



# Clearing Permit Decision Report

## 1. Application details and outcomes

### 1.1. Permit application details

<b>Permit number:</b>	11287/1
<b>Permit type:</b>	Purpose permit
<b>Applicant name:</b>	Robe River Mining Company Pty Ltd
<b>Application received:</b>	9 October 2025
<b>Application area:</b>	150 hectares
<b>Purpose of clearing:</b>	Mineral exploration, hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations, test pitting, fauna/flora monitoring access, groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring access, infrastructure access, Aboriginal Heritage survey/access, infrastructure corridor maintenance and associated activities
<b>Method of clearing:</b>	Mechanical removal
<b>Tenure:</b>	<i>Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964</i> , Mineral Lease 248SA (AML 70/248)
<b>Location (LGA area):</b>	Shire of East Pilbara
<b>Colloquial name:</b>	Greater West Angelas

### 1.2. Description of clearing activities

Permit holder name proposes to clear up to 150 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 3,397 hectares, for the purpose of establishing site infrastructure associated with the development of the Greater West Angelas project (Robe River, 2025). The project is located approximately 93 kilometres west of Newman, within the Shire of East Pilbara (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for mineral exploration, hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations, test pitting, fauna/flora monitoring access, groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring access, infrastructure access, Aboriginal Heritage survey/access, infrastructure corridor maintenance and associated activities (Robe River, 2025).

In 2015, Rio Tinto Iron Ore submitted a regional purpose permit application requesting the amalgamation of several previous Native Vegetation Clearing Permits (NVCP) into one larger permit, covering current and future clearing areas of the West Angelas mining area, CPS 6545/1. All clearing for that permit has been completed and this permit will replace CPS 6545/1.

### 1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

<b>Decision:</b>	Grant
<b>Decision date:</b>	11 June 2026
<b>Decision area:</b>	150 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 A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant (SLR, 2025a) including the results of multiple fauna, flora and vegetation surveys conducted over the application area and surrounds (Astron, 2018; Biologic, 2021; Biologic, 2022; Biologic, 2024; Biologic, 2025), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), 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 exploration, hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations, test pitting, fauna/flora monitoring access, groundwater/hydrogeological monitoring access, infrastructure access, Aboriginal Heritage survey/access, infrastructure corridor maintenance 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 conservation significant flora;

- impacts to riparian vegetation;
- potential impacts to conservation significant fauna; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

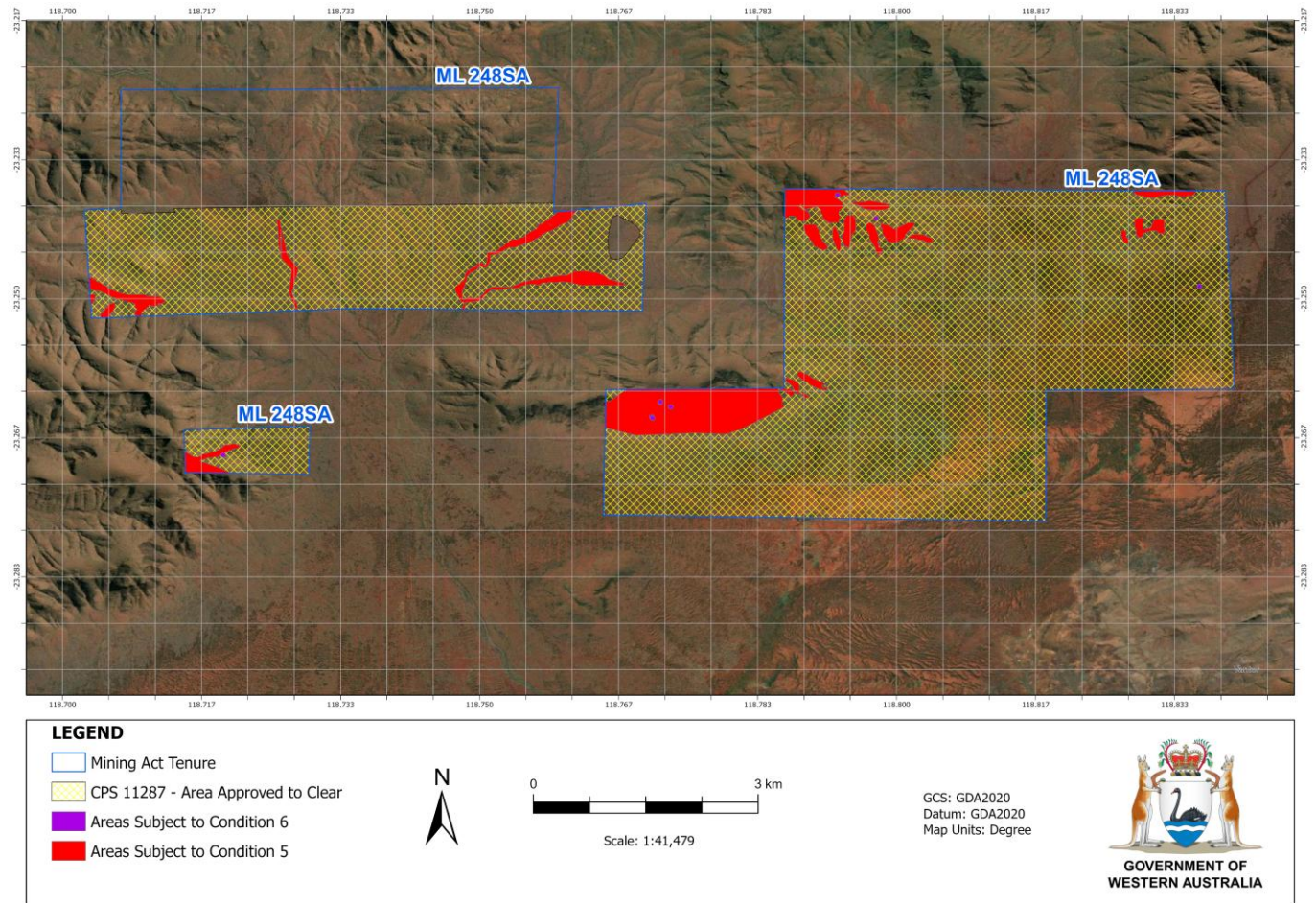
After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant’s minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to be unlikely to lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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 with a fauna spotter present 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;
- restrict the clearing within gorge/gully and major drainage fauna habitats;
- 30 metre exclusion area around individuals of *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range;
- 30 metre exclusion area around individuals of *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats;
- staged clearing to minimise wind erosion; and
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on the areas that are no longer required for the purpose for which they were cleared under this Permit within 12 months of clearing.

