Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11317/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Focus Operations Pty Ltd
Application received:	31 October 2025
Application area:	500 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 15/237, 15/410, 15/412, 15/646, 15/675, 15/966, 15/1262 and 15/1293
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Coolgardie
Colloquial name:	Coolgardie South Operations

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Focus Operations Pty Ltd proposes to clear up to 500 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 807.9 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Focus, 2025). The project is located approximately 1.4 kilometres southeast of the Coolgardie town centre, within the Shire of Coolgardie (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the development of the Coolgardie South Operational Area (CSOA), including the expansion of the existing Tindals underground project, a cutback of the Brilliant open pit, reclamation of historic tailings and vat leach stockpiles; and commencement of new open pit projects including: Undaunted, Brilliant, Happy Jack and Cookes (Focus Minerals, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	19 March 2026
Decision area:	500 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for public comment for a period of 21 days, and one submission was received (Appendix A).

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix B), relevant datasets (Appendix H), the results of flora and vegetation surveys (Appendix E) and fauna surveys of the application area (Appendix F), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix C), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3).

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

- impacts to conservation significant flora species *Acacia websteri*;
- the potential introduction and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values;
- the loss of native vegetation that is suitable habitat for inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*), arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*) and malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*);
- increased risk of terrestrial fauna injury or mortality from mechanical clearing;
- the loss of native vegetation that is associated with a watercourse; and
- potential land degradation in the form of wind or water erosion.

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

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;
- a flora management (*Acacia websteri*) condition requiring areas that were not included in Terratree (2021a; 2021b) and Native Vegetation Solutions (2025) surveys to be surveyed for the presence of *Acacia websteri*. The species will be flagged and a ten metre buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- at least once in each 12 month period for the term of this permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any weeds growing within areas cleared under this permit.
- slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition where no clearing within 50 metres of identified inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*) locations is permitted;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas that have not been previously surveyed for the ABAB host ant to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds
- where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation;
- a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing; and
- a staged clearing condition to minimise risk of erosion.

1.5. Site map

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

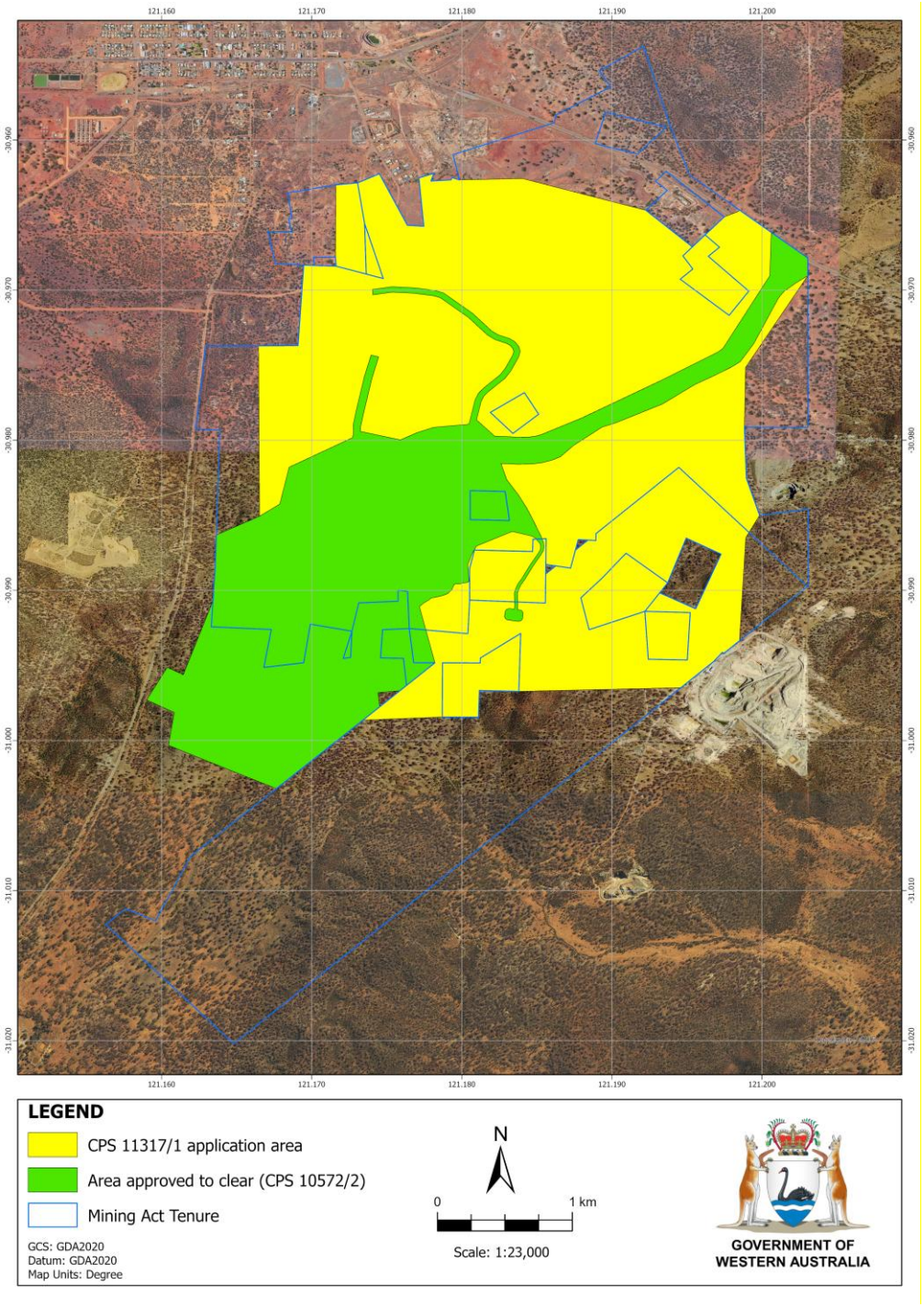

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area applied to clear under CPS 11317/1. The green area indicates the area approved to clear under CPS 10572/2.

