



## CLEARING PERMIT

*Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

<b>Purpose Permit number:</b>	CPS 11256/1
<b>Permit Holder:</b>	Genesis Minerals Limited
<b>Duration of Permit:</b>	From 11 April 2026 to 11 April 2036

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

### **PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED**

#### **1. Clearing authorised (purpose)**

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of relocating and construction of the Leonora rail terminal, associated infrastructure, access road and widening of Goldfields Highway.

#### **2. Land on which clearing is to be done**

Lots 500, 501 and 502 on Deposited Plan 431857 (Crown Reserve 54957), Leonora  
 Unnamed Road reserve (PIN 11197082), Leonora  
 Goldfields Highway Road reserve (PIN 1249774), Leonora

#### **3. Clearing authorised**

The permit holder must not clear more than 36.67 hectares of native vegetation within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

#### **4. Period during which clearing is authorised**

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 11 April 2031.

### **PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS**

#### **5. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing**

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

## 6. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

## 7. Directional clearing – Fauna management

The permit holder must:

- (a) conduct clearing activities authorised under this permit in a slow, progressive manner, in one direction, towards adjacent *native vegetation*; and
- (b) allow a reasonable time for fauna present within the area being cleared to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

## 8. Erosion Management

The permit holder must commence the construction of the Leonora rail terminal and associated infrastructure no later than three (3) months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities to reduce the potential for wind and water erosion.

## 9. Revegetation and rehabilitation (temporary works)

The permit holder must:

- (a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared;
- (b) within 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, and at an *optimal time*, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the relocating and construction of the Leonora rail terminal and associated infrastructure, within the area cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1 of Schedule 1 of this permit, by:
  - (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding five metres of uncleared land;
  - (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;
  - (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 9 (a) on the cleared area(s).
- (c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the temporarily cleared areas in accordance with condition 9(b) of this permit:
  - (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and
  - (ii) engage an environmental specialist to make a determination as to whether the composition, structure and density determined under condition 9(c)(i) of this permit will, without further revegetation, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
  - (iii) If the determination made by the environmental specialist under condition 9(c)(ii) is that the species composition, structure, and density determined

under condition 9(c)(i) will not, without further *revegetation*, result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, the permit holder must *revegetate* the area by deliberately *planting* and/or *direct seeding* native vegetation that will result in a similar species composition, structure, and density of native vegetation to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

- (d) Where additional *planting* or *direct seeding of native vegetation* is undertaken in accordance with condition 9(c)(iii), the permit holder must repeat the activities required by condition 9(c)(i) and 9(c)(ii) within 24 months of undertaking the additional *planting* or *direct seeding of native vegetation*.

### **PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING**

#### **10. Records that must be kept**

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1: Records that must be kept**

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area;</li> <li>(b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings;</li> <li>(c) the date that the area was cleared;</li> <li>(d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</li> <li>(e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5; and</li> <li>(f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 6;</li> <li>(g) fauna management activities undertaken in accordance with condition 7; and</li> <li>(h) erosion management activities undertaken in accordance with condition 8.</li> </ul>
2.	In relation to the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> of areas pursuant to condition 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the size of the areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i>;</li> <li>(b) the date(s) on which the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> was undertaken;</li> <li>(c) the boundaries of the areas <i>revegetated</i> and <i>rehabilitated</i> (recorded digitally as a shapefile);</li> <li>(d) a description of the <i>revegetation</i> and <i>rehabilitation</i> activities undertaken,</li> </ul>

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		including actions taken to implement weed control; (e) any <i>remediation actions</i> undertaken; and (f) a copy of the determinations made by the <i>environmental specialist</i> .

## 11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 10 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

## DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

**Table 2: Definitions**

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
direct seeding	means a method of re-establishing vegetation through the establishment of a seed bed and the introduction of seeds of the desired plant species.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
environmental specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of two (2) years' work experience relevant to the type of environmental advice that an environmental specialist is required to provide under this permit, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable environmental specialist.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
optimal time	means the period from April to July for undertaking planting and seeding.
planting	means the re-establishment of vegetation by creating favourable soil conditions and planting seedlings of the desired species
rehabilitate/ed/ion	means actively managing an area containing <i>native vegetation</i> in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
remediation action	means for the purpose of this permit, any activity that is required to ensure successful re-establishment of understorey to its pre-clearing composition, structure and density, and may include a combination of soil treatments and revegetation.