**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.**

## 2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Land Administration Act 1997* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)
- *Iron Ore (Robe River) Agreement Act 1964*

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)
- Guideline for Cumulative Impact Assessment (EPA, 2026)

## 3. Detailed assessment of application

### 3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

As part of their submission for CPS 11287/1, Robe River Mining Company submitted evidence demonstrating that the following avoidance and mitigation measures would be implemented on site (Robe River, 2025):

- “The proposed work is managed under the Rio Tinto Approval Request Coordination Systems (ARCS). Significant biological and environmental features are spatially identified in ARCS with appropriate buffers. Any works that may impact on those identified significant values are avoided or referred to a subject matter expert, who may authorise works with appropriate conditions if the relevant regulatory environmental approvals are otherwise met. The proposed clearing will be planned and undertaken to require minimal clearing and avoid areas of environmental significance. Existing tracks will be used where possible.”

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

### 3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (biodiversity, flora). 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 - Clearing principle (a)

##### Assessment

A desktop assessment of flora and vegetation surveys previously conducted over the application area and its surrounds was prepared in September 2025 by SLR Consulting Australia for Rio Tinto Iron Ore as part of their native vegetation clearing permit application CPS 11287/1 (SLR, 2025a). This review included publicly available GIS Databases in addition to information provided from Rio Tinto Iron Ores internal databases.

Based on this desktop review, the application area is known to contain the following 13 Priority flora species (SLR, 2025a):

- *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708), P2;
- *Acacia subtiliformis*, P3;
- *Aristida jerichoensis* var. *subspinulifera*, P3;
- *Aristida lazaridis*, P3;

- *Eremophila naaykensis*, P3;
- *Eremophila* sp. West Angelas (S. van Leeuwen 4068), P3;
- *Indigofera gilesii*, P3;
- *Oxalis* sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725), P3;
- *Pilbara trudgenii*, P3;
- *Rostellularia adscendens* var. *latifolia*, P3;
- *Solanum kentrocaule*, P3;
- *Triodia* sp. Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739), P3; and
- *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684), P3.

Using recent records for these species extracted from multiple surveys conducted over the application area and its surrounds, the number of records within the application area can be compared to the number of records in the surrounding area, in the following table (Biologic, 2021; Biologic, 2022; Biologic, 2024; SLR, 2025a):

Species name	Number of records within the application area	Number of records within 25 kilometres of the application area
<b>Priority 2</b>		
<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708)	8	221
<b>Priority 3</b>		
<i>Acacia subtiliformis</i>	4	1
<i>Aristida jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i>	3	174
<i>Aristida lazaridis</i>	4	74
<i>Eremophila naaykensis</i>	8	1224
<i>Eremophila</i> sp. West Angelas (S. van Leeuwen 4068)	2	151
<i>Indigofera gilesii</i>	1	191
<i>Oxalis</i> sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725)	22	91
<i>Pilbara trudgenii</i>	24	202
<i>Rostellularia adscendens</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	6	16
<i>Solanum kentrocaule</i>	22	632
<i>Triodia</i> sp. Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739)	98	928
<i>Vittadinia</i> sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684)	1	0

**Table 1.** Number of records of conservation significant flora within the application area and local area.

With the exception of *Acacia subtiliformis* and *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684), all of the priority species within the application area are well represented in the surrounding area, with most records for these species identified by the Biologic surveys occurring over an area extending up to 20 kilometres south of the application area (Biologic, 2024). Of the 206 occurrences of priority flora recorded within the application area, 96 occur within the RTIO exclusion zone (being records of *Aristida lazaridis*, *Eremophila naaykensis*, *Eremophila* sp. West Angelas, *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range, *Pilbara trudgenii*, *Solanum kentrocaule*, *Triodia* sp. Mt Ella) committed to by the applicant that will be conditioned as a restricted clearing condition. Additionally, the applicant has committed to implementing a 30 metre buffer around all known records of *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708) within the application area.

There are unlikely to be significant impacts to 11 of the 13 priority flora species present within the application area as a result of the proposed clearing. The impacts to the remaining two priority flora species are discussed below.

***Acacia subtiliformis* (P3)** is a spindly, slender, erect shrub growing up to 3.5 metres in height with yellow flowers that bloom in June (WAH, 1998-). This species has been recorded in the Pilbara IBRA bioregion and the Fortescue and Hamersley subregions, growing in drainage areas, floodplains, and calcrete hills with light brown rocky loam soils, brown silty clay soils, and brown loamy sand with calcrete gravel (WAH, 1998-). There are 26 records of this species in the Western Australian Herbarium, with 1 to 4,000 plants identified per record (WAH, 1998-).

There are four records of this species within the application area, all of which occur outside of the proposed exclusion/buffer zones. An additional record of this species was identified by the 2022 Biologic survey within one kilometre of the application area (Biologic, 2022). The number of individuals identified per record within the application area ranges from nine to 40 (Biologic, 2024). While these records are outside of existing exclusion/buffer zones, this species has been recorded across a wide range within the Pilbara, with up to 4,000 individuals identified per record (WAH, 1998-). As such, there are unlikely to be significant impacts to this species as a result of the proposed clearing.

***Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4648) (P3)** is an erect annual herb growing up to 1 metre in height with white-yellow flowers that bloom in May, June, July, and September (WAH, 1998). This species has been recorded in the Pilbara IBRA bioregion and the Hamersley subregion, growing in association with floodplains and drainage lines in red-brown loamy

clay, dark red-brown sandy clay, silty clay loam, and sandy clay loam (WAH, 1998). There are 27 records of this species in the Western Australian Herbarium, with 3 to 8 plants identified per record (WAH, 1998).

