GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11309/1
Permit Holder:	Department of Defence
Duration of Permit:	From 20 April 2026 to 20 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 a temporary defence area.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 351 on Plan 220213 (Crown reserve 24980), Neale and Lake Wells

Unallocated Crown Land (PIN 11796049), Neale and Lake Wells

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 49 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 20 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

The permit holder must, where practicable:

(a) conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner 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. Revegetation and Rehabilitation – temporary clearing

The Permit Holder shall:

(a) retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by *clearing* authorised under this Permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil.

(b) Within 24 months of the area no longer being required for the purpose for which it was cleared, the permit holder must commence *revegetating* and *rehabilitating* the areas cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 4 of Schedule 1, by way of:

  (i) re-shaping the surface of the land so that it is consistent with the surrounding 5 metres of uncleared land; and

  (ii) ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction; and

  (iii) laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under *condition* 8(a) on the cleared area(s).

(c) within 24 months of laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with 8(b) of this Permit;

  (i) engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area r*evegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and

  (ii) engage an *environmental specialist* to make a determination as to whether the composition, structure and density determined under *condition* 8(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.

(d) if the determination made by the *environmental specialist* under *condition* 8(c)(ii) is that the species composition, structure, and density determined under *condition* 8(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* seeds that will result in a similar species composition, structure, and density of *native vegetation* to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.

(e) Where additional planting or *direct seeding* of *native vegetation* is undertaken in accordance with *condition* 8(d), the permit holder must repeat the activities required by *condition* 8(c) and 8(d) within 24 months of undertaking the additional planting or *direct seeding* of *native vegetation.*

(f) Where a determination is made by an *environmental specialist* under *condition* 8(c)(ii) that the composition, structure and density within areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* will result in a similar species composition, structure and density to that of pre-clearing vegetation types in that area, that determination shall be submitted to the *CEO* within three months of the determination being made by the *environmental specialist.*

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

9. 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	(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area; (b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (c) the date that the area was cleared; (d) the size of the area cleared (in hectares); and (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with *condition* 5; (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with *condition* 6; and (g) actions taken in accordance with *condition* 7.
2.	In relation to *revegetation*	(a) size of the areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*;

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
	and *rehabilitation* pursuant to *condition* 8	(b) the date(s) on which the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* was undertaken; (c) the boundaries of the areas *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (recorded digitally as a shapefile); (d) description of the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* activities undertaken, including actions taken to implement hygiene protocols and weed control; (e) any remediation actions undertaken; and (f) determinations made by the *environmental specialist.*

10. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under *condition* 9 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

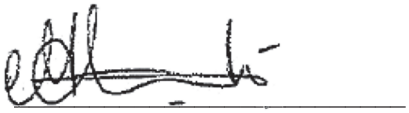
In this permit, the terms in Table 2 have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.
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	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.
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.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
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.
weeds	means any plant –

Term	Definition
	(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; or (b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or (c) not indigenous to the area concerned.

END OF CONDITIONS



Meenu Vitarana
MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

26 March 2026

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the maps below (Figure 1-4).