Term	Definition
revegetate/ed/ion	means the re-establishment of a cover of <i>local provenance native vegetation</i> in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, <i>direct seeding</i> and/or planting, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to <i>pre-clearing</i> vegetation types in that area
weeds	means any plant – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</li> <li>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</li> <li>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</li> </ul>

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**END OF CONDITIONS**




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Jessica Burton  
 MANAGER  
 NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20  
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

19 March 2026





## Clearing Permit Decision Report

### 1 Application details and outcome

#### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	CPS 11256/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Genesis Minerals Limited
<b>Application received:</b>	9 September 2025
<b>Application area:</b>	36.67 hectares (revised) of native vegetation within a 65.96 hectare footprint
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Relocation of the Leonora rail terminal, associated infrastructure, access road and widening of Goldfields Highway
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical clearing
<b>Property:</b>	Lot 500 on Deposited Pan 431857 (Crown Reserve 54957) Lot 501 on Deposited Pan 431857 (Crown Reserve 54957) Lot 502 on Deposited Pan 431857 (Crown Reserve 54957) Unnamed Road Reserve (PIN 11187082), and Goldfields Highway Road Reserve (PIN 1249774)
<b>Location (LGA area/s):</b>	Shire of Leonora
<b>Localities (suburb/s):</b>	Leonora

#### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed across two areas, separated by an existing road (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The application is to facilitate the relocation of the Leonora rail terminal, associated infrastructure, access road, and the widening of a section of Goldfields Highway, specifically (Genesis, 2025a and 2025b):

- construction, operation and maintenance of an Intermodal Rail Facility and construction, operation and maintenance of end of line facilities straddling the existing railway within Reserve 54957;
- construction, operation and maintenance for the access road to the proposed Leonora Rail Terminal; and
- widening the Goldfields Highway to ensure safe ingress and egress of road trains to the rail terminal (see Figure 5 of Appendix F)

The initial application proposed to clear 35.17 hectares of native vegetation within a 60.8 hectare footprint to facilitate the construction of the Intermodal Rail Facility and related end of line facilities (Genesis, 2025a). The application was amended to 36.67 hectares of native vegetation within a 65.96 hectare footprint to include additional clearing for the purposes of access road construction and widening of the Goldfields Highway (Genesis, 2025b).

#### 1.3. Decision on application

<b>Decision:</b>	Granted
<b>Decision date:</b>	19 March 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	36.67 hectares of native vegetation, as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

#### 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 Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 28 days and one submission was received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submission is summarised in Appendix B.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix C), relevant datasets (see Appendix H.1), the findings of a detailed flora and vegetation survey (Native Vegetation Solutions (NVS, 2022) and a basic fauna survey (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025) (see Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix D), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

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

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely have long-term adverse impacts on fauna habitats and land degradation, as these impacts can be minimised and managed through permit conditions so that clearing activities are unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures (see Section 4).

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 clearing to reduce the potential for wind and water erosion; and
- revegetate and rehabilitate the areas that are temporarily cleared.

