GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 11333/1
Permit Holder:	Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd
Duration of Permit:	From 6 May 2026 to 6 May 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 construction and operation of Turner River Solar Hub.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 238236, Port Hedland

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 1,089.9 hectares of *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 and Figure 2 of Schedule 1.

4. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 6 May 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. Exclusion area

The permit holder must not clear *native vegetation* within the area cross-hatched red in Figure 1 and Figure 2 of Schedule 2.

8. Fauna management

The permit holder must:

(a) limit the extent of clearing of vegetation within the following habitats identified by Spectrum (2025a and 2025b) to:

i. not more than 5.3 ha of vegetation within the Minor Drainage Habitat

ii. not more than 1,023.9 ha of vegetation within the Sandplain Habitat type

iii. not more than 51.5 ha of the Stony/gibber habitat type; and

iv. not more than 6.8 ha of the Hills / Ranges / Plateaux habitat types;

(b) restrict clearing activities to day-light hours to avoid the possibility of injury to fauna; and

(c) conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner in one direction towards adjacent native vegetation to allow fauna to move into adjacent native vegetation ahead of the clearing activity.

9. Fauna management – Greater bilby and Northern quoll pre-clearance survey

(a) Within fourteen (14) days prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, for the areas cross-hatched yellow in Figures 1 and 2 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake clearance surveys using suitable transects spacing for identification of the following fauna species and their evidence of presence:

(i) Greater Bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*)

(ii) Northern Quoll *(Dasyurus hallucatus)*; and

(iii) Brush-tailed Mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*).

(b) Where potential burrows for species listed in 9 (a) are identified, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrows; and

(ii) inspect the burrows and determine whether the burrows are *occupied*.

(c) Where an *occupied* burrow is identified under condition 9(b), the permit holder must engage *a fauna specialist* to:

(i) monitor that burrow with remote cameras for fauna species listed in Condition 9 (a) use for a minimum of three (3) consecutive nights;

(ii) where no evidence of fauna listed in Condition 9(a) activity is identified under condition 9(c)(i), the burrow shall be deemed as un-*occupied*, and the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

A. carefully excavate the burrow by hand, and remove and relocate any native vertebrate fauna found within the burrows, mound, nest or den; and

B. collapse and fill the burrow immediately after the *fauna specialist* has confirmed that no native vertebrate fauna are present within the burrow.

(iii) where evidence of fauna listed under Condition 9(a) use is identified under condition 9(c)(i), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

A. continue to monitor the burrow for the fauna activity;

B. implement displacement techniques such as deliberate disturbance of the burrow's entrance, while ensuring the disturbance does not prevent the fauna from exiting the burrow; and

C. once fauna displacement from the burrow is confirmed, stop monitoring, and undertake the actions required under condition 9(c)(ii)A and condition 9(c)(ii)B.

(d) If the fauna has not moved on from an *occupied* burrow under condition 9(c)(iii), the permit holder must, no earlier than 10 days prior to clearing, engage a *fauna specialist* to remove and relocate the identified fauna to an area of *suitable habitat for greater bilby, northern quoll or brush-tailed mulgara*, in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

(e) Immediately after the fauna has been relocated under condition 9(d), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under condition 9(c)(ii)A and condition 9(c)(ii)B.

(f) Within 24 hours prior to undertaking clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to re-inspect the flagged burrows, identified under condition 9(b)(i) for evidence of re-excavation by greater bilby.

(g) Where re-excavated burrows are identified under condition 9(f), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to:

(i) flag the location of the burrows; and

(ii) inspect the burrow/s and determine whether the burrows are *occupied*.

(h) Where an *occupied* burrow, mound, nest or den is identified under condition 9(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a fauna specialist to:

(i) remove and relocate any identified fauna from the burrow to an area of *suitable habitat for greater bilby , northern quoll* or *brush-tailed mulgara* , in consultation with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and

(ii) immediately after the fauna has been relocated under condition 9(h)(i), undertake the actions required under condition 9(c)(ii)A and condition 9(c)(ii)B.

(i) Where an un-*occupied* burrow is identified under condition 9(g)(ii), the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to undertake the actions required under condition 9(c)(ii)A and condition 9(c)(ii)B.

(j) Where burrows are identified under condition 9(b) or 9(f), and any fauna listed under Condition 9(a) is relocated under condition 9(d) or 9(h), the permit holder must include the following in a report to be submitted to the CEO within two (2) months of undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit:

(i) the location of any burrow identified including a description of whether the burrow was *occupied,* using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) a description of the remote camera monitoring actions undertaken under condition 9(c);

(iii) the date and time that burrows have been excavated and collapsed under conditions 9(c), 9(e), 9(h) and 9(i);

(iv) the date and time fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) are recorded as independently moving on from an *occupied* burrow under condition 9(c);

(v) the gender of each fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) captured and relocated under condition 9(d) or 9(h);

(vi) the location of any fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) captured under condition 9(d) or 9(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(vii) the date, time and vegetation type at each location where fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) are captured under condition 9(d) or 9(h);

(viii) the release location of any fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) relocated under condition 9(d) or 9(h), using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ix) the date, time and vegetation type at each release location where fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) are relocated under condition 9(d) or 9(h);

(x) the name and qualification of the fauna specialist that relocated fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) under condition 9(d) or 9(h); and

(xi) a copy of the relevant authorisations for the relocation of Threatened fauna species listed under Condition 9(a) under condition 9(d) or 9(h).