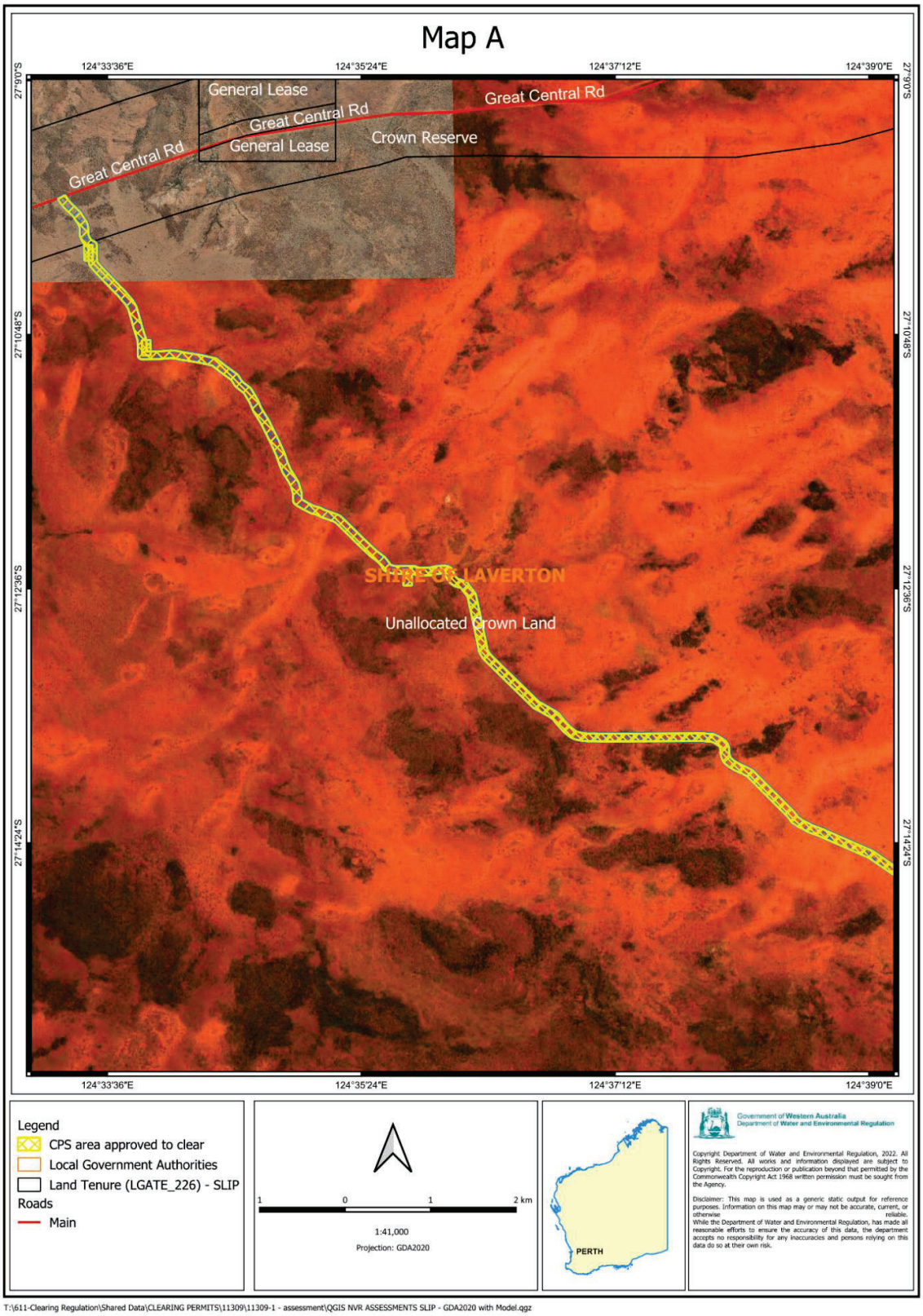


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

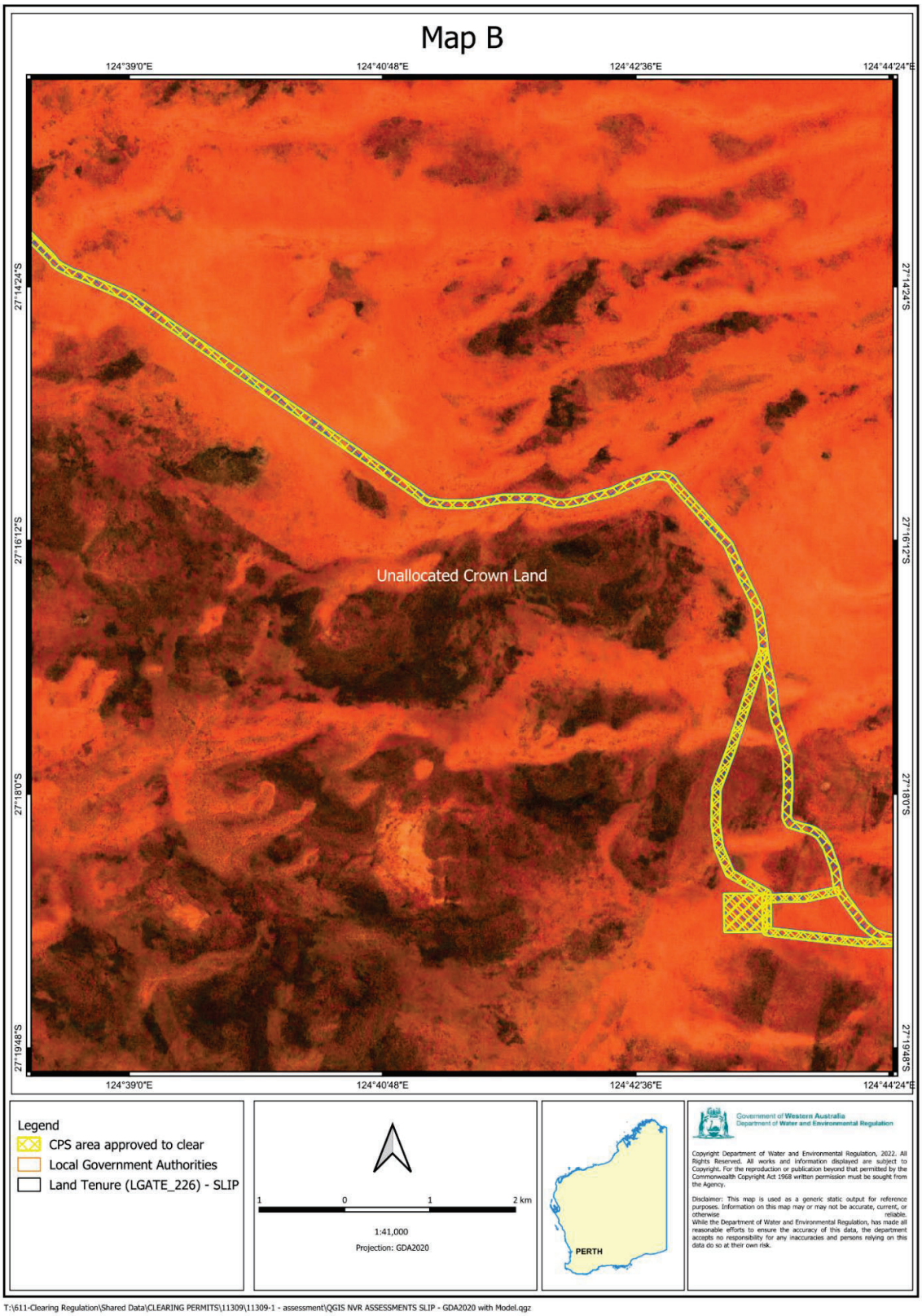


Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

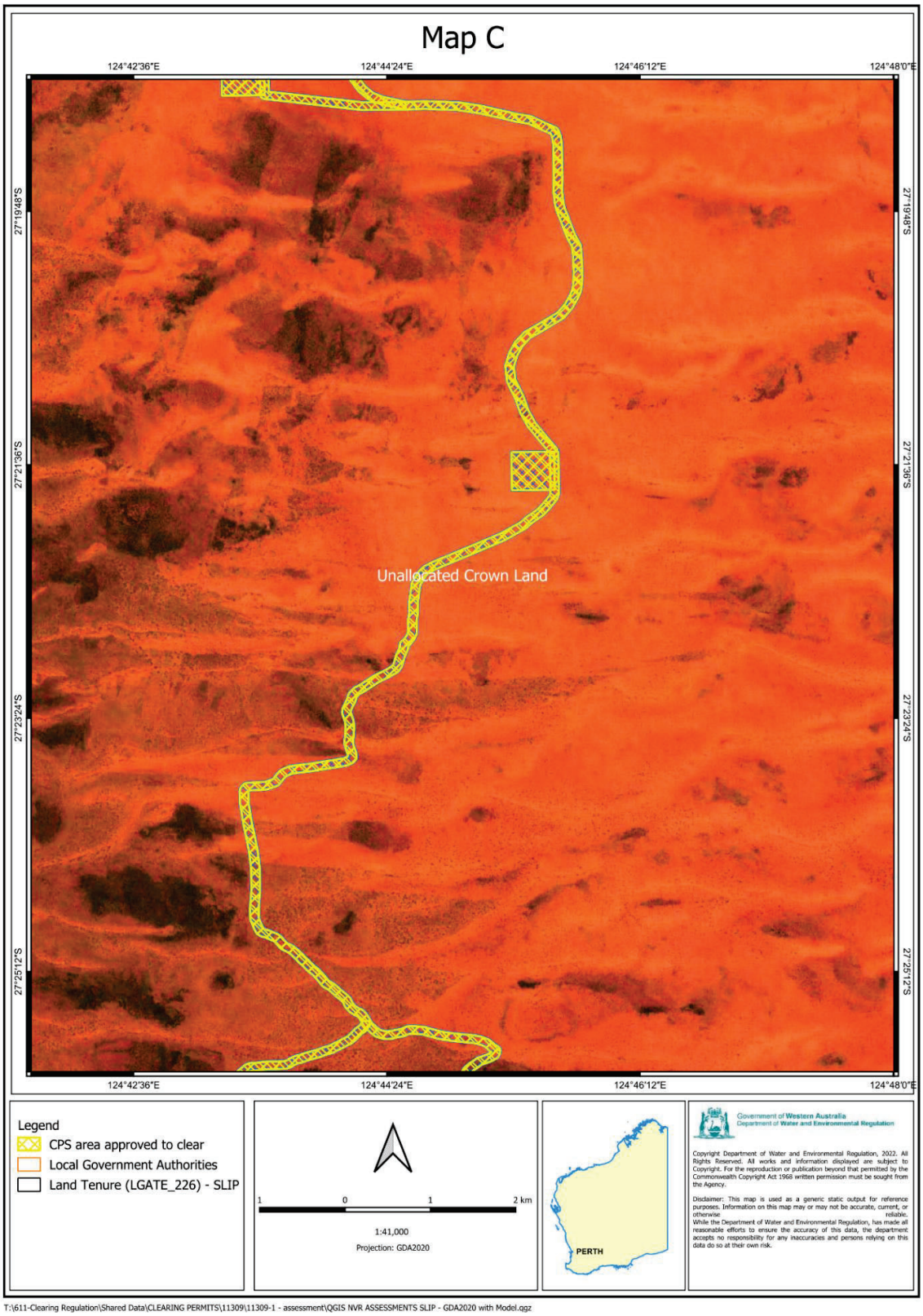


Figure 3: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

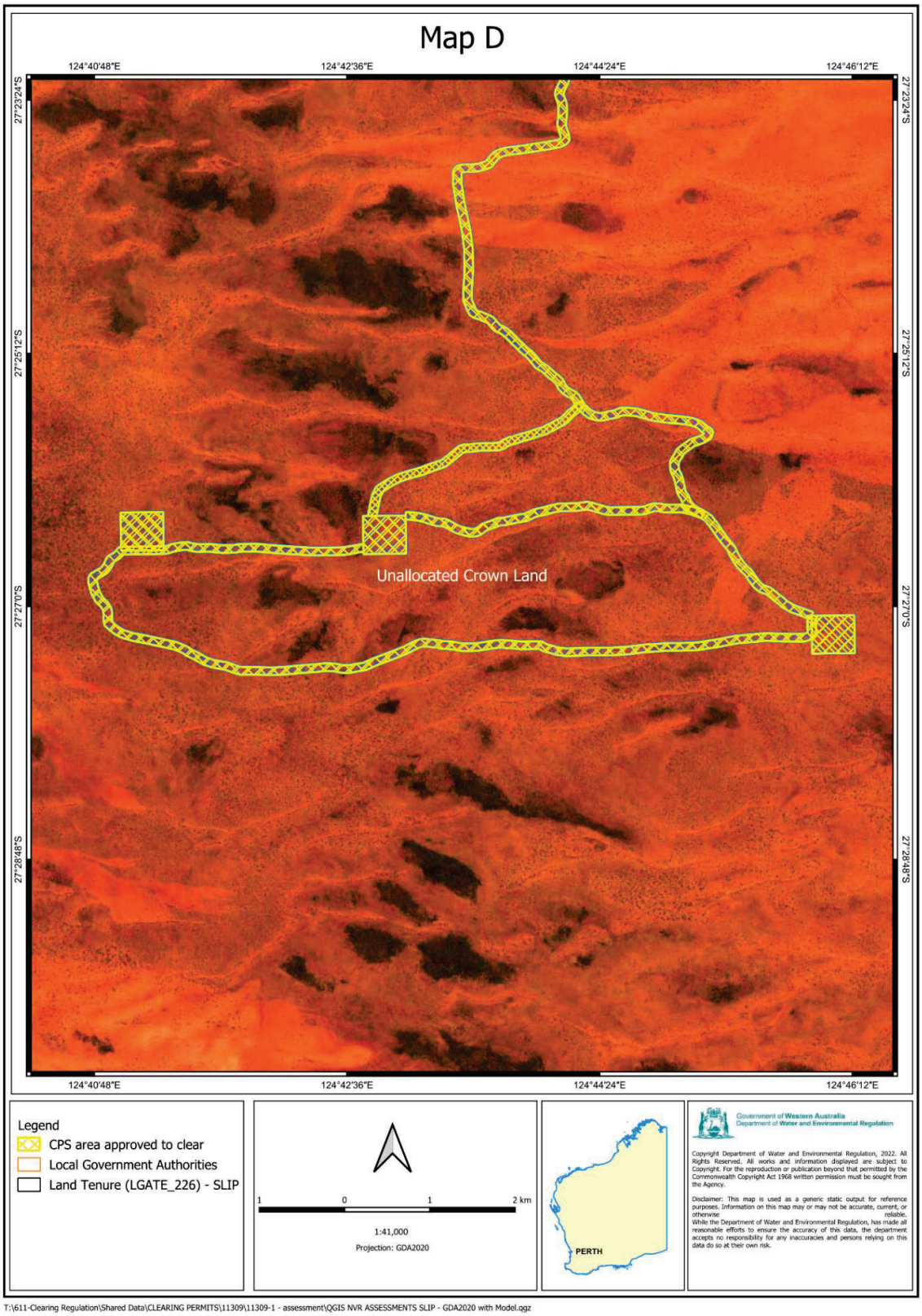


Figure 4: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur

Government of Western Australia
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 11309/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Department of Defence
Application received:	28 October 2025
Application area:	49 hectares of native vegetation
Purpose of clearing:	Non-defence training area
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal and cool burns
Property:	Lot 351 on Plan 220213
Location (LGA area/s):	Shire of Laverton
Localities (suburb/s):	Neale and Lake Wells