1.5. Site map

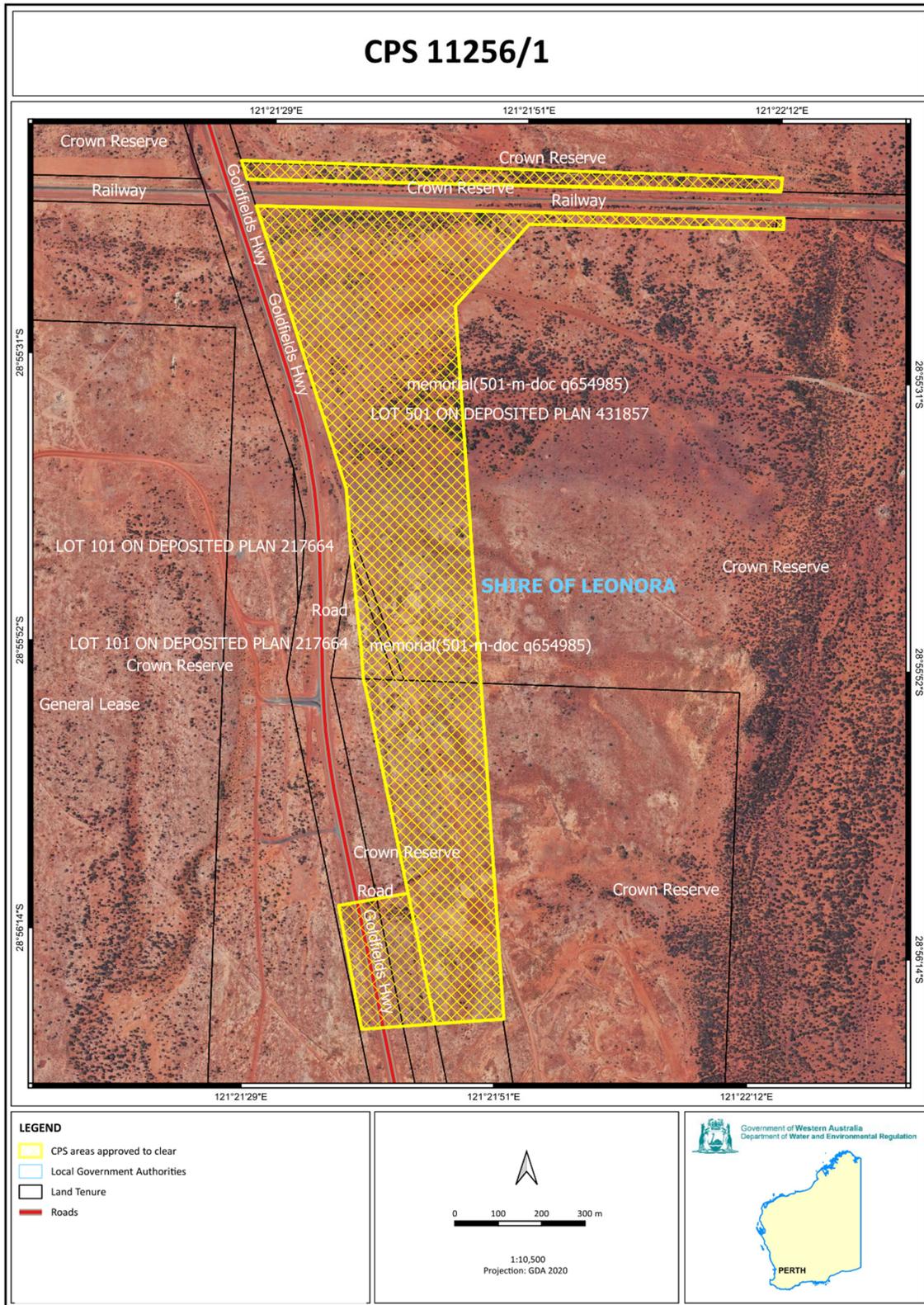


Figure 1 Map of the application area

The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

## 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 (see 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)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

## 3 Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The applicant advised that the following avoidance and mitigation measures were undertaken:

- The design and location of the rail terminal minimizes clearing required by being situated in a less vegetated area (when compared to surrounding vegetation),
- The design and location of the rail terminal does not overlap or interfere with any drainage lines or water courses,
- A weed management plan and topsoil management plan will be implemented on site,
- Construction within the cleared areas will commence within one month of the area being cleared to reduce soil erosion.
- Water carts will be used to control dust during clearing and constructions.
- Speed limits on site roads will be imposed to reduce occurrence of dust.
- Non-permanent infrastructure areas will be remediated as soon as practicable.
- Topsoil will be harvested and stockpiled within the clearing permit boundary.
- Areas that are cleared to facilitate development but are not required to house permanent infrastructure will be re-habilitated as soon as practicable.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix C) 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 (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna) and land (wind and water erosion). The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

#### 3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing Principles (a) and (c)

##### Assessment

According to available databases four priority flora species have been recorded within a 20 km radius of the application area. No threatened flora species have been recorded. The closest recorded species is *Acacia sp.* March

(priority 3) located 5 km from the application area within the same soil and vegetation type as mapped within the area proposed to be cleared.