Only been one record of this species identified by recent surveys conducted over the application area and its surrounds, and as such the impacts to this species as a result of the proposed clearing may be significant at a local level (Biologic, 2021; Biologic, 2022; Biologic, 2024; SLR, 2025a). Potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of the same 30 metre buffer condition applied to the Priority 2 flora species *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708).

Several species of priority flora from the flora analysis table (Appendix A.3) have been identified to potentially occur within the application area. While the application area contains suitable habitat for these species, they have not been recorded within the application area by previous surveys (Biologic, 2021; Biologic, 2024; SLR, 2025). Furthermore, the proposed clearing is not expected to significantly impact on these species as their habitats and associated vegetation are either covered by the RTIO exclusion zone or abundantly present in the area surrounding the application area.

#### Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora and vegetation can be managed by avoiding and minimising disturbances, taking steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds, restricting the clearing within gorge/gully and major drainage habitats and establishing 30 metre buffers around all known records of *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708) and *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4648).

#### Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- vegetation management condition to avoid the clearing of riparian vegetation and minimise the impacts of clearing on existing surface flows;
- restricting the clearing within gorge/gully and major drainage habitats for access tracks only; and
- no clearing within 30 metres of individuals of *Hibiscus* sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708) and *Vittadinia* sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4648).

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

#### Assessment

A desktop assessment of fauna surveys previously conducted over the application area and its surrounds was prepared in September 2025 by SLR Consulting Australia for Rio Tinto Iron Ore as part of their native vegetation clearing permit application CPS 11287/1 (SLR, 2025). This review included publicly available GIS Databases in addition to information provided from Rio Tinto Iron Ores internal databases.

Based on this desktop assessment, only one priority fauna species has been recorded within the application area by previous surveys; *Pseudomys chapmani* (western pebble-mound mouse), P4. There were 38 western pebble-mound mouse records within the application area, two from trapping, 10 active (in use) mounds, and 26 inactive mounds (SLR, 2025).

Additionally, suitable habitat for a further 14 conservation significant species has been identified within the application area:

- *Apus pacificus* (fork-tailed swift), MI;
- *Elanus scriptus* (letter-winged kite), P4;
- *Falco hypoleucos* (grey falcon), VU;
- *Falco peregrinus* (peregrine falcon), OS;
- *Pezoporus occidentalis* (night parrot), CR;
- *Dasyercus blythi* (brush-tailed mulgara), P4;
- *Dasyurus hallucatus* (northern quoll), VU;
- *Leggadina lakedownensis* (northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga), P4;
- *Macroderma gigas* (ghost bat), VU;
- *Macrotis lagotis* (bilby, dalgyte, ninu), VU;
- *Rhinonictis aurantia* (Pilbara Form) (Pilbara leaf-nosed bat), VU;
- *Anilius ganeii* (Gane's blind snake (Pilbara)), P1;
- *Liasis olivaceus barroni* (Pilbara olive python), VU; and
- *Underwoodisaurus seorsus* (Pilbara barking gecko), P2.

The gorge/gully habitat within the application area has been identified as potential critical habitat for northern quoll, Pilbara Olive Python, ghost bat and Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (SLR, 2025a). The major drainage habitat was also identified as potential critical habitat for northern quoll and Pilbara Olive Python, and potential supporting habitat for ghost bat and Pilbara leaf-nosed bat (SLR, 2025a). The gorge/gully habitat also provides suitable habitat for Gane's blind snake, and both habitats provide suitable foraging habitat for the grey falcon and peregrine falcon (SLR, 2025a).

While there have been no records of these species identified within the application area, these species have been recorded in the surrounding area, with the application area being within known foraging ranges. The gorge/gully habitat and major drainage habitat combined make up approximately 4.56% of the application area. Potential impacts to these critical fauna habitats can be minimised by the implementation of a restricted clearing condition.

#### **Birds**

With the exception of the night parrot, the bird species recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (fork-tailed swift, letter-winged kite, grey falcon and peregrine falcon) are wide ranging or migratory species that forage or hunt over vast areas,

and as such are likely to only utilise the application area as transient visitors (GIS Database). Subsequently they are unlikely to be significantly impacted by the proposed clearing.

The night parrot has been detected within 20 kilometres of the application area, and the stony plain area features the spinifex and hummock grassland preferred by this species (DBCA, 2024). However, this species has not been recorded within the application area or its immediate surrounds, despite repeated surveys conducted within the area (Biologic, 2025). Additionally, the larger *Triodia* hummocks relied on by this species are limited and isolated, and as such unlikely to support the species (Biologic, 2025). Based on the above, the impacts of the proposed clearing on these bird species are unlikely to be significant.

The remaining fauna habitats (alluvial plain, claypan, minor drainage, mulga woodland, rocky hill and stony plain) may be utilised by the remaining fauna species as transitory, foraging, and/or nesting habitat. These habitats, however, do not represent critical habitat for these species. Highly mobile species such as the fork-tailed swift, letter-winged kite, grey falcon and peregrine falcon may utilise these habitats for foraging however are unlikely to rely upon them as critical habitat, instead utilising the application area as transient visitors. The grey falcon may utilise the major drainage line as nesting habitat, however it has not been identified within the application. As such the proposed clearing is unlikely to result in a significant impact to these species.

## **Mammals**

### *Small mammals*

The bilby, brush-tailed mulgara, and northern short-tailed mouse may utilise the stony plain and mulga woodland habitats present within the application area as these provide suitable foraging/nesting habitat for these species (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011; TSRH, 2021). However, only the brush-tailed mulgara has been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area since 2000; with the closest record of this species identified in 2022 approximately 15 kilometres south of the application area (Biologic, 2025; GIS Database). The stony plain and mulga woodland habitats are well-represented within the surrounding area, and it is unlikely that there will be significant impacts to these species as a result of the proposed clearing. If present within the application area, potential impacts to these species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

### *Northern quoll*

The northern quoll was formerly distributed across northern Australia but are now restricted to six main areas: the Hamersley Range and Kimberley in Western Australia, north and west Top End in the Northern Territory, Cape York, Athertone-Cairns area and Carnarvon Range-Bowen area in Queensland (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; DNREAS, 2010). The northern quoll is most abundant in rocky eucalypt woodland but occurs within a range of vegetation types, mostly within 200 kilometres of the coast, and generally encompassing some form of rocky area which is utilised for denning while surrounding vegetation is used for foraging and dispersal (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Cowan et al., 2022).