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The vegetation proposed to be cleared is distributed between access tracks connecting across 5 impact sites and 3 working sites. (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The application is to clear 49 hectares of native vegetation within a 877.64 hectare footprint. The proposed clearing is for the purpose of a temporary defence training area. The development does not include the construction of any permanent buildings or infrastructure.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	26 March 2026
Decision area:	49 hectares of native vegetation within a 877.64 hectare footprint, 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 21 days and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see A), relevant datasets (see Appendix E), the findings of a Ecology Survey, Heritage Survey, and Environmental Report, the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix B), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the proposed activities, being of high priority.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing will result in:

- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values

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 to have long-term adverse impacts on environmental values. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures, minimising impacts to unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to environmental values.

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- Take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity
- retain cleared vegetation and topsoil and respread this on a cleared area once land is no longer being used for the proposed activities.

1.5. Site maps

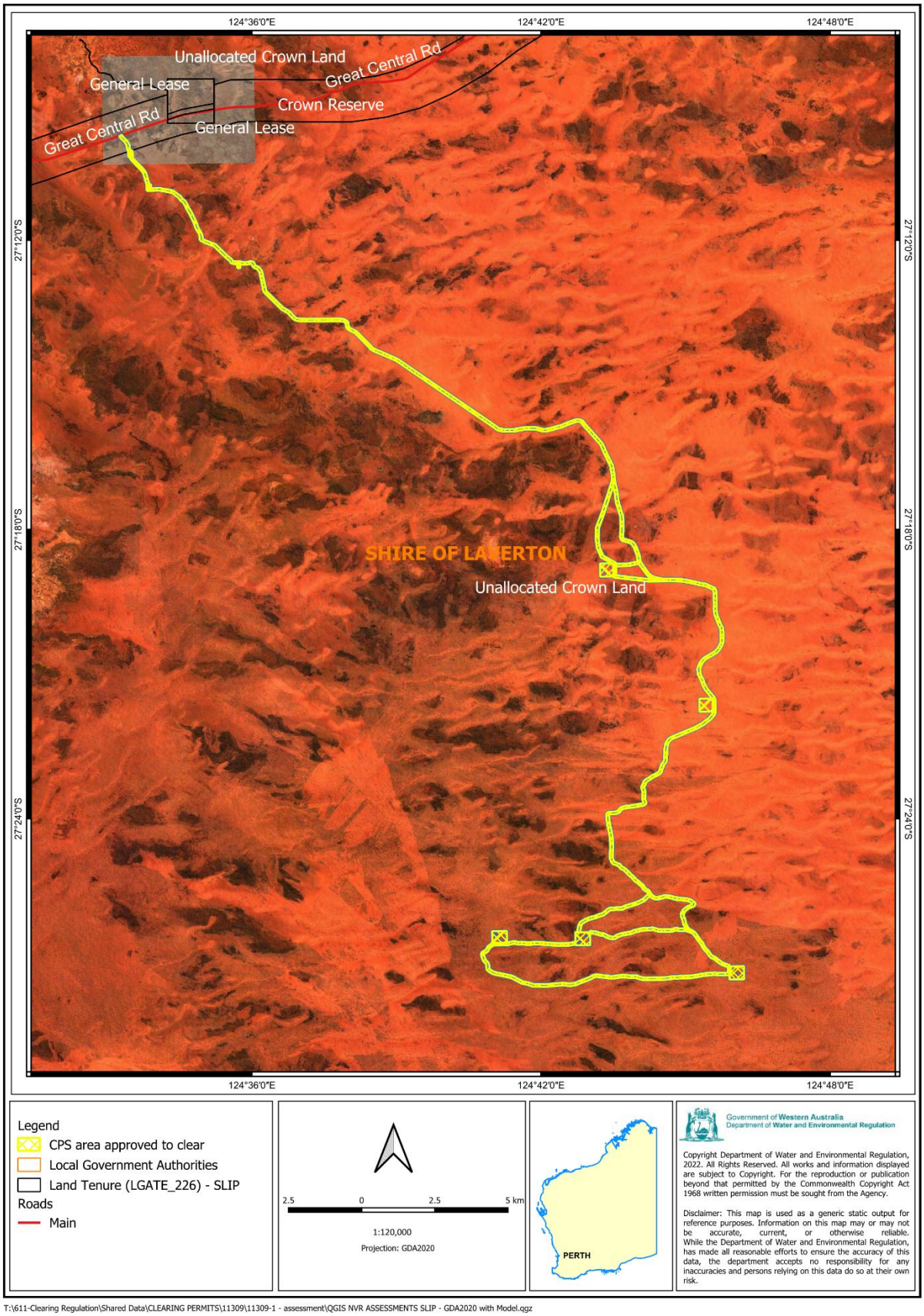


Figure 1 Map of the application area

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

Figure 2 Close up - Map A of the application area

Figure 3 Close up - Map B of the application area

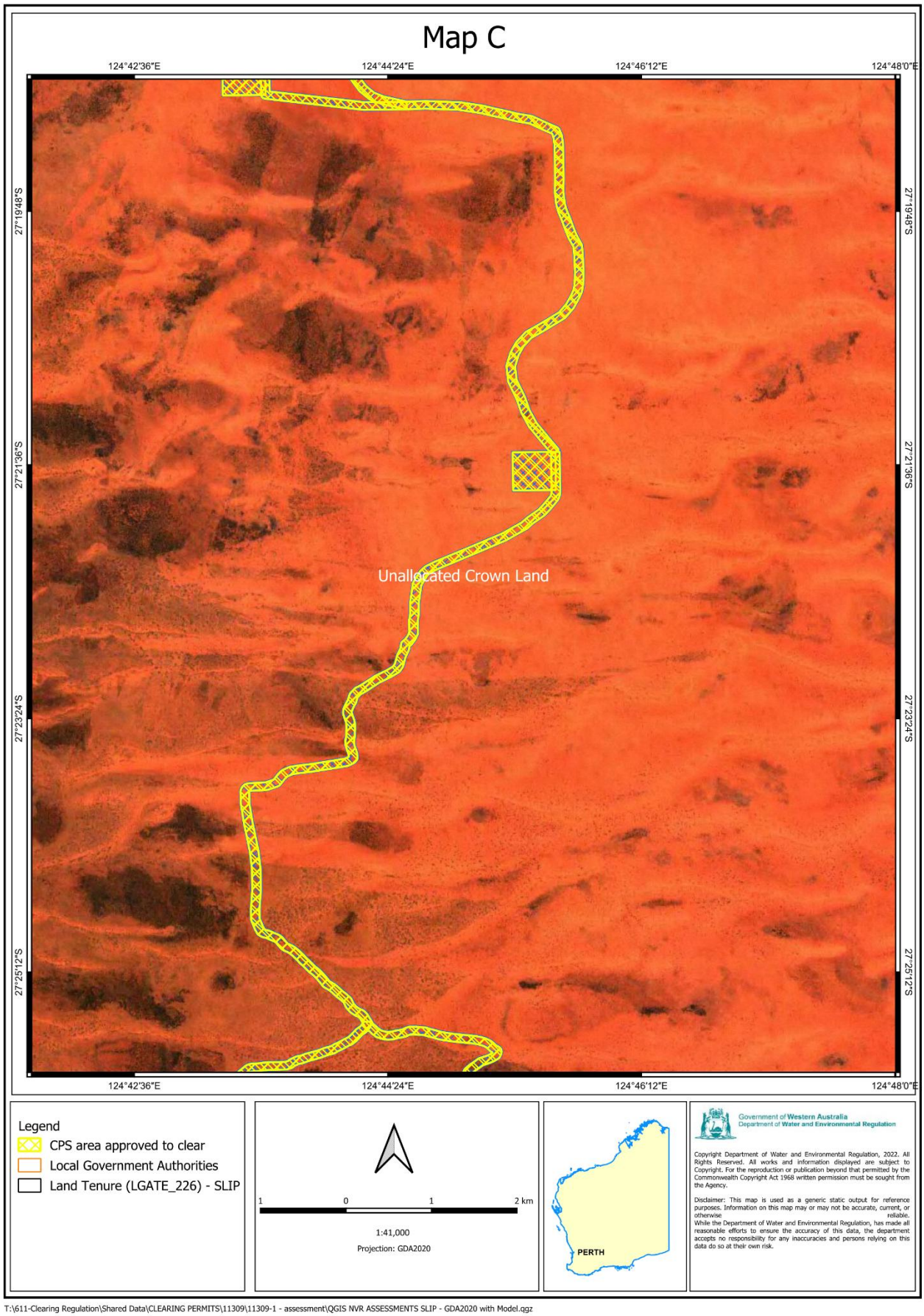


Figure 4 Close up - Map C of the application area

Figure 5 Close up - Map D of the application area

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)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)

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 demonstrated the following avoidance and mitigation measures (DoD, 2025)a;

- Deep ripping/tillage of compacted areas to break up compaction improve water penetration and roughen the surface to promote retention of organic matter and seeds on site.
- Conduct of pre-mobilisation clean-down/inspection of all plant, vehicles and equipment to remove soil/vegetative matter before site entry.
- Stockpiling of topsoil and cleared vegetation to be used in remediation at the conclusion of Defence activities.
- In remediation, reshaping of disturbed areas to blend with the surrounding topography and reinstate surface water (sheet) flow to avoid ponding and waterlogging of soils.
- Once other earthworks activities are complete, stockpiled topsoil will be respread to promote natural regeneration.