*Acacia sp.* March is associated with rocky uplands and outcrops. This habitat is not present within the application area. A detailed flora and vegetation survey of the application area and surrounding areas did not identify any conservation significant flora species (NVS, 2022).

The vegetation within the application area is considered to be widespread throughout the Eastern Murchison subregion (NVS, 2022).

#### Conclusion

Given the survey findings, it is not considered for the proposed clearing to impact significant habitat for threatened or priority flora species or impact an area that contains high biodiversity.

#### Conditions

Nil

### **3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing Principles (b)**

#### Assessment

According to available databases, nine conservation significant fauna species were identified within the local area, including one priority fauna species, two threatened fauna species, five migratory species and one species otherwise protected.

In forming a view on the likelihood of these species occurring within the application area, the preferred habitat types and typical home ranges of these species and their recorded proximity to the application area were considered, along with the type and condition of the vegetation within the application area. Habitat for the following species are considered to occur within the application area:

- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon)
- *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl)
- *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface)

#### ***Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon) – Species otherwise in need of special protection**

The Peregrine Falcon is a migratory species, known to utilize a variety of different habitats. It requires abundant prey and secure nest sites preferring coastal and inland cliffs or open woodlands near water but may be found nesting on high city buildings (Australian Museum, 2020). The application area is within the species' known range and the closest record occurs 4.2km from the application area. However, noting its habitat preferences, the extensive remnant native vegetation remaining within the local area that is likely to provide similar habitat and the proximity to high disturbance areas, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for this species.

A fauna survey of the application area indicated that the Peregrine Falcon may be found infrequently across the entire survey area and found no direct or indirect evidence that the species is present in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

#### ***Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl) - Vulnerable**

The Malleefowl is listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and the BC Act and is also known to utilize a variety of different habitats. The vegetation type within the application area contains Mulga shrubs (*Acacia aneura*) which the malleefowl is known to prefer (DCCEEW, 2024). However, malleefowl also prefer the cover of taller shrubs, a great amount of leaf litter, and lighter soil texture with gravel. These conditions are not present in the application area. Noting this and this species' habitat preferences, the extensive remnant native vegetation remaining within the local area and the proximity to high disturbance areas, the application area is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for this species.

The fauna survey recorded malleefowl tracks 2km from the proposed clearing area however did not record any active or recently active nest-mounds (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). These findings are shown in figure 2 of the appendix F. This indicates that the birds are not likely to be breeding within the survey area however may be using it as transient habitat as they move into adjacent areas with preferable habitat.

### ***Aphelocephala leucopsis* (southern whiteface) - Vulnerable**

The southern whiteface is a small bush bird found in the arid and semi-arid interior from the WA coast near Hamelin Bay through the Great Victoria Desert into the arid areas of other states (Johnstone and Storr 2004, Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water). It is found in open woodlands and shrublands with an understorey of grasses and low shrubs. It forages on the ground, feeding on insects, spiders and seeds that area mostly found in leaf litter (Johnstone and Storr 2004, Department of Climate Change Energy the Environment and Water).

The Southern Whiteface has been recorded in multiple fauna surveys in the region and so it is possible that it may be present within the wider survey area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025) and therefore within the application area. However, noting the relatively widespread distribution and ability to move if disturbed, the southern whiteface is unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

The likelihood analysis found that although the habitat within the application is suitable for the peregrine falcon, malleefowl and southern whiteface, it is unlikely to be significant due to the:

- Mobile nature of the three conservation significant species identified,
- Lack of preferred habitat for the species,
- Location of the clearing area is adjacent to an existing railway and Goldfields Highway and therefore is situated in an area that experiences high disturbances; and
- Large extent of remaining vegetation that is likely to provide suitable habitat in the local area

### Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the loss of suitable habitat for the peregrine falcon, malleefowl and southern whiteface, although impacts to these species are unlikely to be significant.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna individuals and their suitable habitat can be managed by clearing permit conditions, as identified below.