10. Fauna management – Pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani)* (Priority 4) pre-clearance survey

(a) Within 14 days prior to and for the duration of clearing activities, the permit holder must engage a *fauna specialist* to inspect the area to be cleared within the cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1 and Figure 2 of Schedule 1 for the presence of pebble-mound mouse (*Pseudomys chapmani*) and/or *Pseudomys chapmani* mounds.

(b) Where a *Pseudomys chapmani* mound is identified under condition 10(a), the permit holder must demarcate all *Pseudomys chapmani* mounds located within the area cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1 and Figure 2 of Schedule 1.

(c) Clearing activities within 50 metres of any *Pseudomys chapmani* mound identified under condition 10(a) must cease until a *fauna specialist* determines that there are no *Pseudomys chapmani* individual(s) occupying the *Pseudomys chapmani* mound.

(d) Clearing activities must cease in any area where fauna referred to in condition 10(a) are identified until either:

(i) the *Pseudomys chapmani* individual(s) has moved on from that area to adjoining *suitable habitat for Pseudomys chapmani*; or

(ii) the *Pseudomys chapmani* individual(s) has been removed by a *fauna specialist*.

(e) Any *Pseudomys chapmani* individual(s) removed in accordance with condition 10(d)(ii) must be relocated by a *fauna specialist* to a *suitable habitat for Pseudomys chapmani*.

(f) Where fauna and/or *Pseudomys chapmani* mounds are identified under condition 10(a), the permit holder must within 14 calendar days provide the following records to the *CEO*:

(i) the number of individuals and/or *Pseudomys chapmani* mounds identified;

(ii) the date each individual and/or *Pseudomys chapmani* mound was identified;

(iii) the location where each individual and/or *Pseudomys chapmani* mound was identified recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(iv) the number of individuals removed and relocated;

(v) the relevant qualifications of the *fauna specialist* undertaking removal and relocation;

(vi) the date each individual was removed;

(vii) the method of removal;

(viii) the date each individual was relocated;

(ix) the location where each individual was relocated to, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and

(x) details pertaining to the circumstances of any death of, or injury sustained by, an individual.

11. Priority flora management – demarcation

(a) The permit holder must ensure that the boundaries of the area to be cleared are identified and demarcated using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees; and

(b) When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must not cause or allow the *clearing* of more than the *priority flora* recorded by SLR (2025) within the clearing boundary, except for clearing of the flora under condition 12 of this permit.

12. Priority flora management – pre-clearing survey – *Goodenia obscurata* (Priority 3)

(a) Prior to undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit within the combined areas cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1 and 2 of Schedule 1, the permit holder must engage a botanist to conduct a targeted flora survey for the presence of *Goodenia obscurata* (Priority 3).

(b) If any *Goodenia obscurata* individual(s) are identified under condition 12(a), the Permit Holder must avoid clearing of that (those) individual(s);

(c) If any *Goodenia obscurata* individuals are identified under condition 12(a), and cannot be avoided under condition 12(b), the Permit Holder must implement mitigation measures to ensure no *adverse impacts to G. obscurata;*

(c) If any *Goodenia obscurata* individuals are identified within the areas cross-hatched yellow on Figure 1 and 2 of Schedule 1, the targeted flora survey report must include the following:

(i) the location of each *G. obscurata* identified under condition 12(a), either as the location of individual plants, or where this is not practical, the aerial extent of the population and an estimate of the number of plants, recorded using a GPS unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings or decimal degrees;

(ii) map/s showing the location of any identified population of *G. obscurata* cleared and the remaining population; and

(iii) the methodology used to survey the permit area.

13. Land management

The permit holder must commence the construction works within 12 weeks of any authorised clearing to minimise the risk of soil erosion.

14. Revegetation and rehabilitation – temporary works

(a) Retain the vegetative material and topsoil removed by clearing authorised under this permit and stockpile the vegetative material and topsoil in an area that has already been cleared.

(b) As soon as is practicable, and no later than 12 months following clearing authorised under this permit, *revegetate* and *rehabilitate* the area(s) that are no longer required for the purpose of construction and operation of Turner River Solar Hub, by:

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

ii. ripping the ground on the contour to remove soil compaction;

iii. laying the vegetative material and topsoil retained under condition 14(a) on the cleared area(s); and

iv. undertake ongoing weed control over the revegetated and rehabilitated areas.

(c) In the first wet season following the laying the vegetative material and topsoil on the cleared area in accordance with condition 14(b) of this permit, the permit holder must:

i. engage an *environmental specialist* to determine the species composition, structure and density of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; and

ii. engage an *environmental specialist* to make a determination as to whether the composition, structure and density determined under condition 14(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.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

15. 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 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); (e) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 5; and (f) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of *weeds* in accordance with condition 6; (g) action taken to retain native vegetation in accordance with condition 7; and (h) actions taken to avoid the clearing of fauna habitat and species in accordance with Condition 8.
2.	In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 11.	(a) the name and location of each *priority flora* species, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to Geocentric Datum Australia 2020 (GDA2020), expressing the geographical coordinates in Eastings and Northings; (b) actions taken to demarcate the area authorised to be cleared under this permit; and (c) actions taken to avoid the clearing of *threatened flora* and/or *priority flora* species (d) extent of *priority flora* cleared.
3.	In relation to flora management pursuant to condition 12	(a) actions taken to avoid clearing of *Goodenia obscurata* in accordance with condition 12(b) (b) action taken to mitigate direct and indirect impacts of the clearing authorised under this permit to *G. obscurata* in accordance with condition 12(c); (c) number of individuals and/or extent of population of *G. obscurata* retained; and (d) number of individuals and/or extent of population of *G. obscurata* cleared.
4.	In relation to revegetation and rehabilitation of temporary works pursuant to condition 14	(a) The size of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated*; (b) The date(s) on which the *revegetation* and *rehabilitation* was undertaken; and (c) The boundaries of the area *revegetated* and *rehabilitated* (recorded digitally as a shapefile).