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
- the polluter pays principle

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

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

- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

Relevant agreements (treaties) considered during the assessment include:

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

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

Avoidance measures were submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that the design, process and methodology of clearing have been considered, to reduce the impacts of clearing (Focus Minerals, 2025). Additionally, the applicant submitted mitigation measures, relating to air quality, land and soils, fauna, vegetation, weeds and rehabilitation (Focus Minerals, 2025). 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 B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

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

3.2.1. Biological values (flora) - Clearing principle (a)

Assessment

Priority 1

Acacia websteri occurs on red sand, clay or loam, in low-lying areas or on flats (WAH, 1998-). *Acacia websteri* was recorded during the survey by Terratree (2021a), less than 400 metres west of the application area. This record was found within the *Acacia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. community (Terratree, 2021a). Following the initial recording, Terratree (2021b) conducted a survey targeting *Acacia websteri* within the *Acacia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. community, and parts of the *Eucalyptus griffithsii* community. Of the three areas of targeted surveying undertaken by Terratree (2021b), only the southern survey area was located within the application area. No *Acacia websteri* specimens were recorded in this area (Terratree, 2021b). The surveys by Terratree (2021a; 2021b) were only conducted over parts of the application area, with remaining areas being surveyed by 360 Environmental (2022a) and Native Vegetation Solutions (2025). Native Vegetation Solutions (2025) determined that *Acacia websteri* was unlikely to occur within the survey area, as extensive searching within suitable habitat has been conducted. Although it has not been recorded within the application area, *Acacia websteri* is considered likely to occur in the areas not included in the Terratree (2021a; 2021b) and Native Vegetation Solutions (2025) surveys (360 Environmental, 2022a). As a Priority 1 species, it is recommended that all potential impacts to *Acacia websteri* be avoided and surveys be conducted over areas of suitable habitat to reduce potential impacts (Terratree, 2021a; 2021b).

Thryptomene planiflora is recorded on plains, with yellow or brown to red sandy soils, in shrublands that are often dominated by Acacia (Rye, 2020). It is known from 23 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records in the Coolgardie bioregion. *Thryptomene planiflora* is known from multiple records within the conservation estate (GIS Database). *Thryptomene planiflora* is locally abundant where it has been recorded to the southeast of the application area (GIS Database). As *Thryptomene planiflora* would likely be flowering at the time of survey, no other species from the *Thryptomene* genus were recorded, and it is locally abundant when detected, it is unlikely to occur undetected within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2025; Rye, 2020; Terratree, 2021a).

Acacia coatesii is a low domed, intricately branched, compact, rigid sub-shrub, 20 to 40 centimetres tall and 0.5 to 1.5 metres across, plants forming hemispherical cushions (see Figure 2, Appendix G). This species has been recorded flowering in early September, and it is suspected that the flowering period would extend from mid-August to early October (Maslin, 2014). Pods with immature seeds have been collected in late November and early December; mature seeds are likely to be present in mid to late December (Maslin, 2014). *Acacia coatesii* is known from five Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records in the Coolgardie bioregion, with the nearest record located less than 10 kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). This species occurs in shallow, red sandy clay soils on flat or gently sloping ground towards the base of low greenstone ridges in open woodland dominated by *Eucalyptus* species over open shrubland (Maslin, 2014; Maslin, 2018; WAH, 1998-). Within the application area, suitable habitat for this species likely occurs (360 Environmental, 2022a). Despite the application area containing suitable habitat, this species was not recorded during flora surveys (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; 2021b). This species should have been detectable at the time of survey due to its distinct form and the likelihood of flowers or seed pods being present at the time of the flora surveys (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025;

Terratree, 2021a; 2021b). This species is dissimilar to all *Acacia* species recorded within the application area; therefore, it is unlikely to be misidentified (360 Environmental, 2022a; Maslin, 2014; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; 2021b; WAH 1998-).

Dampiera plumosa occurs on red sandy soils (WAH, 1998-). It is known from seven Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions. Only one record occurs within 50 kilometres of the application area, with all other records being further north (GIS Database). This record is from 1900, prior to the formal description of the species (WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). As this species is known from multiple bioregions and the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the species (GIS Database). Additionally, as there have been no recent records of this species in the local area, the likelihood of occurrence is reduced.

Lepidosperma sp. Parker Range inhabits rocky soils and loams on slopes (WAH, 1998-). Although suitable habitat occurs within the application area, preferred habitat is undisturbed areas with ironstone outcropping (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; WAH, 1998-; GIS Database). Given that major ironstone outcrops are not mapped within the application area, and the nearest *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range record is located over 35 kilometres from the application area, the application area is unlikely to represent critical habitat for this species (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; GIS Database). Additionally, as no species from the Cyperaceae family were recorded in surveys, it is unlikely that *Lepidosperma* sp. Parker Range would be misidentified in the survey (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; WAH, 1998-).

Priority 2

Lepidium merrallii occurs in clay-loam soils (WAH, 1998-). Suitable habitat for this species occurs within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a). The nearest record of *Lepidium merrallii* is less than two kilometres from the application area (GIS Database). However, this record is the only record in the local area, was recorded in 1895, and more recent records have been from significantly further northwest (GIS Database). As there have been no recent records of this species in the local area, the likelihood of occurrence is reduced.

Austrostipa frankliniae (formerly known as *Austrostipa* sp. Dowerin) has been recorded in open woodlands or shrublands on a range of soil types (WAH, 1998-). 360 Environmental (2022a), Native Vegetation Solutions (2023), and Terratree (2021a) recorded sterile *Austrostipa* specimens within the application area, which were unable to be identified to a species level. As suitable habitat occurs within the application area, *Austrostipa frankliniae* has been recorded within ten kilometres of the application area, and it may have been unidentifiable in surveys, it is considered possibly occurring. *Austrostipa frankliniae* is known to occur in conservation reserves in the Coolgardie, Avon Wheatbelt, and Murchison bioregions (WAH, 1998-; Williams, 2022). As habitat and records of this species are widespread, and the species has been recorded within the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of this species.

Priority 3

Eremophila veronica inhabits stony clay or clay-loam soils with laterite (WAH, 1998-). Potentially suitable habitat occurs within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a). As *Eremophila veronica* is known from 16 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie and Murchison bioregions and is represented in conservation reserves, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of Eremophila veronica, if it were to occur within the application area (GIS Database).

Chrysocephalum apiculatum subsp. *norsemanense* grows in a variety of soil types including sand, sandy clay, loamy and calcrete soils (WAH, 1998-; Wilson, 2016). The nearest record of this species is from 1982, with the location listed as 10-16 kilometres west of Coolgardie (GIS Database). *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* subsp. *norsemanense* is known from 18 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records including several within the conservation estate (GIS Database). Most records of this taxon have come from Norseman and the surrounding area, including east to the Fraser Range area (Wilson, 2016; GIS Database). As habitat for this taxon is widespread, it is known from the conservation estate, and the application area is outside of the core distribution of this taxon, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* subsp. *norsemanense*.

Grevillea georgeana occurs in open shrub associations in stony loam or clay soils, on ironstone hillslopes (Howes, 2021; WAH, 1998-). Suitable habitat for this species occurs within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023). As *Grevillea georgeana* was likely flowering at the time of survey, it would have been distinguishable from other *Grevillea* recorded (Howes, 2021; NVS, 2023; Terratree, 2021a; WAH, 1998-). Therefore, the likelihood of occurrence within the application area is lowered. Additionally, as *Grevillea georgeana* is known from 66 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records across two bioregions, including several records within the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant to the conservation of this species.