The proposed clearing may introduce and/or spread weeds into adjacent vegetation and impact on habitat values.

### Conditions

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

- Directional clearing – which requires slow progressive, one directional clearing to allow malleefowl to disperse ahead of the clearing activity should they occur on site at the time of clearing.
- Weed management.

### **3.2.3. Land resources (wind and water erosion) - Clearing Principles (g)**

#### Assessment

The application area is situated within the Gundockerta soil-landscape system described as extensive, gently undulating calcareous stony plains with areas of saline plains and adjacent alluvial tracts which are susceptible to wind and water erosion when vegetation cover is reduced and/or soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2019). This indicates that the soil landscape system in which the application area is located is susceptible to land degradation through wind and water erosion.

Given that the application area is relatively large and condition of the vegetation within the application area ranges from completely degraded to good condition, with the majority in good condition (Trudgen, 1991), clearing of this vegetation is likely to result in an increased risk of land degradation through wind and water erosion if soils are kept bare for long periods.

To mitigate this risk, the applicant will be required to reduce the amount of disturbed and exposed soil and reduce the duration of which it is available for degradation to occur. The applicant will be required to clear in stages and undertake works immediately after the completion of clearing activities (within one month).

The applicant has advised that they will utilize the following measures to reduce ongoing degradation during the construction and clearing phase:

- Water carts for dust control
- Speed limits on site roads
- Remediation of non-permanent infrastructure as soon as practicable

- Harvesting and stockpiling of topsoil within clearing permit boundary.
- Returning the harvested and stockpiled topsoil to temporarily cleared areas.
- Rehabilitate and revegetate temporarily cleared areas.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in an increased risk of wind and water erosion.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on land degradation can be managed by implementing appropriate measures to minimise and mitigate risks.

Conditions

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

- commence construction no later than 1 month after clearing to reduce the potential for wind and water erosion
- revegetate and rehabilitate the areas that are temporarily cleared.

**3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters**

The Shire of Leonora was invited to comment on the application and no comments have been received to date. Evidence has been provided by the applicant to indicate that they are working closely with the Shire. It is unlikely that the proposed purpose of clearing requires approval under the local Town Planning Scheme given that it occurs within a railway reserve managed by Arc Infrastructure.

The application area falls within the Goldfields groundwater area, as proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act). The applicant may require a 5c licence to take water for dust suppression and construction purposes, if required.

Native Title claimants were also invited to comment on the proposed works however no comments were received to date.

No Aboriginal sites of significance are mapped within the application area. It is the permit holder’s responsibility to comply with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

**End**

**Appendix A. Additional information provided by applicant**

The following additional information was provided by the applicant during the assessment

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
The applicant provided additional information to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide evidence of efforts taken to avoid and/or minimise environmental impacts resulting from the proposed clearing</li> <li>• Provide evidence of mitigation of land degradation risks</li> <li>• Demonstrate that the required approvals have been issued</li> <li>• Address the concerns of the public submission</li> </ul>	This information has been considered in sections 3.1 and 3.2.4 of the decision report  This information has been considered in section 3.1 of the decision report and Appendix B
The applicant provided information regarding a change to the land tenure within the clearing area, Rail Reserve 54957 has been excised.	This information is available in Figure 2 of appendix F

## Appendix B. Details of public submissions

The application was advertised for a period of 28 days, and one public submission was received. The comments are summarised in the table below.