- Following topsoil respreading, stockpiled vegetation will be redistributed across the cleared areas.
- Vehicles will be kept on defined roads/tracks unless required for clearing or remediation.
- Application of micro-siting within working accommodation and impact sites to avoid large trees and sensitive habitats.
- Utilization of micro-siting when clearing at Working and Impact Sites to minimize clearance of large trees within those sites.
- Remediation of contamination at the completion of the proposed action in line with requirements under the WA Contaminated Sites Act 2003 and Contaminated Sites Regulation 2006.
- Bushfire management planning.

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

3.2.1. Biological values - Clearing Principles (a,b)

Assessment

Fauna habitats within the disturbance footprint for the proposed action consist of sandplain (interdunal swales), dunes and shrublands. In general, fauna habitats were considered to be in good condition with minimal weeds present and little grazing pressure evident.

Fauna of conservation significant found likely and potentially to utilise the available habitat types within the application area include (Jacobs, 2025d);

- Sminthopsis psammophila (Sandhill dunnart)
- Dasycercus blythi (Brush-tailed Mulgara)
- Amytornis striatus (Striated Grasswren)
- Leipoa ocellata (Malleefowl)
- Polytelis alexandrae (Princess parrot)
- Falco (Hierofalco) peregrinus (Peregrene falcon)
- Liopholis kintorei (Great desert skink/ Tjakura)

Fauna listed above may utilise the habitat features within the application area for foraging and dwelling. Given the fauna surveys did not record any individuals within the application area, and the habitat availability in adjacent areas is high, the proposed clearing is not likely to have impacts to the species population survival. However there are potential impacts to individuals present at the time of clearing, specifically the brush-tailed mulgara, after identifying diggings within the surveyed area. Vegetation clearing at working accommodation sites may result in destruction of burrows for burrowing species. No burrows were observed during the field survey, however the presence cannot be ruled out since burrows may have been constructed after the survey date. Clearing of large trees, particularly trees with hollows may impact individual bird species such as the princess parrot and the striated grasswren. DoD has confirmed that large trees, particularly those with hollows will be avoided at all sites and access tracks minimising the risks of impact to hollow nesting species (DoD & Jacobs, 2025).

The proposed action area and particularly the development footprint have been subject to recent fires which reduces their suitability for a range of fauna species, in particular the Tjakura, Greater Bilby, Malleefowl and Sandhill Dunnart, all of which prefer larger spinifex clumps, increased structural diversity and higher litter levels associated with long unburnt habitat (Jacobs, 2025a). However the probability of individuals present at time of clearing cannot be ruled out.