16. Reporting

(a) The permit holder must provide to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year, a written report:
  (i) of records required under condition 15 of this Permit; and
  (ii) concerning activities done by the permit holder under this permit between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year.

(b) If no clearing authorised under this permit was undertaken between 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year, a written report confirming that no clearing under this permit has been carried out, must be provided to the CEO on or before 30 June of each year.

(c) The permit holder must provide to the CEO, no later than 90 days prior to the expiry date of the permit, a written report of records required under condition 15, where these records have not already been provided under condition 16(a).

DEFINITIONS

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

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
adverse impacts to *Goodenia obscurata*	means direct or indirect impacts of the clearing authorised under this permit that would result in the change of the conservation status for *Goodenia obscurata*. Indirect impacts include, but are not limited to, hydrological change, spread or introduction of weeds, changes in erosion and edge effects.
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.
dieback	means the effect of *Phytophthora* species on native vegetation.
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.
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.
EP Act	*Environmental Protection Act 1986* (WA)
fauna specialist	means a person who holds a tertiary qualification specialising in environmental science or equivalent, and has a minimum of 2 years work experience in fauna identification and surveys of fauna native to the region being inspected or surveyed, or who is approved by the CEO as a suitable fauna specialist for the bioregion, and who holds a valid fauna licence issued under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.

Term	Definition
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
occupied	means currently occupied, or where uncertainty exists, potentially occupied, by the greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis*).
Priority flora	means those plant taxa described as priority flora classes 1, 2, 3, or 4 in the *Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Threatened and Priority Flora List for Western Australia* (as amended)
rehabilitate/ rehabilitated/ rehabilitation	means actively managing an area containing native vegetation in order to improve the ecological function of that area.
revegetate/ revegetated/revegetation	means the re-establishment of a cover of local provenance native vegetation in an area using methods such as natural regeneration, direct seeding and/or planting, so that the species composition, structure and density is similar to pre-clearing vegetation types in that area.
suitable habitat for greater bilby (*Macrotis lagotis)*	means habitat known to support *Macrotis lagotis* within the known current distribution of the species. In the Pilbara this often includes low Acacia spp over hummock grasses and Mulga shrubland on a substrate that is suitable for burrowing such as sand, sandy clay or sandy gravel) (Spectrum, 2025b)
Suitable habitat for brush-tailed mulgara (*Dasycercus blythi*)	means habitat known to support *Dasycercus blythi* within the known current distribution of the species. This includes sandy and loamy flats and dunes with hummock and / or tussock grasses, or stony gibber plains where wind-blown soil of sand accumulated allowing burrowing (Spectrum, 2025a)
suitable habitat for northern quoll (*Dasyurus hallucatus)*	means habitat known to support *Dasyurus hallucatus* within the known current distribution of the species. This often includes some form of rocky area or structurally diverse woodland or forest used for shelter purposes with surrounding vegetated habitats used for foraging and dispersal, as described in 'EPBC Act referral guideline for the endangered northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus'* (Department of the Environment, 2016).
suitable habitat for *Pseudomys chapmani*	means habitat known to support *Pseudomys chapmani* within the known current distribution of the species. This includes areas characterised by the presence of sharply incised drainage lines (Start, A. N. 1996). Vegetation is generally dominated by "hard spinifex", typically *Triodia basedowii* or *T. wiseana* (Start, A. N. 1996). *Eucalyptus leucophloea* or E. *gamophylla* are often present but other trees, mallees and a variety of shrubs, commonly Acacia and Senna spp., may be present (Start, A. N. 1996).
weeds	means any plant – (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

REFERENCES

Department of the Environment (DoE) (2016). *EPBC Act Referral Guideline for the Endangered Northern Quoll Dasyurus hallucatus*. Available from: https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/referral-guideline-northern-quoll.pdf

SLR (2025). *Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment - Turner River Consolidated.* DWER Ref: DWERDT1233003)

Spectrum (2025a). *North Star Junction West: Detailed Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessment (v3).* DWER Ref. DWERDT1233000

Spectrum (2025b). *Wodgina Project - Targeted Bilby Survey.* DWER Ref. DWERDT1232998

Start, A. N. (1996). *A Review of the Conservation Status of the Ngadji (Western Pebble-mound Mouse) Pseudomys chapmani Kitchener, 1980* (Rodentia Muridae). Department of Conservation and Lanf Management. Available from: https://library.dbca.wa.gov.au/static/FullTextFiles/017399.pdf

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Juraj Galba
MANAGER
GREEN ENERGY APPROVALS

Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

13 April 2026

Schedule 1

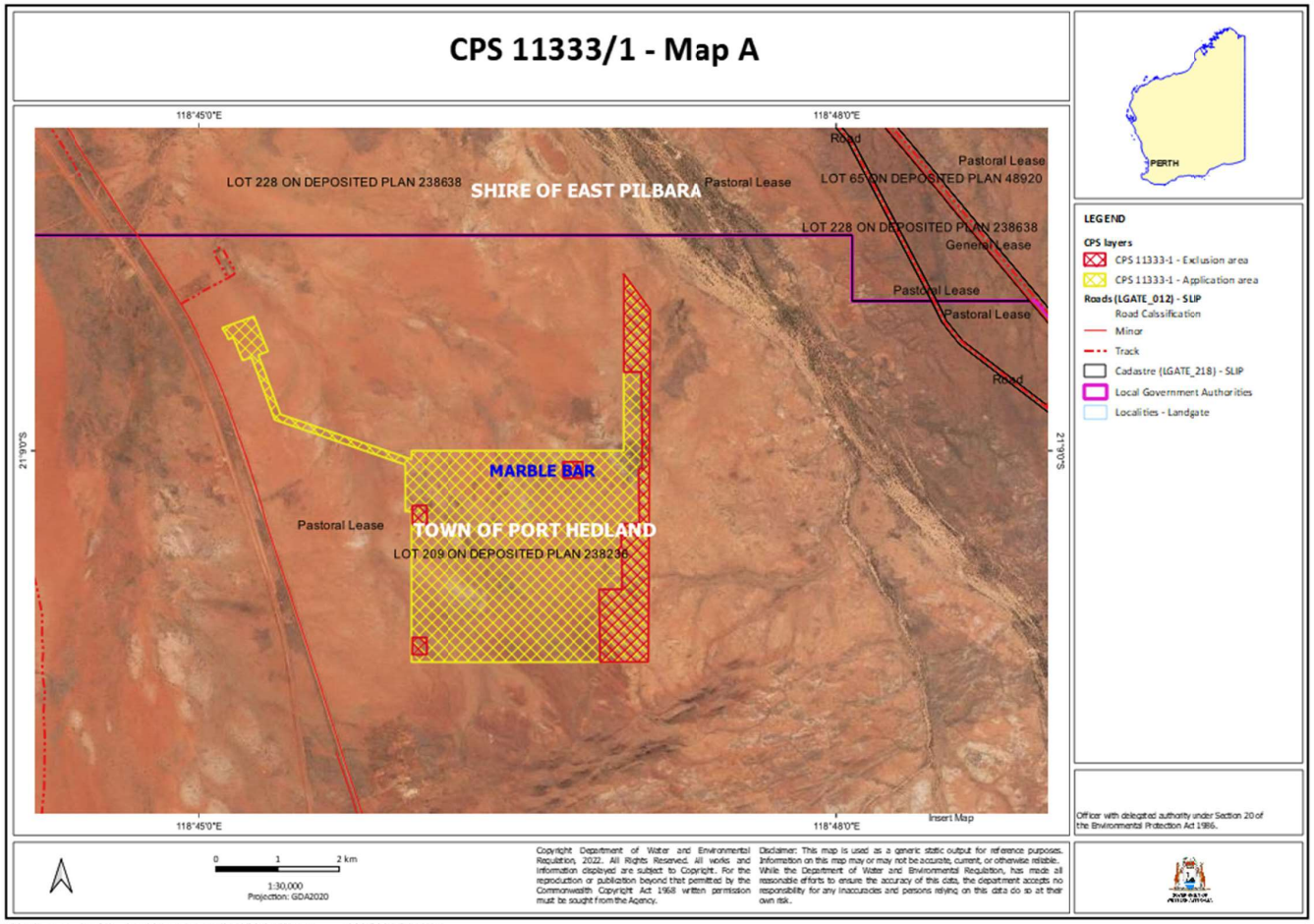

Figure 1: The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the Permit. The areas cross-hatched red indicate the areas within which native vegetation clearing activities are not authorised.