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
<p>The submission raised concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the lack of proposed revegetation, outside of that required under the Mining Act, to compensate for the size of the area to be cleared.</li> <li>the extensive areas in the region which have been degraded by historic mining and pastoral activities that could be revegetated.</li> <li>The submission believes that the applicant should be required to revegetate an area five times the size of the area to be cleared, outside of that revegetation required under the Mining Act.</li> <li>the proposed clearing will worsen the quality of the existing degraded vegetation in the area</li> <li>the vegetation assessment has not adequately surveyed the areas around Lake Raeside and therefore has not recognised the uncommon vegetation communities in that area.</li> <li>After relocating the rail terminal, a direct consequence will likely be the need to clear more vegetation to build a heavy haulage bypass in the future to transport bulk mineral products produced north of Leonora to the newly located rail terminal.</li> </ul>	<p>The department considered the lack of proposed revegetation by the applicant, and the knowledge that as the purpose of the clearing is not related directly to mining, there may be no revegetation required under the Mining Act for this proposed clearing. The applicant has stated that rehabilitation of land that is temporarily cleared will take place as soon as practicable. Revegetation and rehabilitation of temporarily cleared areas will be conditioned on the permit.</p> <p>In response to the public submission the applicant advised that they are working closely with the Shire of Leonora, Main Roads Western Australia, Public Transport Authority, Aurizon and Arc Infrastructure in relation to the new rail terminal and adjustments in truck haulage routes. Truck haulage will utilise the existing public roads that skirt the outside of Leonora with a new access point off the Goldfields Highway to enter the relocated terminal. The Shire is supportive of the location and access requirements as it removes truck haulage directly through town, minimising dust and noise.</p>

## Appendix C. Site characteristics

### C.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to DWER at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix D

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia, located at the intersection of two roads, adjoining existing roads on two sides and bordered by remnant vegetation on the remaining sides. The proposed clearing area is part of a large area of vegetation.</p> <p>Aerial imagery indicates the local area (20-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	The application area is not mapped within any significant ecological linkages.
Conservation areas	No conservation areas are mapped within 20 kilometres of the application area.
Vegetation description	<p>Vegetation survey (NVS, 2023) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of 4 vegetation groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mulga Woodland</li> <li>Mulga over Chenopod Shrubland</li> <li>Open Low Chenopod Shrubland</li> <li><i>Eremophila youngii</i> subsp. <i>youngii</i> over <i>Chenopod</i> and <i>Tecticornia</i> shrubland</li> </ul>

Characteristic	Details
	<p>With the majority of the application area mapped as Mulga woodlands and Open Chenopod shrubland (NVS, 2023).</p> <p>Representative photos and relevant excerpts from the surveys are available in F. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation types (Shepherd et al, 2001):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beard vegetation association (BVA) 676 (Laverton_676), which is described as succulent steppe; samphire.</li> <li>• BVA 28 (Laverton_28), which is described as open low woodland; mulga.</li> </ul> <p>The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 95.2 and 99.1 per cent, respectively, of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>
Vegetation condition	<p>Vegetation survey (NVS, 2023) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Completely Degraded to Good (Trudgen, 1991) condition, with the majority (81%) in Good condition.</p> <p>Although the survey is noted to have used the Trudgen (1991) scale, the rating 'degraded' was used within the survey. For the purposes of this report, and to conform with the Trudgen (1991) scale ratings, 'degraded' is considered to be equivalent to 'poor'.</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix E. Representative photos and relevant excerpts are available in Appendix F.</p>
Climate	<p>Climate: Mean maximum temperature is 27.9 degrees Celsius.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mean minimum temperature is 14.0 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>Rainfall: Mean annual rainfall is 236.7 millimetres. (BOM, 2025)</p>
Soil and landform description	<p>The soil is mapped within the Gundockerta soil landscape system (279Gu), which is described as extensive, gently undulating calcareous stony plains supporting bluebush shrubland. The landform is described as extensive gently undulating plains generally with abundant stony mantles, and less extensive lower alluvial plains with narrow central zones receiving more concentrated run-on, relief usually less than 15 m (DPIRD, 2019)</p>
Land degradation risk	<p>Gundockerta landform system may be susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced and/or soil surface is disturbed (DPIRD, 2019).</p>
Waterbodies	<p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that no watercourses intersect the area to be cleared. The closest watercourse is Lake Raeside, located approximately two kilometres from the application area.</p>
Hydrogeography	<p>The application area falls within the Goldfields groundwater area, as proclaimed under the RIWI Act. The mapped groundwater salinity within the application area is &gt;35000 milligrams total dissolved solids per litre.</p> <p>The application area is located within the Raeside-Ponton Salt Lake basin sub-catchment and within the Western plateau division.</p>
Flora	<p>According to available databases, four priority flora species have been recorded within in the local area. One species, <i>Acacia</i> sp. Marshall Pool (G. Cockerton 3024), is mapped in the same soil type and vegetation type occurring within the proposed clearing area. This is also the closest record, which was approximately five kilometres from the application area. The flora and vegetation survey did not identify any conservation significant flora species within the proposed clearing area (NVS, 2023).</p>
Ecological communities	<p>The proposed clearing is not mapped within a threatened or priority ecological community. According to available databases, there is only one significant ecological community mapped within the local area, the Melita Calcrete priority ecological community (PEC) occurring approximately 4.4 kilometres to the west of the application area. Melita Calcrete PEC is characterised by Melita calcrete groundwater assemblage type on Raeside paleodrainage on Melita (Sons of Gwalia) Station.</p>