Austrostipa turbinata (formerly known as *Austrostipa* sp. Carlingup Road) is a perennial tussock grass that flowers September to October and fruits November to December (Williams, 2022). This species is known from 25 Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records across the Coolgardie, Avon Wheatbelt, Esperance Plains and Mallee bioregions. This species has been recorded in a variety of different habitats within its distribution, however is primarily found on hills or slopes with brown loam or red-brown sandy clay loams, where eucalypt species are present (WAH, 1998-). Although suitable habitat occurs within the application area, this species would likely have been flowering at the time of survey and was not recorded (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a). As this species is well known from multiple bioregions, including records within the conservation estate, the proposed clearing of suitable habitat for this species is not likely to have a significant impact to the conservation of this species (WAH, 1998-).

Xanthoparmelia dayiana is a lichen that occurs on lateritic rocks (ANBG, 2011; WAH, 1998-). It is known from five Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) records from the Coolgardie, Murchison and Yalgoo bioregions. As a non-vascular species, surveys of the application area were unlikely to detect *Xanthoparmelia dayiana*, as non-vascular taxa were outside the survey scope (360 Environmental, 2022a; DEW, 2026; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a). For this reason, *Xanthoparmelia dayiana* is likely to be more common than what is known from records. As habitat and records of this species are widespread, and it has been recorded within the conservation estate, the proposed clearing is unlikely to be significant for the conservation of this species (GIS Database).

Weeds

Weeds have the potential to reduce the biodiversity of an area and outcompete native vegetation.

The following weed species have been detected in flora surveys of the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; 2021b):

- *Agave americana* (century plant);
- *Asphodelus fistulosus* (onion weed);
- *Carrichtera annua* (Ward's weed);
- *Centaurea melitensis* (Maltese cockspur);
- *Crassula ovata* (jade tree);
- *Cuscuta planiflora* (red dodder);
- *Cylindropuntia tunicata* (Hudson pear);
- *Dittrichia graveolens* (stinkwort);
- *Heliotropium europaeum* (common heliotrope);
- *Lycium ferocissimum* (African boxthorn);
- *Nicotiana glauca* (tree tobacco);
- *Oligocarpus calendulaceus*;
- *Opuntia stricta* (common prickly pear);
- *Rumex vesicaria* (ruby dock);
- *Salvia verbenaca* (wild sage);
- *Schinus molle* (peppertree);
- *Schinus molle var. areira*; and
- *Sonchus asper* (rough sowthistle).

Of these, *Cylindropuntia tunicata* (Hudson pear), *Lycium ferocissimum* (African boxthorn) and *Opuntia stricta* (common prickly pear) are listed as weeds of national significance (WoNS) (360 Environmental, 2022a; Terratree, 2021a; 2021b).

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in significant impacts to *Acacia websteri* and reduced biodiversity due to weed infestation. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant flora can be managed by avoiding and minimising the extent of clearing, conducting a targeted flora survey for the presence of *Acacia websteri*, taking hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds, and removing or killing any weeds growing within areas cleared under this permit at least once in each 12 month period for the term of this permit.

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;
- a flora management (*Acacia websteri*) condition requiring areas that were not included in Terratree (2021a; 2021b) and Native Vegetation Solutions (2025) surveys to be surveyed for the presence of *Acacia websteri*. The species will be flagged and a ten metre buffer will be erected to ensure the preservation of identified individuals;
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds; and
- at least once in each 12 month period for the term of this permit, the Permit Holder must remove or kill any weeds growing within areas cleared under this permit.

3.2.2. Biological values (fauna) - Clearing principles (a) and (b)

Assessment

Invertebrates

Inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*), Priority 2, is a butterfly species known from the Goldfields region (DBCA, 2025). 360 Environmental (2022b) opportunistically observed inland hairstreak in three locations, during a survey targeting *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*. Of these three locations, one is located within the application area, one is located approximately 15 metres from the application area, and one is located approximately 300 metres from the application area (and within the CPS 10572/2 permit boundary) (360 Environmental, 2022b; GIS Database). A total of 16 adult inland hairstreaks were observed in the survey (360 Environmental, 2022b). These records are of high conservation significance as *Jalmenus aridus* has a spatially patchy distribution with only 10 known breeding sites within an area just over 5,000 square kilometres (DBCA, 2024; Eastwood et al., 2023). The records from 360 Environmental (2022b) are the most southerly records of the species and represent a range extension (DBCA, 2024). Furthermore, *Jalmenus aridus* has been determined to have a 30 percent chance of going extinct in the wild by 2040 without proper management such as habitat protection (Geyle et al., 2021). As *Jalmenus aridus* are extremely localised, with adults displaying strong natal hostplant fidelity, any identified sites should be retained with an adequate buffer to reduce indirect impacts (Eastwood et al., 2023; DBCA, 2024). Additionally, targeted surveys are recommended to identify the extent of breeding habitat within the application area (DBCA, 2024).

Arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) (*Ogyris petrina*), Critically Endangered, is threatened by clearing and habitat degradation (DBCA, 2026). The ABAB has an obligate association with a sugar ant, *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*, so critical breeding habitat for ABAB are areas that have colonies of the host ant (DBCA, 2026). The host ant creates nests at the base of smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* trees (DBCA, 2026). Approximately 569 hectares (70 percent) of the application area was included in a targeted survey for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* (360 Environmental, 2022b). No colonies of *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* were detected within the survey area (360 Environmental, 2022b). A single colony of ants in the genus *Camponotus* was observed; however, the ants were identified as *Camponotus nigriceps*, which is not associated with the ABAB (360 Environmental, 2022b). The remaining 30 percent of the application area has not been surveyed for the ABAB host ant, so

these areas may include critical ABAB breeding habitat (DBCA, 2026). Habitat mapping of the area where *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* surveys have not been conducted indicates that *Acacia* shrubland, drainage area, mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland, salmon gum woodland and degraded habitats occur (Western Ecological, 2024). The mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland and salmon gum woodland habitats are likely to be suitable habitat for *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans*, as these habitats both contain smooth-barked *Eucalyptus* species, including salmon gum, which is a species known to support *Camponotus* sp. nr. *terebrans* (DBCA, 2020b; 2026; Western Ecological, 2024). According to survey requirements, as there is woodland with smooth-barked eucalypts present within the application area, an ant survey is required to determine potential impacts to ABAB (DBCA, 2020a). This survey will be required for the remaining 30 percent of the application area that has not been previously surveyed for the ABAB host ant.