There are six records of Northern quoll within the wider 2024 Biologic survey; four from camera traps, and two scat records, all recorded within gorge/gully and rocky hill habitat (Biologic, 2024). While there are no records of this species within the application area, the breakaway/cliff, gorge/gully and major drainage habitats represent critical habitat for this species, with the minor drainage and rocky hill habitats providing suitable foraging habitat. The applicant advises that the gorge/gully and major drainage habitats are within the internal RTIO exclusion zone, and the breakaway/cliff, minor drainage and rocky hill habitats are well represented in the surrounding area (SLR, 2025a; SLR, 2025b). Potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition. If present in the other fauna habitats within the application area, potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

### *Ghost bat*

The ghost bat is sparsely distributed in small colonies in three areas of northern Australia – northeast Queensland, the Top End of the Northern Territory, and the Pilbara and Kimberley in Western Australia (Hourigan, 2011). While previously recorded in central Australia, it is now considered extinct in this part of its range (Hourigan, 2011). Populations of this species are centred on permanent maternity roosts genetically isolated from each other, typically in caves or mineshafts undisturbed by human activity. These colonies will disperse up to 150 kilometres from permanent roosts during the non-breeding season (Hourigan, 2011). This species forages within 12 kilometres of day roosts and returns to the same area each night (Biologic, 2024; Hourigan, 2011). Ghost bats have a diet of large insects, small mammals, reptiles, birds and bats, and does not enter a torpor state, requiring environmental conditions capable of providing an adequate supply of prey throughout the year. As such, this species is sensitive to changes in foraging habitat that result in reduced prey supply (Hourigan, 2011).

The closest record of ghost bat identified by Biologic (2024) is greater than 15 kilometres from the application area; however, there are 57 records of this species within 12 kilometres (known ghost bat foraging range) of the application area (GIS Database). No critical roosts have been identified within the application area, and as such any suitable fauna habitat would likely only be utilised for foraging. The major drainage habitat provides critical foraging habitat for this species, and the minor drainage habitat provides supporting foraging habitat, as such potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition.

### *Bilby*

The greater bilby is a medium-sized burrowing marsupial inhabiting fragmented desert environments between south-west Queensland and the Pilbara in Western Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Bilbies are highly mobile, with some tracked individuals recorded moving up to three kilometres between burrows in a day (Commonwealth of Australia, 2023).

While suitable habitat for this species is present within the application area, there have been no records of this species within 50 kilometres of the application since 2000 (GIS Database). As such, it is unlikely that the habitat within the application area is constitutes as significant for this species.

*Western pebble-mound mouse*

The western pebble-mound mouse is a small rodent weighing up to 17 grams with a body length of up to 68 millimetres (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). This species is confined to the Pilbara, where it occurs in hummock grassland on gravelly or stony substrate with a preference for constructing mounds on ridgelines and hilltops (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011). Their burrows are dug beneath these mounds, extending for several metres and reaching a depth of up to 40 centimetres (Menkhorst and Knight, 2011).

There are 38 records of western pebble-mound mouse occurring within or in close proximity to the application area; two from trapping, and 10 as active (in-use) pebble-mounds, all of which occurred on either the stony plain or rocky hill fauna habitats. A large number of records for this species occur within the Mt Ella area, which has been excluded from the application area. While the stony plain and rocky hill habitats are well represented in the surrounding area, the low number of active mounds/live records within the application area suggest that the potential impacts to this species from the proposed clearing are unlikely to be significant. Potential impacts to this species can be further minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

*Pilbara leaf-nosed bat*

The Pilbara leaf-nose bat (PLNB) is a slightly divergent form of the orange leaf-nose bat that occurs only in the Pilbara region. The PLNB forages in a variety of habitats and roosts during the day in the dark areas of caves and underground mines with stable, warm and humid microclimates (Bat Call WA, 2021). Females are highly dependent on foraging habitat within close proximity to maternal roosts and are typically located within 5-7 kilometres from permanent water, however the species is known to travel up to 45 kilometres from roosts to forage (Bat Call, 2021).

There are no records of PLNB within the application area, and no suitable roosting caves were identified within the application area, with only category 4 (nocturnal refuge) caves recorded within the application area and the wider survey area. There were 16 records of this species identified south of the application area by Biologic (2024), with all recorded calls within the rocky hill, alluvial plain, and major drainage habitats. These records suggest that the PLNB utilise these habitats for foraging, however does not provide an indication of the potential origin for the detected bats (Biologic, 2024). Suitable habitats for this species within the application area are the gorge/gully habitat, which contains caves for roosting and nearby rock pools for foraging, as well as the major drainage habitat which provides the suitable foraging habitat. The applicant has advised that these two areas are within the internal RTIO exclusion zones. Potential impacts to this species can be further minimised through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition.

**Reptiles***Gane's blind snake*

The Gane's Blind Snake is restricted to the Pilbara region, typically found between Newman and Pannawonica (Wilson and Swan, 2021). This species is generally associated with moist gullies and gorges (Wilson and Swan, 2021). This species was recorded four times within the gorge/gully, low hills, and slopes and rocky hill fauna habitats in the wider survey area (Biologic, 2024). Two of these records are less than five kilometres south of the application area, one from a pitfall trap and one from a nocturnal search (Biologic, 2024). If present within the application area, this species would most likely utilise the gorge/gully habitat as critical habitat, in addition to the low hills and slopes, rocky hills and stony plain habitats where they border the gorge/gully habitats. As the gorge/gully habitat is within the internal RTIO exclusion zones, the impacts of the proposed clearing on this species are unlikely to be significant, however can be further minimised through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition. If present in the other fauna habitats within the application area, potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

*Pilbara olive python*

The Pilbara olive python is the largest Western Australian snake, and is dark olive, yellowish brown to olive brown with a pearly sheen, with ventral surfaces white to cream. The olive python is distributed throughout the subhumid areas of northern Australia; however, the Pilbara subspecies is restricted to areas within the Pilbara region such as the Hamersley Range or Dampier Archipelago (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). The Pilbara olive python is nocturnal and prefers escarpments, gorges and water holes in the ranges of the Pilbara region where it shelters during the day. Individuals are usually in close proximity to water and rock outcrops that attract suitable sized prey species (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008).