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	<p>According to available databases, nine conservation significant fauna species were identified within the local area, including two threatened, one priority, five migratory and one other specially protected species listed under the BC Act. The closest record was Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>), approximately 4.2 from the application area.</p> <p>In addition to the fauna species listed in the databases, the Southern Whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>), which is recently listed as Vulnerable in the EPBC Act and BC Act, has been recorded in multiple fauna surveys in the region (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).</p>

**C.2. Fauna analysis table**

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records in the local area (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
						N
Peregrine falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	OS	Y	Y	4.5	2	Y
Malleefowl ( <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> )	VU	Y	Y	10	1	Y
Southern Whiteface ( <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> )	VU	Y	Y	Has been recorded in multiple fauna surveys in the region		Y

VU: vulnerable, OS: other specially protected species

**Appendix D. 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 area proposed to be cleared does not contain significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <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 area proposed to be cleared contains suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna. However, this is unlikely a significant habitat, given the extensive occurrence of similar habitat in the surrounding area. Fauna survey did not identified evidence of conservation significant fauna species within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <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>No threatened flora species have been recorded within the local area (20 km radius) and no threatened flora species were recorded within the application area during the detailed flora survey (NVS, 2023).</p>	Not at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>

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>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that can indicate a threatened ecological community. No threatened ecological communities are mapped within the local area.</p>	Not 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 native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</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 does not have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not 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>Given that no watercourses are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	Not likely to be 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 mapped soil is susceptible to wind and water erosion, especially when the soil is disturbed. Noting the relatively large area proposed to be cleared, the proposed clearing is likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.</p>	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<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>Given no water courses/wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or underground water quality.</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>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>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.</p> <p>Given no watercourses are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.</p>		

### Appendix E. 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 F. Biological survey information excerpts / photographs of the vegetation (NVS, 2023, Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025)**



Mulga Woodland



*Eremophila youngii* subsp. *youngii* over Chenopod and *Tecticornia* shrubland



Mulga over Chenopod Shrubland



Open Low Chenopod Shrubland

Figure 2. Representative photos of vegetation within the area proposed to be cleared (NVS, 2023)

## 4.2 MALLEEFOWL

Some very old disused Malleefowl mounds were recorded in other regional surveys. Malleefowl tracks were recorded in three locations (Table 4), two in the southern section and one in the western section of the project area (Plates 15 and 16). No Malleefowl mounds were recorded.

**Table 4. Location of Malleefowl tracks (GDA 94, UTM Zone 51)**

Easting	Northing
338186	6797369
336582	6797779
334013	6799946



**Plate 15. Malleefowl tracks**

**Plate 16. Malleefowl tracks**

Figure 3. Mallee fowl tracks identified 2km from the clearing area (Terrestrial Ecosystems 2025)