Wetland birds

Several wetland bird species have been recorded in close proximity to the application area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database). While some suitable habitat may occur within the application area, these species are unlikely to be dependent on these habitats (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; Focus Minerals, 2025).

Other birds

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Vulnerable, has been recently recorded within three kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). Malleefowl occurs in a range of habitat types, primarily found in semi-arid to arid shrublands and low woodlands dominated by mallee and associated habitats, such as broombush (*Melaleuca uncinata*) and native pine (*Callitris* spp.) scrub (DCCEEW, 2024). Their nests are constructed in sandy soil and leaf litter by the building of a large mound for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). 360 Environmental (2022a) considers that the *Eucalyptus* woodland habitat, which occurs within the application area, may be suitable for malleefowl breeding. All areas occupied by malleefowl are considered important for malleefowl conservation (DCCEEW, 2024). Additionally, malleefowl may be at greater risk of injury or mortality from mechanical clearing, as it is a ground-dwelling bird (DCCEEW, 2024).

Carnaby's cockatoo (*Zanda latirostris*), Endangered, usually occurs in the Southwest, Swan Coastal Plain, Southern Coast and Wheatbelt, with most records occurring south of 29°S and west of 120°E (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; IUCN, 2022). However, there have been four recent (2016-2018) records of Carnaby's cockatoos in Kalgoorlie (GIS Database). Carnaby's cockatoo breeding habitat includes *Eucalyptus* trees capable of producing suitable breeding hollows, including salmon gum, which is present within the application area (Commonwealth of Australia, 2022; Terratree, 2021a; Western Ecological, 2024). The distribution of Carnaby's cockatoos has become more restricted in the past 50 years, with the distribution moving further southwest (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). As there are only four other Carnaby's cockatoo records within the Coolgardie bioregion – all being greater than 25 years old, it is believed that the aforementioned occurrences of Carnaby's cockatoos in Kalgoorlie were extraordinary (GIS Database). Therefore, it is unlikely that Carnaby's cockatoos occur within the application area, despite the presence of suitable habitat.

Mammals

Central long-eared bat (*Nyctophilus major tor*), Priority 3, was recorded approximately 1.5 kilometres from the application area in 1984 (GIS Database). This is the only record of this species in the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database). However, the species is considered cryptic, and is likely more common than records suggest, occurring in eucalypt woodlands with prominent shrub strata and around the fringes of sheoak and wattle thickets that surround granite outcrops and old dams in these woodlands (DBCA, 2024; McKenzie & Parnaby, 2008). Although suitable habitat for this species occurs within the application area, the habitat is unlikely to be critical, as suitable habitat is widespread, and the central long-eared bat has additional records in the broader area (DBCA, 2024).

Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii*), Vulnerable, can occur in a range of habitats, including forest, mallee shrubland, woodland and desert (DEC, 2012). Chuditch previously occurred throughout arid and semi-arid Australia, but is now restricted to southwest Western Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008). Within their current range chuditch occur within jarrah forests and woodlands in south-western corner of Western Australia, woodlands, mallee shrublands and heaths along the south coast of Western Australia east to Ravensthorpe, and drier woodlands and mallee shrubland within the Wheatbelt and Goldfields region (DEC, 2012). The application area is located at the edge of this species known distribution and suitable habitat range, and the nearest record dates to 1974 (Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database). 360 Environmental (2022a) recorded a scat approximately 4.6 kilometres north of the application area, believed to be from chuditch. 360 Environmental (now SLR consultants) have stated that they no longer believe the scat previously recorded to be chuditch scat on the balance of probabilities, however as the scat has not been genetically tested and therefore its origin is unknown (SLR Consultants, 2025). Additionally, chuditch often leave scats repeatedly at the same latrine site, usually in conspicuous places such as rocks or boulders (Triggs, 2004). Further site assessments and camera surveys conducted near the recorded scat and within the Coolgardie Gold Project have not detected any further evidence of chuditch presence (DMPE, 2025c; Western Ecological, 2023; 2024). As no additional scats, or other signs of chuditch, have been recorded it is unlikely this species is present near the recorded scat, or in its local area, including the CPS 11317/1 application area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing may result in significant impacts inland hairstreak, arid bronze azure butterfly, malleefowl and their habitats. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on conservation significant fauna can be managed by avoiding and minimising the extent of clearing, slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity and fauna management conditions for inland hairstreak, arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB) and malleefowl.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly), *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

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;
- slow directional clearing to allow fauna to move into adjacent vegetation ahead of the clearing activity;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition where no clearing within 50 metres of identified inland hairstreak (*Jalmenus aridus*) locations is permitted;
- a fauna management (inland hairstreak) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat and inland hairstreak individuals, and no clearing within 50 metres of inland hairstreak host plants;
- a fauna management (ABAB) condition requiring areas that have not been previously surveyed for the ABAB host ant to be surveyed to identify potential critical habitat, ant colonies and ABAB individuals, and no clearing within 100 metres of ant colonies; and
- a fauna management (malleefowl) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 September and 31 January are inspected to identify active (in use) malleefowl mounds, and to maintain a 200 metre buffer around identified active mounds.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 16 January 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. One submission was received in relation to this application (Appendix A).

There is one native title claim (WC2017/007 - Marlinyu Ghoorlie) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on *Ogyris petrina* (arid bronze azure butterfly), *Leipoa ocellata* (malleefowl), and their habitats, which are protected matters under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments
The Shire of Coolgardie has no objections to the proposed clearing (Shire of Coolgardie, 2026).