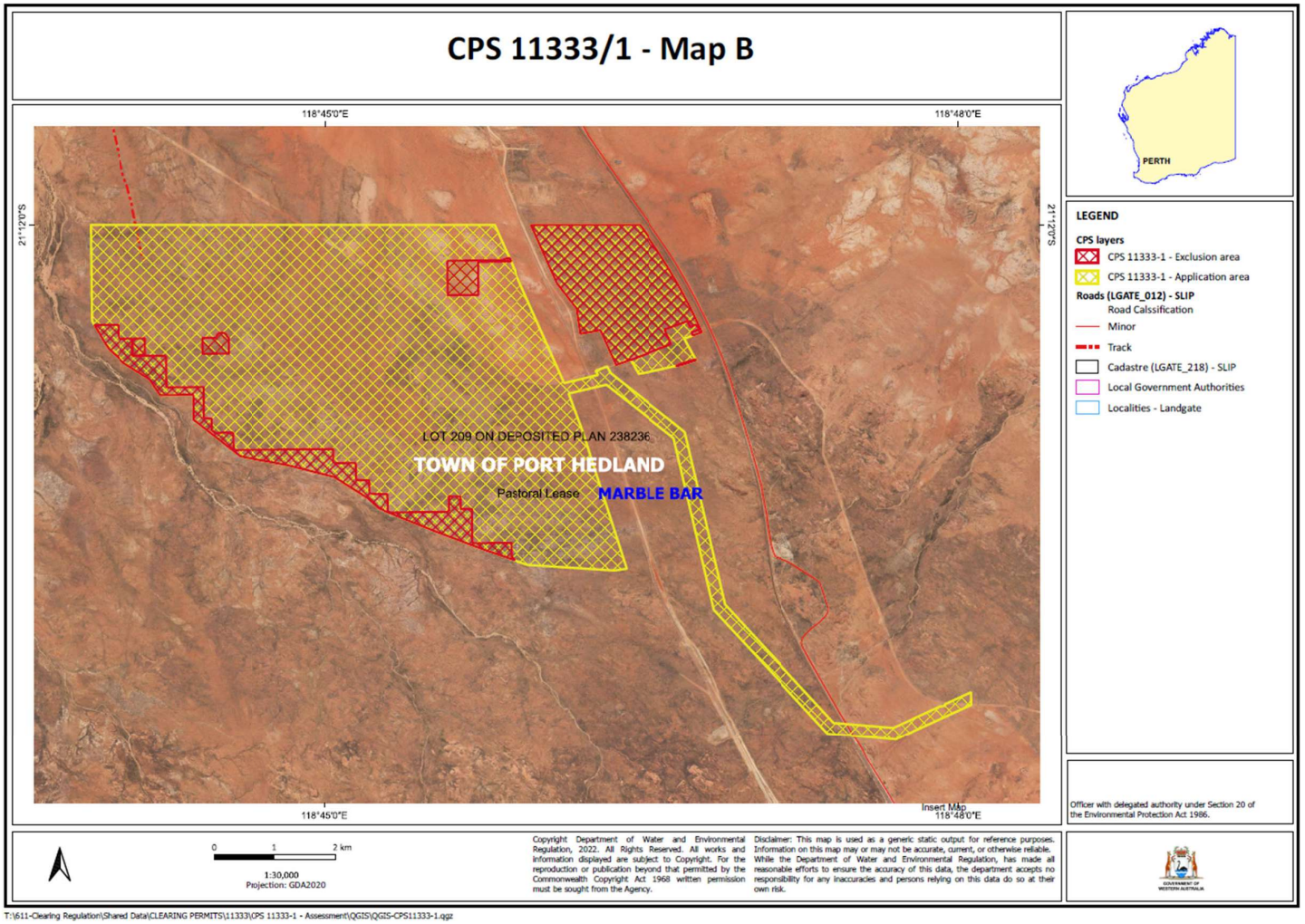

Figure 2: The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the Permit. The areas cross-hatched red indicate the areas within which native vegetation clearing activities are not authorised.

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 11333/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd
Application received:	11 November 2025
Application area:	1,089.9 hectares (ha) of native vegetation within a Development Envelope (DE) of 1,416.5 ha.
Purpose of clearing:	the construction and operation of solar farm PV modules and supporting infrastructure
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 238236 (Tenements L4500692, L4500693, L4500694, L4500462, L4500838 (pending), L45000293)
Location (LGA area/s):	Town of Port Hedland
Localities (suburb/s):	Marble Bar

1.2. Description of clearing activities

The Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd (the applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Fortescue Metals Group, proposes to develop the Turner River Solar Hub Project located approximately 120 km south of Port Hedland in the Pilbara region (Figure 1) and 25 km west of Fortescue's existing North Star Magnetite Project. The project will be developed in accordance with the Mine Development Closure Plan Proposal (MDCP) being submitted to the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) for assessment. Energy produced by the solar hub facilities will be used for Fortescue's mining operations. The project forms part of Fortescue's commitment to achieving zero net emissions by 2030.

The application is to clear up to 1,089.9 ha of native vegetation distributed over two areas (the North and South areas) within a Development Envelope (DE) of 1,416.5 ha to facilitate the construction and operation of solar farm PV modules and supporting infrastructure, which include:

- Solar array
- Transmission lines
- Substation
- Battery Electric Storage System (BESS)
- Switch room
- Laydown areas
- Office, storage, workshop and other facilities.

The indicative clearing and layout of the solar array and infrastructure are depicted in Figure 2. Most of the uncleared areas within the application area will not be developed and reserved to support conservation.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	13 April 2026
Decision area:	1,089.9 ha of native vegetation within a DE of 1,416.5 ha as depicted in Section 1.5, below.

1.4. Reasons for decision

The 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 one submission was received. Consideration of matters raised in the public submission is summarised in Appendix A.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for

- the concerns raised by public members (see Appendix A)
- the site characteristics (see Appendix B),
- relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1),
- the findings of biological surveys submitted with the application as follows:
  - SLR (2025a). *Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment - Turner River Consolidated.* DWER Ref DWERDT12333003
  - SLR (2025b). *Vertebrate Fauna Survey: North Star Junction Additional Area.* DWER Ref.
  - Spectrum (2024). *Wodgina Project - Targeted Bilby Survey*. DWER Ref. DWERDT1232998
  - Spectrum (2025). *North Star Junction West: Detailed Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessment (v3)*. DWER Ref. DWERDT1233000
- the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C)
- advice received from:
  - Species and Communities, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA) (DBCA, 2026)
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) (DCCEEW, 2025)
  - Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) (DMPE, 2025); and
- relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3).