The proposed clearing may impact habitat suitable for mallefowl. Given the high habitat availability within the local area, impacts to significant habitat is unlikely, however impacts to individuals is possible during the clearing activities. No mallefowl nest mounds were observed during the survey.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in the clearing of suitable habitat for conservation significant fauna possibly impacting individuals present at the time, specifically mallefowl and burrowing species such as the sandhill dunnart, Brush-tailed Mulgara and the Tjakura.

The applicant has confirmed that fauna spotters will be employed during clearing activities to confirm no individuals or nests are within the area to be cleared. Where nest mounds are observed the access track will be realigned to avoid these and the surrounding habitat.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant fauna can be managed with the conditions set out below.

Conditions

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

- avoidance and minimisation to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing,
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds and dieback to adjacent vegetation,
- directional clearing. Slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity will minimise impact to individuals,

- revegetate and rehabilitate by retaining vegetative material and topsoil and respreading over temporarily cleared areas.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Shire of Laverton were contacted and informed of the proposed clearing and did not provide comments.

No Aboriginal sites of significance have been 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. The application area intersects Aboriginal Nangaanya-Ku Lands and Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

The applicant provided evidence that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage will be granting a section 91 licence to the Department of Defence upon registration of the ILUA between the Department of Defence and the Barra Parrapi Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC. ILUA registration is expected to occur in March 2026 (DoD, 2026). The Delegated Officer determined that evidence was sufficient to grant a clearing permit.

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. It is surrounded by land zoned for pastoral and mining use. Special data indicates the local area 20 kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 100 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.
Ecological linkage	There are no ecological linkages within or adjacent to the application area
Conservation areas	There are no conservation areas within or adjacent to the application area. The nearest conservation area is Yeo Lake Nature Reserve for the conservation of Flora And Fauna, located 36 kilometres south of the application area.
Vegetation description	Ecology survey report (Jacobs, 2025) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of four broad vegetation groups recorded at the working accommodation sites, impact sites and access track namely: • Sand plains with Spinifex hummock grassland with mixed shrubs and emergent Marble Gum and Mallee (Hummock Grassland) • Sand plains with Marble Gum / Mallee low open woodland over Spinifex hummock grassland (Open Woodland) • Low sand dunes with Marble Gum / Mallee low open woodland over Spinifex hummock grassland (Dunes) • Sandy shallow depressions with Mulga tall shrubland (Mulga Tall Shrubland) The full survey descriptions and maps are available in appendix D. This is consistent with the mapped vegetation type: • GREAT VICTORIA DESERT_19, which is described as Mulga Acacia aneura and associated species Low woodland, open low woodland or sparse woodland. (Shepherd et al, 2001) *The mapped vegetation type retains approximately 99.98 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).*
Vegetation condition	Ecology survey report (Jacobs, 2025) indicate that each vegetation type within the proposed clearing area is in excellent condition (Trudgen, 1991). Representative photos of the vegetation types are shown within appendix D. The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C. Survey descriptions are available in appendix D.
Climate and landform	The proposed action area is located within the desert, hot (persistently dry) climate class, as defined by the Köppen classification (BoM, 2024). Maximum temperatures range from 34 to 38 degrees Celsius in December and January to18 to 21 degrees Celsius in June and July. Minimum temperatures range from 20 to 23 degrees Celsius in January and December to 6 degrees Celsius in July (Jacobs, 2025) the average heaviest rainfall is 49.1 ml during February and the lowest is 7.5ml during august (BoM, 2025).
Soil description	According to available datasets, the mapped soils within the application are described as; • plains and dunes--longitudinal and ring dunes with interdune corridors and plains; occasional salt pans

Characteristic	Details
	• plains with extensive gravel pavements and small tracts of longitudinal dunes
Land degradation risk	The mapped vegetation type of dunes is susceptible to erosion if cleared. There is no risk of acid sulfate soil (ASS), water erosion, waterlogging, or salinity risk occurring within the application area.
Waterbodies and Hydrogeography	According to available datasets, there are no waterbodies or waterlines interesting the application area. Lake Yeo and Lake Throssell (Wetlands of National Importance) are located adjacent to the western extent of the application area. The application area does not intersect the catchments for these wetlands. Groundwater across the proposed action area is between 22.2 to 83 m below ground level (Jacobs, 2025). The groundwater salinity within the application area is 1000-3000 total dissolved solids mg/L
Flora	According to available datasets and the 2025 environmental survey report, there are no records of conservation significant flora species within the application area.
Ecological communities	There are no Threatened Ecological Communities within the local area of the application area
Fauna	According to available datasets, there are no records of conservation significant fauna species within the local area (20km radius). The ecological survey identified the potential for two fauna species to be impacted by the proposed clearing.

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Great Victoria Desert	21,794,222.05	21,784,887.23	99.96	1,844,351.02	8.47
Vegetation complex					
GREAT VICTORIA DESERT_19	2866602.03	2866298.72	99.98	-	-
Local area					
20km radius	342,667.00	342,667.00	100.00	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

**Government of Western Australia (2019b)

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: According to the Jacobs 2025 ecological survey vegetation mapping, the application area includes four different vegetation types which may comprise of a high variety of biodiversity and available habitat. 12 Priority species of flora were assessed as likely or potentially present within the application area. These species were not found within the field survey. Seven species of conservation significant fauna were assessed as likely or potentially present within the application area, with three of the species listed as priority under DBCA and four listed under the EPBC Act. These species were not found during the flora survey (Jacobs, 2025a).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above*
Principle (b): "*Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna."* Assessment: Seven species of conservation significant fauna were assessed as likely or potential to be utilising the application area. None were found during the field survey. The ecological survey did not identify any EPBC Act or Western Australian *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) listed Threatened species. The ecological survey did record tracks and diggings of the brush-tailed mulgara (Jacobs, 2025a).	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed as threatened under the BC Act. No flora listed as Threatened under the EPBC Act were recorded during the ecological survey and no threatened flora species were identified likely to occur according to the EPBC Act Protected Matters Search Tool assessment.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (d): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."* Assessment: There are no threatened ecological communities within the local area of the application area (20km radius).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation type and the 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.	Not at variance	No
Principle (h): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."* Assessment: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of conservation areas.	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given no watercourses are recorded within 2 kilometres of the application area, and the nearest wetland is located 15 kilometres west of the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The application area contains sand dunes, which are recognised to be sensitive landscape features that may be susceptible to erosion if disturbed. Only a very small portion of the application area is mapped as the dune vegetation type, therefore impacts will be minor. Given the distance of significant waterways and tributaries in proximity to the application area (the exception being Yeo Lake in the south-west), and depth to groundwater (greater than 20 m) and the high remnant vegetation within the local area, there is no risk of acid sulphate soil (ASS), water erosion, waterlogging, or salinity risk occurring within the application area. The applicant has confirmed minimisation methods of remediation (see section 3.1) which will minimise the potential for erosion of cleared areas. Noting the above, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given the clearing activities and no watercourses or wetlands are recorded within or adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: The soils, and topographic contours in the highly vegetated surrounding area indicate the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding. Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within or adjacent to the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to waterlogging.	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. Biological survey information excerpts