No evidence of Pilbara olive python was recorded within the application area, however this species is considered highly likely to occur within the application area (Biologic, 2024; SLR, 2025a). If present, this species would rely on the breakaway/cliff, gorge/gully and major drainage habitats as critical habitat for breeding, dispersal and foraging. The minor drainage habitat would also provide suitable supporting habitat for this species. The applicant's internal RTIO exclusion zone covers the gorge/gully and major drainage habitats; and impacts can also be minimised through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition. If present in the other fauna habitats within the application area, potential impacts to this species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.

*Pilbara barking gecko*

The Pilbara barking gecko is known from the Hamersley Range in the Pilbara, from north of Tom Price to southeast of Newman (Wilson and Swan, 2021). This species preferred habitat is rocky slopes and gorges with sparse tree cover and spinifex (*Triodia* spp.) dominant ground cover (Cogger, 2018). Three individuals of this species were recorded in the wider survey area, in the rocky hills habitat less than two kilometres north of the application area at an elevation of 1,110 metres Australian Height Datum (Biologic, 2024). If present within the application area, this species is most likely to utilise the rocky hills and stony plains habitats, likely at higher altitudes with a preferable climate for this species. The areas of highest altitude within the application area generally coincide with gorge/gully areas within the applicant's internal RTIO exclusion zone, and impacts can further be minimised by the implementation of a restricted condition potential and directional clearing condition.

**Conclusion**

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in impacts to the conservation of the following species:

- *Dasyurus hallucatus* (northern quoll), VU;
- *Macroderma gigas* (ghost bat), VU;
- *Pseudomys chapmani* (western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji), P4;
- *Rhinioncteris aurantia* (Pilbara Form) (Pilbara leaf-nosed bat), VU;
- *Anilius ganei* (Gane's blind snake (Pilbara)), P1;
- *Liasis olivaceus barroni* (Pilbara olive python), VU; and
- *Underwoodisaurus seorsus* (Pilbara barking gecko), P2.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on these species can be managed to be environmentally acceptable through the implementation of a restricted clearing condition over critical fauna habitat (gorge/gully, and major drainage), and a directional clearing condition.

#### 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;
- vegetation management – avoid riparian vegetation and where a watercourse is to be impacted by clearing, the permit holder shall ensure that the existing surface flow is maintained, or reinstated downstream into existing natural drainage lines; and
- restricted clearing condition to avoid critical habitat for conservation significant fauna species (gorge/gully and major drainage habitats).

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

The clearing permit application was advertised on 13 January 2026 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 (WC20010/011) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This 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.

**End**

## Appendix A. Site characteristics

### A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is located approximately 93 kilometres west of Newman, on Crown Land within the Shire of East Pilbara in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The area proposed to be cleared is situated in a tract of native vegetation surrounded by pastoral leases and mining operations (GIS Database). The application area is located in the Pilbara IBRA bioregion and the Hamersley IBRA subregion (GIS Database). This subregion is located in the southern Pilbara and is a mountainous area of Proterozoic sedimentary ranges and plateaux, dissected by gorges (GIS Database). This subregion is heavily disturbed by intensive mining activities, with 49 operating mine sites within 50 kilometres of the application area, 36 of which are open pit iron mines (GIS Database).</p> <p>The predominant land uses in the region are grazing, Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Crown Reserves, mining, and conservation (CALM, 2002).</p>
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Hamersley Range National Park located approximately 15 kilometres north west 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> <p>18: low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland;</p> <p>29: low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland; and</p> <p>82: low tree-steppe (GIS Database).</p> <p>The results of several flora and vegetation surveys conducted over the application area and its surrounds were compiled by SLR (2025) for Robe River Ltd. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (SLR, 2025):</p> <p>D03: <i>Eucalyptus xerothermica</i> and/or <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low open woodland over <i>Petalostylis labicheoides</i>, <i>Acacia pyrifolia</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Tephrosia rosea</i> var. Fortescue Creeks (M.I.H. Brooker 2186) low open shrubland over <i>Themeda triandra</i> very open tussock grassland over <i>Triodia pungens</i> very open hummock grassland to scattered hummock grasses</p> <p>D07: <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia monticola</i> tall shrubland over <i>Themeda triandra</i> very open tussock grassland over <i>Triodia pungens</i> very open hummock grassland</p> <p>D13: <i>Eucalyptus xerothermica</i> low open woodland over <i>Petalostylis labicheoides</i>, <i>Acacia pyrifolia</i> tall sparse shrubland over <i>Themeda triandra</i>, <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> tussock grassland</p> <p>G02: <i>Acacia 'aneura'</i>, <i>Callitris columellaris</i> and/or <i>Corymbia ferritcola</i> low woodland over <i>Capparis mitchellii</i> scattered tall shrubs over <i>Ptilotus obovatus</i> low open shrubland over <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> and/or <i>Aristida burbridgeae</i> very open tussock grassland with <i>Triodia pungens</i> scattered hummock grasses</p> <p>G04: <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i>, <i>Corymbia ferritcola</i>, <i>C. hamersleyana</i> low open woodland over <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. sp.</i> Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739) (P3) low open hummock grassland</p> <p>H05: <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i>, <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Acacia maitlandii</i> open heath over <i>Halgania gustafsenii</i> var. Mid West (G. Perry 370) low open shrubland over <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. wiseana</i> hummock grassland</p> <p>H09: <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> and/or <i>Corymbia deserticola</i> subsp. <i>deserticola</i> low open woodland over <i>E. gamophylla</i> low open mallee woodland over <i>Triodia vanleeuwenii</i> low hummock grassland</p> <p>H15: <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Triodia pungens</i> and/or <i>T. wiseana</i> open hummock grassland</p> <p>H17: <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i>, <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i> low open woodland over <i>E. kingsmillii</i> low open mallee woodland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>, <i>T. sp.</i> Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739) (P3) low open hummock grassland over <i>Eriachne mucronata</i> low isolated tussock grasses</p> <p>H18: <i>Corymbia hamersleyana</i>, <i>Eucalyptus leucophloia</i> subsp. <i>leucophloia</i> low open woodland over <i>Mirbelia viminalis</i> low open shrubland over <i>Triodia wiseana</i>, <i>T. sp.</i> Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739) (P3) low hummock grassland</p>