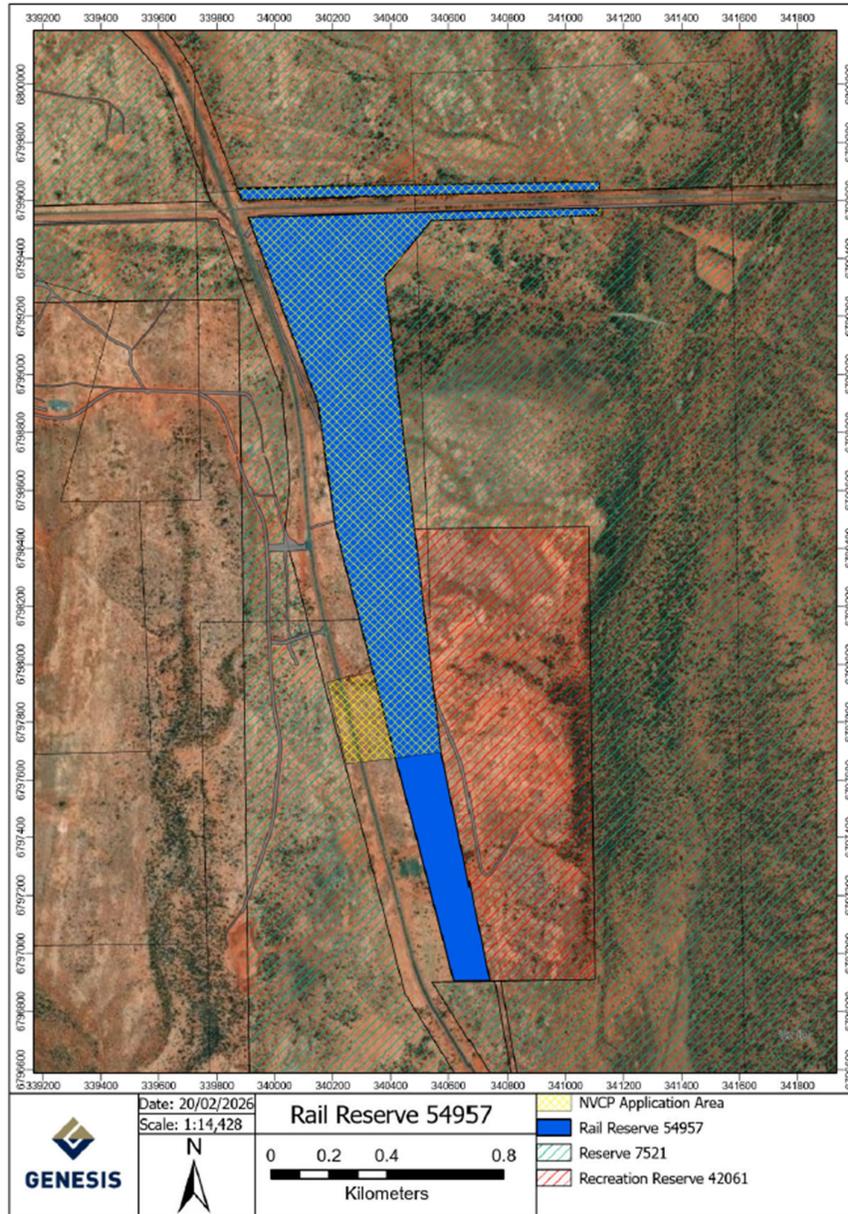


Figure 4. Information provided by the applicant indicating the excise of Rail Reserve 5495 (Genesis Minerals Limited, 2026d).



Figure 5. Locations of proposed project infrastructure (Genesis Minerals Limited, 2026a).

## Appendix H. Sources of information

### H.1. GIS databases

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

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)

- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

## H.2. References

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Genesis Minerals Limited (Genesis) (2025a) *Clearing permit application CPS 11256/1 and supporting documents*, received 9 September 2025 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1193871).

Genesis Minerals Limited (2020b) *Additional Information for clearing permit application CPS 11256/1 - Amending the clearing area*, received 6 November 2026 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1228894).

Genesis Minerals Limited (2020c) *Additional Information for clearing permit application CPS 11256/1 – response to request for information*, received 8 December 2026 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1243851).

Genesis Minerals Limited (2020d) *Additional Information for clearing permit application CPS 11256/1 – Excise of Rail Reserve*, received 8 December 2026 (DWER Ref: DWERDT1243851).

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