| <p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).</p> <p>There is one minor, non-perennial watercourse featuring creekline vegetation within the application area (NVS, 2025). The watercourse flows briefly after significant rainfall. The potential impacts to vegetation can be managed with the implementation of a vegetation management condition.</p> | At variance                  | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The land systems within the application area are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial vegetation is cleared. Potential impacts to native vegetation as a result of land degraded can be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.</p>  | May be at variance           | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The closest Public Drinking Water Source Area (PDWSA) is located approximately 52 kilometres west of the application area (GIS Database). As a result, the proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.</p>   | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |
| <p><u>Principle (j):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent water courses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database). Seasonal drainage lines are common in the region and temporary localised flooding may occur briefly following heavy rainfall events. However, the proposed clearing is unlikely to increase the incidence or intensity of natural flooding events.</p>  | Not likely to be at variance | No                                 |

## Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

### Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

| Condition           | Description  |
|---------------------|--|
| Excellent           | Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.  |
| Very good           | Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.                                 |
| Good                | More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.  |
| Poor                | Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.  |
| Very poor           | Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species. |
| Completely degraded | Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or 'parkland cleared' with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.                                       |

## Appendix E. Photographs of the vegetation

The following photographs represent the main vegetation communities in the application area (Bamford, 2016):



Figure 1. Low woodland of *Acacia quadrimarginea* over scrub of *Acacia* sp. narrow phyllode and low scrub of *Dodonaea lobulata*/*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*/*Ptilotus obovatus* on rocky hillslope



Figure 2. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus torquata* over low shrub of *Dodonaea stenozyga* and dwarf scrub of *Acacia erinacea*/*Scaevola spinescens*/*Westringia rigida* on rocky hillslope



Figure 3. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*/ *E. clelandii* over low scrub of *Eremophila interstans*/ *Santalum acuminatum*/ *Atriplex nummularia* and dwarf scrub of *Atriplex vesicaria* on sandloam plain



Figure 4. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus ravidia* over low scrub of *Eremophila dempsteri* over dwarf shrub of *Acacia erinacea* on sand-loam plain



Figure 5. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*/ *E. griffithsii*/ *E. ravidia* over open scrub of *Eremophila scoparia* and *Atriplex nummularia* over dwarf scrub of *Atriplex vesicaria* on sand-loam plain/ low slope



Figure 6. Low woodland of *Eucalyptus clelandii* over open scrub of *Exocarpos aphyllus*/ *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *oldfieldii* and open dwarf scrub of *Acacia erinacea*/ *Scaevola spinescens* on sandloam plain/ low slope

## Appendix F. Sources of information

### F.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- 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)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- IBSA Survey Details (DWER-118)
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)

- Medium Scale Topo Coastal Flat (Polygon) (LGATE-122)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Mineral Field Boundaries (DMIRS-005)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- 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 - Systems (DPIRD-064)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

#### Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

## F.2. References

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## Glossary

### Acronyms:

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

### Definitions:

**DBCAs (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.