Characteristic	Details
	<p>P05: <i>Acacia 'aneura'</i> and/or <i>A. pruinocarpa</i> low woodland to low open forest over <i>Eremophila forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i> open shrubland over <i>Triodia pungens</i> very open hummock grassland</p> <p>P17: <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>A. aneura</i>, <i>A. catenulata</i> subsp. <i>occidentalis</i> low open woodland over <i>Themeda triandra</i>, <i>Chrysopogon fallax</i>, <i>Ar. jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i> low sparse tussock grassland over <i>Ar. contorta</i>, <i>Perotis rara</i> low open bunch grassland on clays and clay loams on hardpan plains, drainage areas/floodplains and claypans</p> <p>P19: <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>A. ayersiana</i>, <i>A. catenulata</i> subsp. <i>occidentalis</i>, <i>A. pruinocarpa</i> low woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i> mid isolated shrubs over <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. melvillei</i> low isolated clumps of hummock grasses over <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i>, <i>Aristida contorta</i> low isolated clumps of tussock grasses</p> <p>P20: <i>Corymbia candida</i> subsp. <i>candida</i> mid isolated trees over <i>Acacia aneura</i>, <i>A. aptaneura</i> and <i>A. pteraneura</i> low woodland over <i>Aristida contorta</i>, <i>Enneapogon polyphyllus</i> and <i>Ar. obscura</i> low sparse tussock grassland</p> <p>P21: <i>Acacia aptaneura</i>, <i>A. pruinocarpa</i>, <i>A. ayersiana</i>, <i>A. catenulata</i> subsp. <i>occidentalis</i> low woodland over <i>Eremophila fraseri</i> subsp. <i>fraseri</i>, <i>E. forrestii</i> subsp. <i>forrestii</i>, <i>E. phyllopoda</i> subsp. <i>obliqua</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Senna glaucifolia</i>, <i>Sida ectogama</i>, <i>Ptilotus schwartzii</i> low isolated shrubs over <i>Triodia pungens</i>, <i>T. vanleeuwenii</i> low sparse hummock grassland</p> <p>Dis: Devoid of vegetation</p>
Vegetation condition	Vegetation desktop review of the application area found the vegetation to be in 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' condition (Trudgen, 1991). The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	<p>The climate of the Hamersley subregion is described as summer-dominant, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 316.8 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).</p> <p>The application area is mapped at elevations of 760-1100 metres Australian Height Datum (GIS Database).</p>
Soil description and land degradation risk	<p>The soil is mapped as a part of the following land systems and soil descriptions (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Boolgeeda Land System (285Bg)</b> Stony lower slopes and plains below hill systems supporting hard and soft spinifex grasslands and mulga shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow loams or red loamy earths, minor self-mulching cracking clays, channels with river bed soils, and stony soils. The vegetation is generally not prone to degradation, and the land system is not susceptible to erosion, but subject to fairly frequent burning (Curry et al, 1994).</li> <li>• <b>Newman Land system (285Ne)</b> Rugged jaspilite plateaux, ridges and mountains supporting hard spinifex grasslands. Soils associated with this land system are stony soils, red shallow loams and some red shallow sands, channels with river bed soils. Spinifex is the dominant vegetation, and the system is burnt fairly frequently.</li> <li>• <b>Pindering (285Pd)</b> Gravelly hardpan plains supporting groved mulga shrublands with hard and soft spinifex. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow loams, red sandy duplex soils and red loamy earths, channels with river bed soils. This land system is not susceptible to erosion.</li> <li>• <b>Platform (285PI)</b> Dissected slopes and raised plains supporting hard spinifex grasslands. Soils associated with this land system are red shallow loams and red loamy earths, stony soils, minor red shallow sandy duplex soils and channels with river bed soils. This land system is not susceptible to erosion.</li> <li>• <b>Wannamunna (285Wn)</b> Hardpan plains and internal drainage tracts supporting mulga shrublands and woodlands (and occasionally eucalypt woodlands). Soils associated with this land system are red-brown hardpan shallow loams and some red shallow loams, red deep loamy duplex soils, red loamy earths and self-mulching cracking clays, deep red-brown non-cracking clays. This land system generally has low susceptibility to erosion.</li> </ul>
Waterbodies	<p>The application area is intersected by 18 minor non-perennial watercourses (GIS Database).</p> <p>The nearest Wetland of National Importance is the Mount Bruce Coolibah – Lignum Flats located approximately 46 kilometres north west of the application area (GIS Database).</p>
Hydrogeography	<p>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Newman Water Reserve located approximately 63 kilometres east of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Pilbara Ground Water Area and Pilbara Surface Water Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database).</p>