The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the objective of the proposal is to support an increase in the supply of renewable energy in Western Australia and is aligned with the State's objective to develop a cleaner, more diverse, and affordable electricity network.

In particular, the Delegated Officer considers the following:

- The proposed clearing will result in the loss of:
  - individuals of Priority 3 flora *Goodenia obscurata, Euploca mutica* and *Triodia chichesterensis*
  - a total of 155 ha of vegetation type ChAaTc providing habitat for *T. chichesterenis*
  - a total of 1.1 ha of vegetation type ChAspTE identified as 'Locally significant due to occasional populations of *Neptunia longipila* (P2) on ecotonal clay boundaries'.

  Noting the proportionately small extent of loss of the above values within the context of extensive cover of native vegetation in similar condition in the local and regional area, the loss of the above flora and vegetation values is not considered to result in significant residual impacts. A preclearing survey for *G. obscurata* requires the applicant to develop a proposal that avoids adverse impacts on this species and addresses existing knowledge gaps regarding its presence in the locality.
- The proposed clearing will result in the loss of:
  - Sand plains, drainage lines (minor) and Plain (stony / gibber) habitat types suitable for Greater bilby, representing 16%, 2% and 1.7% of habitats at the local scale, respectively; and
  - Hills/Ranges/Plateaux habitat type suitable for foraging by Northern Quoll which represents approximately 1.4% of this habitat type in the local area.

  While the clearing will result in a loss of the above habitat types, residual impacts on Greater Bilby and Northern Quoll are not inconsistent with the recovery plans for these species. Noting this and considering mitigation measures applied, the proposed clearing will not cause significant residual impacts on these species.
- The proposed clearing may introduce and spread weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values.

- The proposed clearing may exacerbate the potential land degradation in the form of wind erosion unless appropriate land management measures are applied.

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 lead to have long-term adverse impacts on the biodiversity of the landscape, the conservation significant flora and fauna listed above, or appreciable land degradation. The impacts of the proposed clearing can be minimised and managed to unlikely lead to an unacceptable risk to the environmental values listed above. The applicant has suitably demonstrated avoidance and minimisation measures.

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
- limit the extent of priority flora authorised to be cleared
- staged clearing to minimise soil erosion
- undertake slow, progressive one directional clearing
- demarcate the clearing area
- pre-clearing fauna survey for Bilby, Northern Quoll, Mulgara and Pebble-mound mouse
- pre-clearing survey for *Goodenia obscurata* (Priority 3)
- rehabilitation of areas no longer required for the project; and
- no clearing or development within the exclusion area.