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is located approximately 1.4 kilometres southeast of the Coolgardie town centre within the Eastern Goldfield subregion of the Coolgardie bioregion (GIS Database). The application area is within the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). The proposed clearing area adjoins an active Focus Operations Pty Ltd native vegetation clearing permit, CPS 10572/2 (DMPE, 2025a; GIS Database). CPS 10572/2 authorises clearing required for the Dreadnought and Alicia Project, which are part of the Coolgardie South Operational Area (CSOA) (DMPE, 2025b; Focus Minerals, 2025). The CPS 10572/2 permit boundary is shown in Figure 1 (Section 1.5). The area proposed to be cleared is surrounded by the Coolgardie townsite (to the northwest), other gold mining operations and native vegetation of the Great Western Woodlands (GIS Database). The predominant land use in the region is Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Crown Reserves, grazing-native pasture leasehold, freehold, conservation reserves, and mining leases (CALM, 2002).
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 Kangaroo Hills Timber Reserve located approximately seven kilometres southwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation association: **9**: Woodland, other; gimlet, redwood etc. (*E. salubris*, *E. oleosa*) (GIS Database). Flora and vegetation surveys have been conducted over the application area by 360 Environmental (2022a), Native Vegetation Solutions (2023; 2025) and Terratree (2021a). The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a): 1. *Acacia collegialis* tall shrubland; 2. *Acacia quadrimarginea* over mixed sclerophyll shrubland; 3. *Acacia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. community; 4. *Eucalyptus campaspe* (silver-topped gimlet) community; 5. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (salmon gum) community; 6. *Eucalyptus campaspe* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over chenopod shrubland on undulating hills; 7. *Eucalyptus clelandiorum* (Cleland's blackbutt) community; 8. *Eucalyptus griffithsii* community; 9. *Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* low open woodland; 10. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid isolated tree community; 11. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid open woodland; 12. *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland; 13. Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed sclerophyll shrubland; 14. Open *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland; 15. Sclerophyll shrubland on rocky hills; 16. Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland; 17. Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland on undulating hills; and D. Degraded or cleared areas. Representative photos and descriptions of these vegetation associations are available in Appendix E.
Vegetation condition	The vegetation surveys (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in excellent to completely degraded (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D.
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Goldfields subregion is arid to semi-arid with an annual rainfall average of approximately 270 millimetres recorded at Coolgardie (BoM, 2026 CALM, 2002).

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>The application area is mapped within elevations of 360 to 470 metres Australian height datum (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>The soils within the application area are broadly mapped as the following (DPIRD, 2026):
<table>
<tr><th>Land system</th><th>Description</th></tr>
<tr><td>265Co – Coolgardie system</td><td>Uplands and undulating plains associated with ultramafic greenstones, supporting eucalypt woodlands and halophytic shrublands.</td></tr>
<tr><td>265Gr – Graves system</td><td>Basalt and greenstone rises and low hills supporting eucalypt woodlands with prominent saltbush and bluebush understoreys.</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>Land degradation risk</td><td>The Coolgardie system can become susceptible to wind and water erosion when vegetative cover is reduced (Waddell et al., 2023).

The Graves system may be susceptible to erosion when disturbed (Waddell & Galloway, 2023).

The applicant also conducted testing of soil samples onsite (Focus Minerals, 2025). The results of these tests indicate that soils within the application area may be susceptible to erosion during high intensity rainfall events, particularly on slopes (Focus Minerals, 2025).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Waterbodies</td><td>The desktop assessment indicated that two minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Hydrogeography</td><td>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Broad Arrow Dam Catchment Area located approximately 58 kilometres north-northwest of the application area (GIS Database).

The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (GIS Database).

The groundwater salinity of the permit area has been broadly mapped as being 14,000 to over 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids, which is considered saline to hypersaline (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Flora</td><td>There are records of 71 conservation significant flora species within the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area), with this including two Threatened flora species, 21 Priority 1 species, 12 Priority 2 species, 31 Priority 3 species and five Priority 4 species (GIS Database). The nearest records are within one kilometre of the application area, whichare Acacia websteri and Eremophila veronica (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological communities</td><td>Biological surveys did not observe any threatened or priority ecological communities (TECs or PECs) within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a).

No TECs or PECs are known to occur within the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna</td><td>16 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded in the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database). One conservation significant fauna species, being the inland hairstreak butterfly (Jalmenus aridus), has been recorded within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022b; GIS Database).</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fauna habitat</td><td>Fauna habitat surveys have been conducted over the majority of the application area by 360 Environmental (2022a) and Western Ecological (2023; 2024). Fauna habitats in the remaining extent of the application area were inferred based on vegetation mapping by Terratree (2021a). The following fauna habitats occur within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; Terratree, 2021a; Western Ecological, 2023; 2024):
Acacia shrubland;
Acacia spp. and Allocasuarina spp. mallee shrubland;
Drainage areas;
Eucalyptus woodland;
Mallee Eucalyptus woodland;
Mixed Eucalyptus woodland;
Rocky slopes;
Salmon gum woodland; and
Disturbed areas.
Representative photos and descriptions of these habitats are available in Appendix F.</td></tr>
</table>

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Coolgardie	12,912,204.35	12,648,491.39	~98	2,114,349.37	16.37
Beard vegetation associations - State					
9	240,509.33	235,161.94	~98	18,984.28	7.89
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion (Coolgardie)					
9	240,441.99	235,100.97	~98	18,984.28	7.90

Government of Western Australia (2019)

B.3. Flora analysis table

The following conservation significant flora species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution, biological survey information and known regional records (360 Environmental, 2022a; Benl, 1983; Davison et al., 2023; Hislop & Wege, 2020; Nicolle, 2009; Nicolle & French, 2007; NVS, 2023; 2025; Rye, 2007; 2017; Terratree, 2021a; 2021b; Trudgen & Rye, 2014; WAH, 1998-; Wilson & Albrecht, 2002; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
Threatened					
Gastrolobium graniticum	N	<2	43	Y	Unlikely
Tetratheca spenceri	N	<40	4	Y	Unlikely
Priority 1					
Acacia websteri	Y	<1	21	N	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Thryptomene planiflora	Y	<3	23	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Acacia coatesii	Y	<10	5	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Dampiera plumosa	Y	<10	7	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Acacia sclerophylla var. *teretiuscula*	Y	<20	30	Y	Unlikely
Phebalium appressum	Y	<20	5	Y	Unlikely
Calandrinia lefroyensis	N	<25	11	Y	Unlikely
Pterostylis xerampelina	Y	<25	15	Y	Unlikely
Chamelaucium sp. Coolgardie (P. Pavlovic 289)	N	<30	2	Y	Unlikely
Melichrus sp. Coolgardie (K.R. Newbey 8698)	Y	<30	21	Y	Unlikely
Philotheca pachyphylla	Y	<30	11	Y	Unlikely
Ptilotus procumbens	Y	<35	5	Y	Unlikely
Cyathostemon divaricatus	Y	<40	7	Y	Unlikely
Lepidosperma sp. Parker Range (N. Gibson & M. Lyons 2094)	Y	<40	7	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Acacia epedunculata	Y	<45	8	Y	Unlikely
Ptilotus rigidus	N	<45	21	Y	Unlikely