Characteristic	Details
	The groundwater salinity is mapped as 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as fresh to brackish (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).
Flora	There are records of 58 priority flora species within 50 kilometres of the application area, and one record of threatened flora within 50 kilometres of the application area. There are 13 priority flora species recorded within the application area (SLR, 2025a).
Ecological communities	There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) or Priority Ecological Communities (PECs) intersecting the application area, nor is there any vegetation synonymous with known TECs/PECs present within the application area.  The closest recorded PEC is the Priority 1 West Angelas Cracking Clays located approximately eight kilometres north of the application area, adjacent to the larger West Angelas Mine Project.
Fauna	There are records of 21 conservation significant fauna within 50 kilometres of the application area, and one conservation significant fauna species recorded within the application area (Biologic, 2025).
Fauna habitat	<p>Eight fauna habitat types were identified within the application area by the SLR desktop review of previous surveys in the area (SLR, 2025a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Alluvial Plain</b>                      Associated with the flood plains adjacent to drainage lines. Often contains tussock grasses and has a high vegetation cover. Substrate of alluvial, silt loamy/clay. Low lying areas that have a very slight to no gradient.                 </li> <li> <b>Claypan</b>                      Claypan habitat consists of heavy clay-based soils (both cracking and non-cracking surfaces). Low lying areas that have very slight to no gradient and are often drainage depressions. Typically have no vegetation cover.                 </li> <li> <b>Gorge/Gully</b>                      Gorge/Gully habitat is characterised by rugged, incised rock features that have moderate to steep sides and slopes. Gorges tend to be deeply incised with vertical cliff faces, while gullies are more open. Caves and water pools are most often encountered in this habitat type. Vegetation can be dense and complex in areas of soil deposition or sparse and simple where erosion has occurred.                 </li> <li> <b>Major Drainage Line</b>                      Major Drainage Line habitat is prone to flooding and is more likely to retain water when inundated. The structure and condition of vegetation often varies seasonally, particularly following rainfall events. This habitat supports an upper story of relatively tall Eucalyptus.                 </li> <li> <b>Minor Drainage Line</b>                      Minor Drainage Line habitat usually lacked a tall dense upper story but with a dense mid story, including sparse Eucalyptus sp. and <i>Acacia</i> sp. over tussock grasses and <i>Triodia</i> sp. hummock grasses. Does not include the minor drainage depressions that flow off high ground features. It is less likely to support surface water for long after rainfall.                 </li> <li> <b>Mulga Woodland</b>                      Stands or bands of Mulga Woodland, over clay or stony substrates. Floodplain landforms or minor drainage systems subject to sheet flow following rainfall. Vegetation dominated by open Mulga with sparse to no understory of mixed small shrubs and tussock grasses.                 </li> <li> <b>Rocky Hill</b>                      Rocky Hill habitat comprises of low undulating hills and extensive foot slopes with a gradual gradient. Low hills with rounded summits, generally without cliff faces.                 </li> <li> <b>Stony Plain</b>                      Stony Plain habitat comprises flat to low undulating areas with vegetation dominated by <i>Triodia</i> hummock grasses of various life stages with scattered eucalypts and patches of various small to medium shrub species on stony, gravelly clay loam substrates. In some low-lying areas, isolated patches of sandy substrate occur.                 </li> </ul>

**A.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 - Pilbara	17,808,657.04	17,731,764.88	99.57	1,801,714.98	10.12
Beard vegetation associations - State					

Veg Assoc No.					
18	19,892,306.46	19,843,148.07	99.75	1,317,179.00	6.62
29	7,903,991.45	7,898,973.24	99.94	496,367.56	6.28
82	1,565,901.28	2,553,206.19	99.51	295,377.96	11.51
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No.					
18	676,556.72	671,843.35	99.30	170,297.48	25.17
29	1,133,219.76	1,131,712.01	99.87	106,259.86	9.38
82	2,563,583.23	2,550,888.14	99.50	295,377.96	11.52

Government of Western Australia (2019)

### A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and relevant datasets (Appendix H.1), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (SLR, 2025a; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
<b>Threatened</b>			
<i>Thryptomene wittweri</i>	N	<30	8
<b>Priority 1</b>			
<i>Dicrastylis mitchellii</i>	N	<40	3
<i>Eremophila demissa</i>	N	<50	5
<i>Rhodanthe ascendens</i>	N	<25	4
<i>Sida</i> sp. Turee Creek (P.-L.de Kock PLDK1116)	Y	<5	4
<i>Uvedalia clementii</i>	Y	<50	10
<b>Priority 2</b>			
<i>Arthropodium vanleeuwenii</i>	N	<50	6
<i>Hibiscus</i> sp. Gurinbiddy Range (M.E. Trudgen MET 15708)	Y	0	38
<i>Isotropis forrestii</i>	N	<20	6
<i>Solanum pycnotrichum</i>	N	<45	7
<i>Tetradlea fordiana</i>	Y	<5	13
<i>Triodia karrijini</i>	Y	<25	14
<b>Priority 3</b>			
<i>Acacia dawsoniana</i>	Y	<10	16
<i>Acacia effusa</i>	Y	<5	33
<i>Acacia subtiliformis</i>	Y	0	26
<i>Aristida jerichoensis</i> var. <i>subspinulifera</i>	Y	0	49
<i>Aristida lazaridis</i>	Y	0	29
<i>Dampiera metallorum</i>	Y	<5	22
<i>Dolichocarpa</i> sp. Hamersley Station (A.A. Mitchell PRP 1479)	Y	<5	46
<i>Eragrostis</i> sp. Mt Robinson (S. van Leeuwen 4109)	N	<25	8
<i>Eremophila magnifica</i> subsp. <i>velutina</i>	Y	<5	23
<i>Eremophila naaykensis</i>	Y	0	22
<i>Eremophila pusilliflora</i>	Y	<5	19
<i>Eremophila rigida</i>	N	<35	10
<i>Eremophila</i> sp. West Angelas (S. van Leeuwen 4068)	Y	0	8
<i>Euphorbia clementii</i>	N	<10	32
<i>Euphorbia inappendiculata</i> var. <i>inappendiculata</i>	Y	<10	17
<i>Euphorbia inappendiculata</i> var. <i>queenslandica</i>	Y	<45	18
<i>Euphorbia stevenii</i>	Y	<10	17
<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Y	<5	11