Table 6-6. Priority listed flora species identified from State databases

Species Name	Conservation Status	Species Name	Conservation Status
Eremophila aureivisca	Priority 1	*Acacia eremophila* var. Numerous-nerved variant (A.S. George 11924)	Priority 3
Korthalsella leucothrix	Priority 1	*Bossiaea eremaea*	Priority 3
Neurachne lanigera	Priority 1	*Elatine macrocalyx*	Priority 3
Verticordia mirabilis	Priority 1	*Eleocharis papillosa*	Priority 3
Abutilon sp. Warburton (A.S. George 8164)	Priority 1	*Goodenia lyrata*	Priority 3
Aenictophyton anomalum	Priority 1	*Grevillea obliquistigma* subsp. *cullenii*	Priority 3
Eragrostis sp. Lake Carey (J. Paterson & J. Warden WB 40825)	Priority 1	*Melaleuca apostiba*	Priority 3
Grevillea sp. Victoria Desert (R. Davis et al. RD 11611)	Priority 1	*Sauropus* sp. Woolgorong (M. Officer s.n. 10/8/94)	Priority 3
Labichea deserticola	Priority 1	*Sporobolus blakei*	Priority 3
Micromyrtus helmsii	Priority 1	*Thryptomene nealensis*	Priority 3
Calytrix warburtonensis	Priority 2	*Verticordia jamiesonii*	Priority 3
Dampiera eriantha	Priority 2	*Conospermum toddii*	Priority 4
Eremophila undulata	Priority 2	*Comesperma viscidulum*	Priority 4
Caesia sp. Great Victoria Desert (C. Tauss 2835)	Priority 2	*Frankenia glomerata*	Priority 4
Calytrix gypsophila	Priority 2	*Grevillea secunda*	Priority 4
Eremophila jamesiorum	Priority 2	*Olearia arida*	Priority 4
Grammosolen odgersii subsp. *odgersii*	Priority 2		

Green highlighting indicates species potentially occurring within the proposed action area.

Table 4-3. Vegetation characteristics - *Triodia basedowii* (Hard Spinifex) / *T. schinzii* (Feather-top Spinifex) hummock grassland

Lifeform/Height class	Canopy cover (%)	Dominant taxa present
Tall shrubs 3.5 m	1	*Grevillea juncifolia*
Medium shrubs 1.5 m	3	*Eremophila forrestii, Acacia aptaneura, Micromyrtus flaviflora loxophylla*
Hummock grassland 0.25 m to 0.4 m	25	*Triodia basedowii, T. schinzii*

Figure 4-2. Representative photo of *Triodia basedowii* (Hard Spinifex) / *T. schinzii* (Feather-top Spinifex) hummock grassland with scattered shrubs and emergent *Grevillea juncifolia* (Honeysuckle Spider-flower) and *Eremophila forrestii* (Forrest's Emubush) vegetation community within Impact Site **T2**.

Table 4-6. Vegetation characteristics - *Triodia basedowii* (Hard Spinifex) hummock grassland

Lifeform/Height class	Canopy cover (%)	Dominant taxa present
Shrubs 2.0 m	2	*Acacia pruinocarpa*
Low shrubs 0.7 m	4	*Androcalva loxophylla, Bonamia erecta*
Hummock grassland 0.3 m	30	*Triodia schinzii, Amphipogon sericeus, Eragrostis eriopoda*

Figure 4-5. Representative photo of *Triodia basedowii* (Hard Spinifex) hummock grassland with emergent *Acacia pruinocarpa* (Black Gidgee) and scattered low shrubs vegetation community within the BPAC portion of the DA.

Table 4-7. Vegetation characteristics - *Triodia schinzii* (Feather-top Spinifex) hummock grassland

Lifeform/Height class	Canopy cover (%)	Dominant taxa present
Mallee 3.0 m	2	*Eucalyptus youngiana*
Low shrubs 0.7 m	3	*Eremophila forrestii, Androcalva loxophylla, Scaevola basedowii*
Hummock grassland 0.4 m	25	*Triodia schinzii*

Figure 4-6. Representative photo of *Triodia schinzii* (Feather-top Spinifex) hummock grassland with emergent *Eucalyptus youngiana* (Ooldea Mallee) and scattered shrubs vegetation community within Working Accommodation Site W3.

Table 4-8. Vegetation characteristics - *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* (Marble Gum) low open woodland

Lifeform/Height class	Canopy cover (%)	Dominant taxa present
Tree 6.0 m	10	*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*
Shrubs 2.5 m	5	*Grevillea juncifolia, Micromyrtus flaviflora*
Hummock/ tussock grassland 0.4 m	25	*Triodia basedowii*

Figure 4-7. Representative photo of *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* (Marble Gum) low open woodland with mixed tall shrubs over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland within the BPAC portion of the DA.