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
Amanita mallee	Y	<50	1	Y	Unlikely
Austrostipa burgesiana	N	<50	1	Y	Unlikely
Ptilotus sp. Kalgoorlie (J. Jackson & B. Moyle 260)	N	<50	3	Y	Unlikely
Ricinocarpos digynus	Y	<50	10	Y	Unlikely
Priority 2					
Lepidium merrallii	Y	<2	3	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Eremophila praecox	Y	<5	52	Y	Unlikely
Austrostipa frankliniae (formerly *Austrostipa* sp. Dowerin)	Y	<10	9	N	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Lepidosperma sp. Kambalda (A.A. Mitchell 5156)	N	<10	2	Y	Unlikely
Phebalium clavatum	Y	<15	16	Y	Unlikely
Hakea rigida	Y	<20	19	Y	Unlikely
Brachysola halganiacea	N	<25	4	Y	Unlikely
Goodenia salina	Y	<30	14	Y	Unlikely
Acacia kerryana	Y	<40	16	Y	Unlikely
Elachanthus pusillus	Y	<40	7	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus educta	Y	<40	46	Y	Unlikely
Bossiaea laxa	N	<45	7	Y	Unlikely
Priority 3					
Eremophila veronica	Y	<1	16	Y	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Chrysocephalum apiculatum subsp. *norsemanense*	Y	<2	18	Y	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Grevillea georgeana	Y	<2	66	Y	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Phlegmatospermum eremaeum	Y	<3	19	Y	Unlikely
Austrostipa turbinata (formerly *Austrostipa* sp. Carlingup Road)	Y	<10	25	Y	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Allocasuarina eriochlamys subsp. *grossa*	N	<15	28	Y	Unlikely
Eremophila microphylla	Y	<20	18	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus urna subsp. *xesta*	Y	<20	25	Y	Unlikely
Notisia intonsa	Y	<20	29	Y	Unlikely
Stackhousia muricata subsp. Perennial (W.R. Barker 3641)	N	<20	50	Y	Unlikely
Acacia crenulata	Y	<25	25	Y	Unlikely
Bossiaea celata	N	<25	17	Y	Unlikely
Alyxia tetanifolia	Y	<30	14	Y	Unlikely
Eremophila succinea	Y	<30	10	Y	Unlikely
Isolepis australiensis	Y	<30	10	Y	Unlikely
Styphelia saxicola	Y	<30	18	Y	Unlikely
Xanthoparmelia dayiana	Y	<30	5	N	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
Gompholobium cinereum	Y	<35	18	Y	Unlikely
Melaleuca coccinea	Y	<35	35	Y	Unlikely

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]	Likelihood of occurrence
Rinzia triplex	Y	<35	13	Y	Unlikely
Styphelia rectiloba	N	<35	7	Y	Unlikely
Cratystylis centralis	Y	<40	13	Y	Unlikely
Cyathostemon verrucosus	Y	<40	22	Y	Unlikely
Lepidium fasciculatum	Y	<40	13	Y	Unlikely
Stylidium choreanthum	N	<40	30	Y	Unlikely
Cryptandra crispula	Y	<45	15	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus frenchiana	Y	<45	35	Y	Unlikely
Hibbertia pachyphylla	Y	<45	17	Y	Unlikely
Isoetes brevicula	N	<45	10	Y	Unlikely
Melaleuca macronychia subsp. *trygonoides*	N	<45	22	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus exigua	N	<50	39	Y	Unlikely
Priority 4					
Eremophila caerulea subsp. *merrallii*	Y	<15	23	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus jutsonii subsp. *jutsonii*	Y	<20	36	Y	Unlikely
Eucalyptus x *brachyphylla*	N	<35	24	Y	Unlikely
Frankenia glomerata	N	<35	69	Y	Unlikely
Myriophyllum petraeum	N	<45	58	Y	Unlikely

B.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

The likelihood of occurrence for these species were determined by potentially suitable habitat within the application area, species distribution, biological survey information and known regional records (360 Environmental, 2022a; 2022b; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; 2022; DBCA, 2025; 2026; DCCEEW, 2024; DEC, 2012; Eastwood et al., 2023; Focus Minerals, 2025; IUCN, 1996; Menkhorst & Knight, 2011; Terratree, 2021a; Timms, 2008; Western Ecological, 2023; 2024; GIS Database).

Species name		Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common	Scientific	WA	EPBC			
Invertebrates						
Inland hairstreak	*Jalmenus aridus*	P2	-	Y	0	Recorded – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Arid bronze azure butterfly	*Ogyris petrina*	CR	CR	Y	22.0	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Fairy shrimp	*Branchinella denticulata*	P3	-	N	44.8	Unlikely
Wetland birds						
Common sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*	MI	MI	Y	0.1	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Common greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	MI	MI, EN	Y	0.3	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Grey-tailed tattler	*Tringa brevipes*	P4, MI	MI	N	23.2	Unlikely
Sharp-tailed sandpiper	*Calidris acuminata*	MI	MI	Y	24.4	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Curlew sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	CR	CR, MI	Y	24.4	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2

Species name		Conservation status		Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Likelihood of occurrence
Common	**Scientific**	**WA**	**EPBC**			
Red-necked stint	*Calidris ruficollis*	MI	MI	Y	24.4	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Glossy ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	MI	MI	Y	31.8	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Wood sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	MI	MI	Y	31.8	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	MI	MI	Y	37.0	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Other birds						
Malleefowl	*Leipoa ocellata*	VU	VU	Y	2.0	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Carnaby's cockatoo	*Zanda latirostris*	EN	EN	Y	33.1	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Mammals						
Central long-eared bat	*Nyctophilus major tor*	P3	-	Y	1.5	Likely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
Chuditch	*Dasyurus geoffroii*	VU	VU	Y	49.4	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2

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

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."* Assessment: The area proposed to be cleared: • is likely to contain priority flora (including *Acacia websteri*); • is known to contain conservation significant fauna (namely inland hairstreak); and • potentially contains critical habitat for conservation significant fauna, namely inland hairstreak, arid bronze azure butterfly and malleefowl. Biological surveys did not observe any threatened or priority ecological communities (TECs or PECs) within the application area, and no TECs or PECs are known to occur within the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area), so TECS and PECs are unlikely to occur within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; GIS Database).	At variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.1 and Section 3.2.2, 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: The area proposed to be cleared potentially contains critical habitat for conservation significant fauna, namely inland hairstreak, arid bronze azure butterfly and malleefowl.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.*
Principle (c): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."* Assessment: Two threatened flora species (*Gastrolobium graniticum* and *Tetratheca spenceri*) have been recorded in the local area (50 kilometre radius of the application area) (GIS Database). However, the area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for these species (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; WAH, 1998-).	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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: No threatened ecological communities (TECs) have been identified within the application area, and none are known to occur within 50 kilometres of the application area (360 Environmental, 2022a; NVS, 2023; 2025; Terratree, 2021a; GIS Database). Therefore, TECs are unlikely to occur, and unlikely to be impacted by the proposed clearing.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
Principle (e): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."* Assessment: The extent of the mapped vegetation is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001; Appendix B.2). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).	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 (seven kilometres), the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas (GIS Database).	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
Principle (f): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."* Assessment: Given two non-perennial watercourses are recorded within the application area and the *Eucalyptus griffithsii* community is associated with drainage lines, the proposed clearing is likely to impact vegetation associated with a watercourse (Terratree, 2021a; GIS Database). Conditions: To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing.	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: Soils within the application area are susceptible to wind and water erosion (DPIRD, 2026; Focus Minerals, 2025; Waddell & Galloway, 2023; Waddell et al., 2023). Noting the extent and location of the application area, the proposed clearing may have an appreciable impact on land degradation. Conditions: To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • a staged clearing condition to minimise risk of erosion; • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing.	May be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Principle (i): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water."* Assessment: Given no permanent watercourses, wetlands, or Public Drinking Water Sources Areas are recorded within the application area (GIS Database), the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact surface or ground water quality.	Not likely to be at variance	No
Principle (j): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding."* Assessment: There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area, and the applicant has planned to implement drainage diversion infrastructure to mitigate flood risk and retain natural flow paths (Focus Minerals, 2025). Potential impacts that are likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incident or intensity of flooding can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition. Conditions: To address the above impact, the following management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit: • where practicable, avoid clearing riparian vegetation; and • a watercourse management condition requiring that surface water flows are not impacted by the proposed clearing.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. Vegetation communities