<i>Goodenia lyrata</i>	Y	<15	1
<i>Goodenia</i> sp. East Pilbara (A.A. Mitchell PRP 727)	N	<5	53
<i>Grevillea saxicola</i>	Y	<10	40
<i>Indigofera gilesii</i>	Y	0	40
<i>Ipomoea racemigera</i>	Y	<5	23
<i>Isotropis parviflora</i>	Y	<5	34
<i>Neptunia longipila</i>	Y	<10	17
<i>Olearia mucronata</i>	Y	<5	14
<i>Oxalis</i> sp. Pilbara (M.E. Trudgen 12725)	Y	0	18
<i>Paspalidium retiglume</i>	N	<40	12
<i>Pentalepis trichodesmoides</i> subsp. <i>hispida</i>	N	<15	15
<i>Pilbara trudgenii</i>	Y	0	12
<i>Rostellularia adscendens</i> var. <i>latifolia</i>	Y	0	53
<i>Sida</i> sp. Hamersley Range (K. Newbey 10692)	Y	<5	26
<i>Solanum kentrocaule</i>	Y	0	22
<i>Stackhousia clementii</i>	N	<40	23
<i>Streptoglossa</i> sp. Cracking clays (S. van Leeuwen et al. PBS 7353)	Y	<10	13
<i>Stylidium weeliwollii</i>	N	<40	30
<i>Swainsona thompsoniana</i>	Y	<5	33
<i>Themeda</i> sp. Hamersley Station (M.E. Trudgen 11431)	Y	<5	61
<i>Triodia basitricha</i>	N	<40	49
<i>Triodia</i> sp. Mt Ella (M.E. Trudgen 12739)	Y	0	40
<i>Vittadinia</i> sp. Coondewanna Flats (S. van Leeuwen 4684)	Y	0	27
<b>Priority 4</b>			
<i>Acacia bromilowiana</i>	Y	<5	30
<i>Eremophila magnifica</i> subsp. <i>magnifica</i>	Y	<5	47
<i>Lepidium catapycnon</i>	Y	<5	39
<i>Ptilotus mollis</i>	Y	<15	48
<i>Sida</i> sp. Barlee Range (S. van Leeuwen 1642)	Y	<5	61

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

#### A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above and relevant datasets (Appendix H.1), impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration (SLR, 2025a; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
<b>Birds</b>			
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (fork-tailed swift)	MI	Y	<5
<i>Charadrius veredus</i> (oriental plover)	MI	N	<30
<i>Elanus scriptus</i> (letter-winged kite)	P4	Y	<20
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i> (grey falcon)	VU	Y	<15
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	<20
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> (night parrot)	CR	Y	<20
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (common greenshank)	MI	N	<10
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
<i>Antichiropus cirratus</i> (Bond's antichiropus millipede)	P1	N	<30
<i>Antichiropus pendiculus</i> (Area C antichiropus millipede)	P1	N	<35

<b>Mammals</b>			
<i>Dasyercus blythi</i> (brush-tailed mulgara)	P4	Y	<20
<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i> (northern quoll)	EN	Y	<10
<i>Leggadina lakedownensis</i> (northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga)	P4	Y	<10
<i>Leporillus conditor</i> (greater stick-nest rat, wopilkara)	CD	N	<35
<i>Macroderma gigas</i> (ghost bat)	VU	Y	<5
<i>Macrotis lagotis</i> (bilby, dalgyte, ninu)	VU	Y	<25
<i>Pseudomys chapmani</i> (western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji)	P4	Y	0
<i>Rhinonicteris aurantia</i> (Pilbara form)(Pilbara leaf-nosed bat)	VU	Y	<10
<b>Reptiles</b>			
<i>Aniliios ganei</i> (Gane's blind snake (Pilbara))	P1	Y	<5
<i>Lerista macropisthopus remota</i> (unpatterned robust slider (Roberson Range))	P2	N	<30
<i>Liasis olivaceus barroni</i> (Pilbara olive python)	VU	Y	<5
<i>Underwoodisaurus seorsus</i> (Pilbara barking gecko)	P2	Y	<5

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

**Appendix B. 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 contains suitable habitat for 42 conservation significant flora species.</p>	May 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 provides suitable habitat for 15 conservation significant fauna species.</p>	May 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 identified within the application area or its surrounds (SLR, 2025a; 2025b; GIS Database).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database).</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
A desktop review of previous surveys within the application area did not identify any TECs or vegetation associations synonymous with TECs (SLR, 2025a).		
<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 in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001).</p> <p>The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	Not likely to be 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 is 14 kilometres (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is 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 or wetlands recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There are 18 minor non-perennial watercourses intersecting the application area, which flow south to the Angelo River approximately 13 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database). Creek lines in the area are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall (CALM, 2002).</p> <p>Three sections of drainage line in the northwest section of the application area have been identified as major drainage areas, however these fall under the planned RTIO exclusion zone and have already been conditioned under Principle (a).</p> <p>Potential impacts to the remaining minor non-perennial drainage lines as a result of the proposed clearing may be minimised by the implementation of a vegetation management condition.</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 five land systems that compose the application area (Boolgeeda, Newman, Pindering, Platform, Wannamunna) are not generally susceptible to erosion or have low susceptibility to erosion. The Boolgeeda and Newman land systems are subject to frequent burning.</p>	Not likely to 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>There are no Public Drinking Water Source Areas within or near the application area (GIS Database). There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to clear (GIS Database). Creek lines in the region are dry for most of the year, only flowing briefly immediately following significant rainfall. The proposed clearing is unlikely to result in significant changes to surface water flows.</p> <p>The groundwater in the application area is fresh to brackish, ranging from 500 to 1000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to cause deterioration in the quality of underground water.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The climate of the region is semi-desert tropical with high rainfall occurring from December to March as a result of summer cyclone and thunderstorm activity, with an annual average rainfall of 316.8 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026).</p> <p>The average annual evaporation rate for the area is 3200 – 3600 millimetres, resulting in rapid evaporation of surface water (BoM, 2026).</p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or waterbodies within the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>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 C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

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

#### D.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)
- CAWSA Part 2A Clearing Control Catchments (DWER-004)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)

- Hydrographic Catchments - Catchments (DWER-028)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- 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)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

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)

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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) -, 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.