1.5. Site map

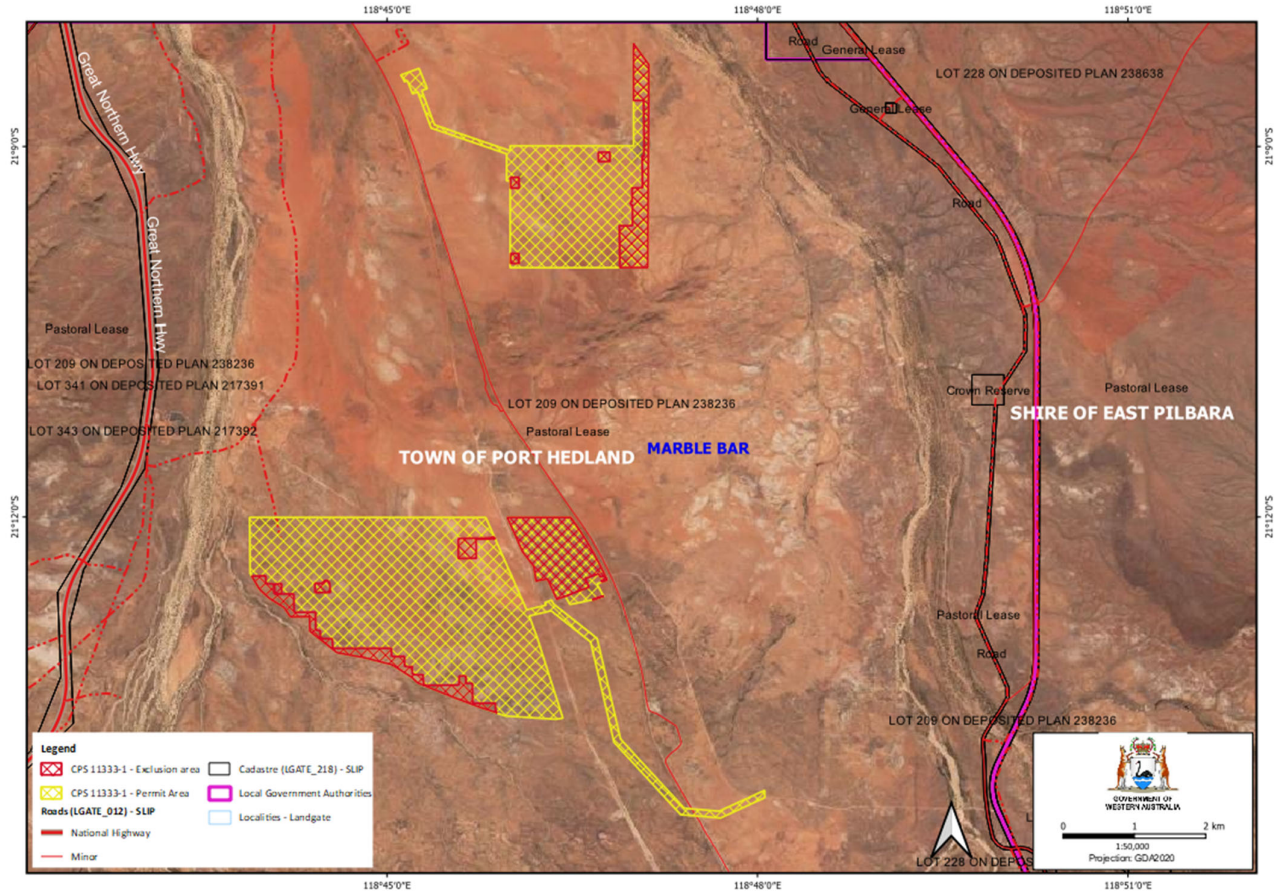

Figure 1: Map of the application area. The areas crosshatched yellow indicate the areas authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit

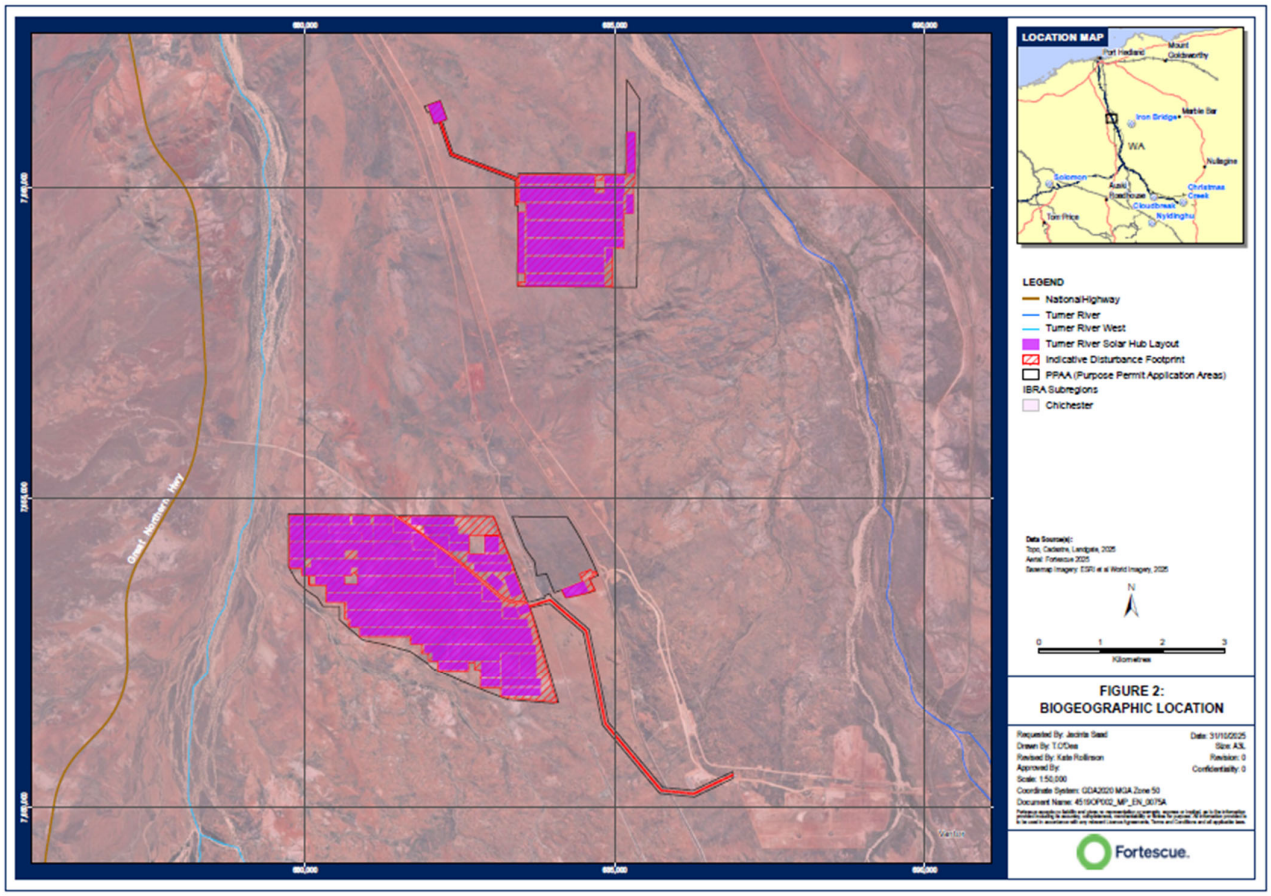

Figure 2. Indicative disturbance, layout of the solar array and infrastructure within the permit area (Fortescue, 2025b)

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)
- *Mining Act 1978*

Relevant policies considered during the assessment include:

- *Environmental Offsets Policy* (2011)

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)
- *Environmental Offsets Guidelines* (August 2014)
- 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 submitted that the project was designed and sited to significantly reduce the project size and avoid conservation significant fauna habitat, PECs, TECs, waterways / drainage lines, and heritage sites to the greatest extent possible. Design optimisation includes utilisation of existing cleared areas as much as possible and siting of project across two large areas rather than several small areas to minimise edge effects. The project is also sited 100m away from the edges of the Turner Rivers to avoid direct and indirect impacts to the significant waterway and maintain connectivity between habitats associated with the rivers. The proponent is also committed to progressive rehabilitation of areas that are no longer required for the operation in accordance with the requirement of the Turner River Solar Hub MDCP which is currently under assessment by DMPE.