Community code	Community name	Description	Representative photograph	Source

1	*Acacia collegialis* tall shrubland	*Acacia collegialis* (*A. acuminata*) tall shrubland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *E. georgei*, *A. tetragonophylla* (*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Exocarpos aphyllus*) mid shrubland over *Dodonaea lobulata* (*Atriplex vesicaria, Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*) low shrubland on rocky hills.		360 Environmental (2022a)
2	*Acacia quadrimarginea* over mixed sclerophyll shrubland	*Acacia quadrimarginea* over mixed sclerophyll shrubland		NVS (2025)
3	*Acacia* spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. community	Mallee shrubland of *Acacia acuminata, Acacia collegialis, Grevillea acuaria* and *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* over open heathland of *Eremophila linearis, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over open heathland of *Dodonaea microzyga* on lateritic ridges.		Terratree (2021a)
4	*Eucalyptus campaspe* (Silver-topped gimlet) community	Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus campaspe* and *E. celastroides* over sparse mallee shrubland of *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans, Eremophila oppositifolia* over sparse heathland of *Atriplex nummularia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over sparse heathland of *Atriplex vesicaria,*		Terratree (2021a)

		Dodonaea lobulata and *Westringia rigida* on greenstone midslopes and occasionally drainage areas.		
5	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* (Salmon gum) community	Open woodland of *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* over sparse heathland of *Atriplex nummularia* over sparse heathland of *Atriplex vesicaria* and *Maireana* sp. on flats and low-lying areas with deep soils.		Terratree (2021a)
6	*Eucalyptus campaspe* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over chenopod shrubland on undulating hills	*Eucalyptus campaspe* and *Eucalyptus lesouefii* over chenopod shrubland on undulating hills		NVS (2025)
7	*Eucalyptus clelandiorum* (Cleland's Blackbutt) community	Mallee woodland (to forest) of *Eucalyptus clelandiorum* over sparse mallee shrubland of *Melaleuca sheathiana, Exocarpos aphyllus* and *Eremophila* sp. over sparse heathland of *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia, Atriplex nummularia* and *Scaevola spinescens* on greenstone midslopes and some drainage areas.		Terratree (2021a)
8	*Eucalyptus griffithsii* community	Mallee woodland of *Eucalyptus griffithsii* and *Eucalyptus clelandiorum* over open mallee shrubland of *Eremophila ?interstans* subsp. *interstans, Eremophila* spp. and *Exocarpos aphyllus*, over open heathland of S*enna artemisioides*		Terratree (2021a)

		subsp. *filifolia, Atriplex nummularia, Acacia erinacea* and *Westringia rigida*, over heathland of *Scaevola spinescens, Dodonaea lobulata* and *Olearia muelleri* in drainage lines.		
9	*Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* low open woodland	*Eucalyptus oleosa* subsp. *oleosa* low open woodland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* mid isolated shrubs over *Dodonaea stenozyga, Eremophila glabra* subsp. *glabra,* and *Olearia muelleri* low open shrubland on plains.		360 Environmental (2022a)
10	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid isolated tree community	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid isolated trees over a mosaic of *E. celastroides, E. clelandiorum*, and *E. torquata* low open woodland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* (*Eremophila parvifolia* subsp. *auricampi*) mid isolated shrubs over *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *artemisioides*, *S. artemisioides* subsp. *filifola*, and *Atriplex vesicaria* low open shrubland on plains or low hills.		360 Environmental (2022a)
11	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid open woodland	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* mid open woodland over *Eremophila interstans* subsp. *interstans* (*Eremophila parvifolia* subsp. *auricampi*, *Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifola*) tall to mid isolated shrubs over Atriplex vesicaria low open shrubland on plains.		360 Environmental (2022a)

12	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland	*Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland		NVS (2023)
13	Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed sclerophyll shrubland	Mixed Eucalypt woodland over mixed sclerophyll shrubland		NVS (2025)
14	Open *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland	Open *Eucalyptus salmonophloia* woodland		NVS (2025)
15	Sclerophyll shrubland on rocky hills	Sclerophyll shrubland on rocky hills	Not provided.	NVS (2023)
16	Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland	Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland		NVS (2025)
17	Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland on undulating hills	Transitional *Eucalyptus* woodland over sclerophyll shrubland on undulating hills		NVS (2023)

D	Degraded/cleared	Cleared or historically cleared areas including mine pits and borrow pits (often filled with water), bitumen roads, and dirt tracks. Some of these areas were showing signs of revegetation. With occasional *Eucalyptus griffithsii, Atriplex vesicaria*, *Maireana* spp., and assorted weed species.		360 Environmental (2022a), NVS (2025), Terratree (2021a)