Table 4-10. Vegetation characteristics - *Acacia aptaneura* (Narrow-leaf Mulga) / *A. aneura* (Mulga) tall shrubland

Lifeform/Height class	Canopy cover (%)	Dominant taxa present
Tall shrubs 2.5 m to 3.5 m	40	*Acacia aptaneura, A. aneura*
Shrubs 1.2 m	1	*Eremophila latrobei, Aluta maisonneuvei*
Tussock grassland 0.3 m	2	*Triodia basedowii, Aristida contorta*

Figure 4-9. Representative photo of *Acacia aptaneura* (Narrow-leaf Mulga) / *A. aneura* (Mulga) tall shrubland to low woodland over scattered shrubs and tussock grasses vegetation community potentially traversed by access tracks within the BPAC portion of the DA

Table 9-1. Potential impacts to MNES

Risk, threat or hazard	Potential impacts
Clearing for access track, working accommodation site or impact site	▪ Clearing of trees with breeding hollows for Princess Parrot ▪ Clearing of shrubland habitat for Malleefowl, Southern Whiteface ▪ Clearing of tall trees that could be used by Grey Falcon for nesting or roosting ▪ Clearing of sandplain habitat occupied by Tjakura ▪ Clearing of hunting habitat for Grey Falcon ▪ Mortality of Tjakura, Princess Parrot, Sandhill Dunnart, Malleefowl
Dune crossing for access track	Clearing of dune habitat occupied by Sandhill Dunnart
Vehicle traffic along access track (day and night)	Mortality of Tjakura, Princess Parrot, Sandhill Dunnart, Malleefowl
Projectile impacts at impact sites and misfires	Mortality of Tjakura or Grey Falcon
Excavation for projectile recovery	▪ Clearing of sandplain habitat occupied by Tjakura ▪ Clearing of hunting habitat for Grey Falcon ▪ Mortality of Tjakura
Presence of access track	Barrier to movement of Tjakura and Sandhill Dunnart
Introduction of weeds to proposed action area	Degradation of habitat for Threatened fauna

Table 11-1. Fauna habitat clearing requirements - Nangaanya-Ku Lands

Habitat	Vegetation Community	Species	Clearing footprint (ha)			
			Preferred options	Preferred and secondary options	Alternate options	All options
Sandplains with hummock grassland	▪ *Triodia basedowii/T schinzii* hummock grassland with emergent *Grevillea juncifolia* and scattered low shrubs ▪ *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland with emergent Acacia pruinocarpa and scattered low shrubs ▪ *Triodia schinzii* hummock grassland with emergent *Eucalyptus youngiana* and scattered low shrubs ▪ *Eremophila forrestii* low open shrubland over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland ▪ *Acacia pachyacra* open shrubland over *Triodia schinzii* hummock grassland with and scattered low shrubs ▪ *Grevillea juncifolia* tall open shrubland with emergent *Eucalyptus youngiana / E. gongylocarpa* over *Triodia basedowii/T schinzii* hummock grassland	Tjakura Grey Falcon	15.8	25.9	10.0	35.8
Sand dunes	▪ *Eucalyptus youngiana* low open mallee +/- emergent *E. gongylocarpa* with mixed tall shrubs over *Triodia schinzii/T. basedowii* hummock grassland	Sandhill Dunnart Grey Falcon	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3

Habitat	Vegetation Community	Species	Clearing footprint (ha)			
			Preferred options	Preferred and secondary options	Alternate options	All options
Mulga Tall Shrubland	▪ *Acacia aneura/ A. aptaneura* tall shrubland to low woodland over scattered shrubs and tussock grasses	Southern Whiteface Grey Falcon Malleefowl Princess Parrot	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.3
Open Woodland	▪ *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* low open woodland over *Triodia schinzii/T. basedowii* hummock grassland	Southern Whiteface Grey Falcon Malleefowl Princess Parrot	2.8	6.3	5.3	11.6
Total clearing footprint			**19.3**	**32.7**	**16.3**	**49.0**

Table 11-2. Fauna habitat clearing requirements - Ngaanyatjarra Lands

Habitat	Vegetation Community	Species	Clearing footprint (ha)	
			Preferred options	Preferred and secondary options
Sandplains with hummock grassland	▪ *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland with scattered shrubs and emergent *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Eremophila forrestii* ▪ *Triodia schinzii* hummock grassland with scattered *Eremophila forrestii* and emergent *Grevillea juncifolia* ▪ *Triodia schinzii* hummock grassland with scattered *Eremophila forrestii* and emergent *Eucalyptus youngiana* ▪ *Aluta maisonneuvei / Androcalva loxophylla* low shrubland over *Triodia basedowii* hummock grassland with emergent *Acacia aptaneura*	Tjakura Grey Falcon	8.2	17.5
Open Woodland	▪ *Eucalyptus gongylocarpa* low open woodland over *Triodia schinzii/T. basedowii* hummock grassland	Southern Whiteface Grey Falcon Malleefowl Princess Parrot	8.5	8.5
Total clearing footprint			**16.7**	**26.0**

Table D-1. Likelihood of occurrence criteria

Likelihood	Criteria
Present	▪ Any species recorded at the site during the site assessments.
High likelihood (likely)	Species recorded during the site assessments or species not recorded that fit one or more of the following criteria: ▪ Have frequently been recorded previously in the site/locality. ▪ Use habitat types or resources that are present on the site that are in abundance and/or are in good condition within the site. ▪ Are known to or are likely to maintain resident populations surrounding the site. ▪ Are known to or are likely to visit the site during regular seasonal movements or migration.
Moderate likelihood (potential)	Species not recorded during the site assessment that fit one or more of the following criteria: ▪ Have infrequently been recorded previously in the site/surrounds. ▪ Use specific habitats or resources present on the site but they are in a poor or modified condition. ▪ Are unlikely to maintain sedentary populations, however, may seasonally use resources within the site opportunistically or during migration. ▪ Are cryptic flowering flora species that were not seasonally targeted by survey and that have not been recorded.
Low likelihood (unlikely)	Species not recorded during site assessments and fit one or more of the following criteria: ▪ Have not been recorded previously in the site/locality and for which the site is beyond the current distribution range. ▪ Use specific habitats or resources that are not present in the site. ▪ Are a non-cryptic perennial flora species that were specifically targeted by surveys and not recorded.
Negligible likelihood	▪ Conditions within the proposed action area are incongruous with requirements of the taxon (e.g. marine pelagic taxon could not occur in a terrestrial area; or a highly degraded environment lacking in habitat features required for taxon), and/or ▪ The taxon has been deemed absent after sufficient survey effort (criterion generally reserved for particularly conspicuous taxa).
N/A	▪ Legislation protecting taxon does not apply within the proposed action area, as: - The proposed action area is outside the natural geographic range of the taxon, and/or - The taxon is present for non-conservation purposes (e.g., planted for amenity, or has become naturalised in the area).

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from 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
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