Appendix F. Fauna habitats

Habitat	Description	Representative photograph	Source
Acacia shrubland	Consisting of dense mixed *Acacia* shrubs on rocky hills and slopes.		Western Ecological (2024)
Acacia spp. and *Allocasuarina* spp. mallee shrubland	Mallee shrubland of *Acacia acuminata, Acacia collegialis, Grevillea acuaria* and *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis* over open heathland of *Eremophila linearis, Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia* and *Scaevola spinescens* over open heathland of *Dodonaea microzyga* on lateritic ridges.		Terratree (2021a)
Drainage areas	Small or minor creek lines with mixed mallee eucalypts and mixed *Acacia* shrubs.		Western Ecological (2024)
Eucalyptus woodland	Mixed *Eucalyptus* sp. woodlands over *Acacia* sp. *dodonaea* sp. *Eremophila* sp. or *Melaleuca* sp. mixed shrublands. Peeling bark, woody debris, leaf litter and hollow logs were observed throughout this habitat type. These microhabitat features provide shelter for small reptiles and mammals. The canopy of trees provides shelter and foraging habitat for birds.		360 Environmental (2022a)
Mallee *Eucalyptus* woodland	Mallee *Eucalyptus* woodland consisted of mixed mallee eucalypts including *E. griffithsii, E. torquate, E. clelandiorum* and *E. campaspe,* over scattered tall shrubs, over *Eremophila* sp. and *Senna* sp. on stony slopes. (Vegetation communities 4, 7, and 8 are included in this broad fauna habitat – see Appendix E for full descriptions)		Terratree (2021a), Western Ecological (2023)

Mixed *Eucalyptus* woodland	Mallee *Eucalyptus* woodland consisting of mixed eucalypts including *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, *E. griffithsii*, *E. torquate*, *E. clelandiorum* and *E. Campaspe* over scattered tall shrubs on low stony slopes.		Western Ecological (2024)
Rocky slopes	*Acacia collegialis* (*A. acuminata*) tall shrubland over *Eremophila oldfieldii* subsp. *angustifolia*, *E. georgei*, *Acacia tetragonophylla* (*Senna artemisioides* subsp. *filifolia*, *Exocarpos aphyllus*) mid shrubland over *Dodonaea lobulata* (*Atriplex vesicaria*, *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*) low shrubland. Leaf litter, peeling bark, rock crevices, and woody debris provide shelter for small reptiles and mammals. Shrublands provide shelter and foraging habitat for birds, reptiles and mammals.		360 Environmental (2022a)
Salmon gum woodland	Salmon gum woodland habitat consisted of scattered *E. salmonophloia* trees over a ground cover of scattered low shrubs on sandy flats. (Vegetation community 5 is included in this broad fauna habitat – see Appendix E for full description)		Terratree (2021a), Western Ecological (2024)
Disturbed areas	Cleared or historically cleared areas including mine pits and borrow pits (often filled with water), bitumen roads, and dirt tracks.		360 Environmental (2022a), Terratree (2021a), Western Ecological (2024)

Appendix G. *Acacia coatesii*

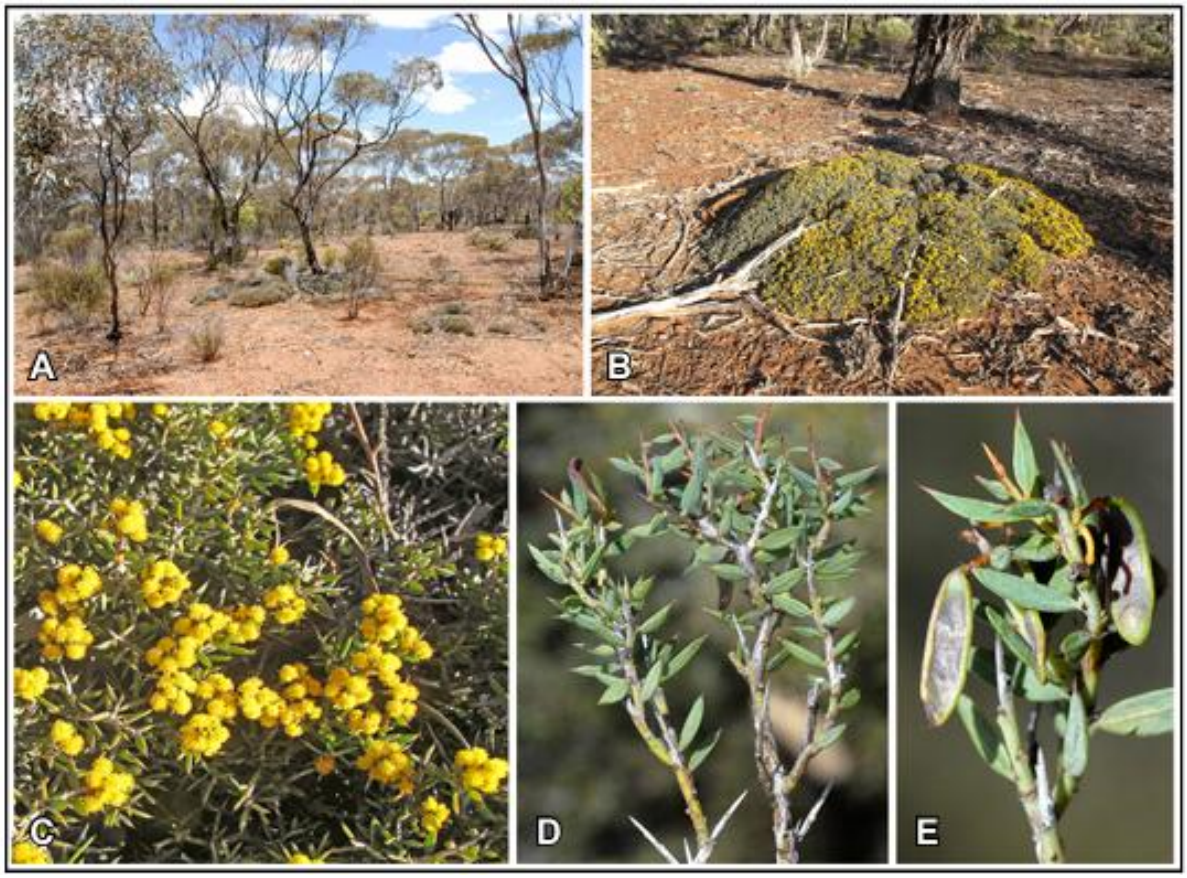

Figure 2. *Acacia coatesii*. A – habitat; B – habitat, showing low-domed compact growth form; C – flowering branches; D – branches showing short, spinescent branchlets and small, pungent phyllodes; E – pods (small) (Maslin, 2014).

Appendix H. Sources of information

H.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Instruments Proposals (Areas Applied to Clear) (DWER-075)
- Clearing Referral Proposal (DWER-116)
- 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)
- EPA Referred Schemes Pending (DWER-121)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals (DWER-120)
- EPA Referred Significant Proposals Pending (DWER-103)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)

- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Rivers (DWER-036)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

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Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	*Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016,* Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia

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

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR **Critically endangered species**

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

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

EN **Endangered species**

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

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

VU **Vulnerable species**

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX **Extinct species**

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

EW **Extinct in the wild species**

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

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

Specially protected species

SP **Specially protected species**

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

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

MI **Migratory species**

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

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

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

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

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

OS **Other specially protected species**

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

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

Priority species

P **Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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