The applicant has developed a set of management plan and protocols to mitigate potential impacts of the project on environmental values and will be required to adhere to them. The management plans and protocols include:

- Weed Management Plan
- Conservation Significant Fauna Management Plan
- Ground Disturbance and Topsoil Management
- Surface Water Management Plan
- Dust Management Plan
- Chemical and Hydrocarbon Storage Procedure
- Hazardous Chemicals Management Procedure
- Environmental Management Plan

To mitigate the potential residual impacts on fauna habitats, approximately 228.4 ha within the DE where no development will occur is set aside to conserve conservation significant fauna habitat (Figure 3). Additionally, a Fauna Management Area measuring 439.7 ha is also set aside over the resident populations of Greater Bilby and Northern Quoll outside of but immediately adjacent to the DE, where management actions (e.g., weed, introduced predator and fire control) will be implemented (Figure 4).

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.

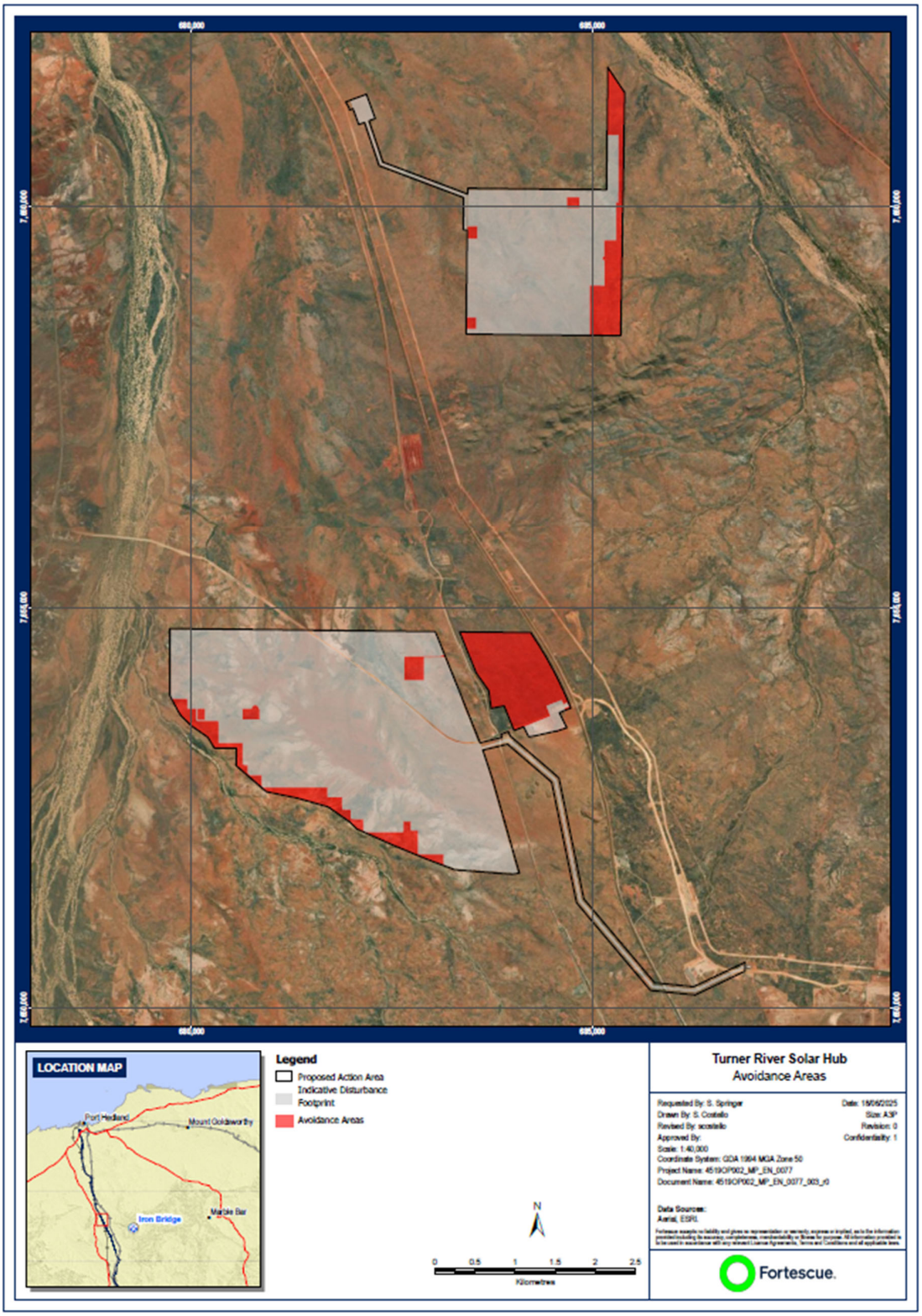

Figure 3. Exclusion areas within the Purpose Permit where no development will occur (shaded red). (Fortescue, 2025c)

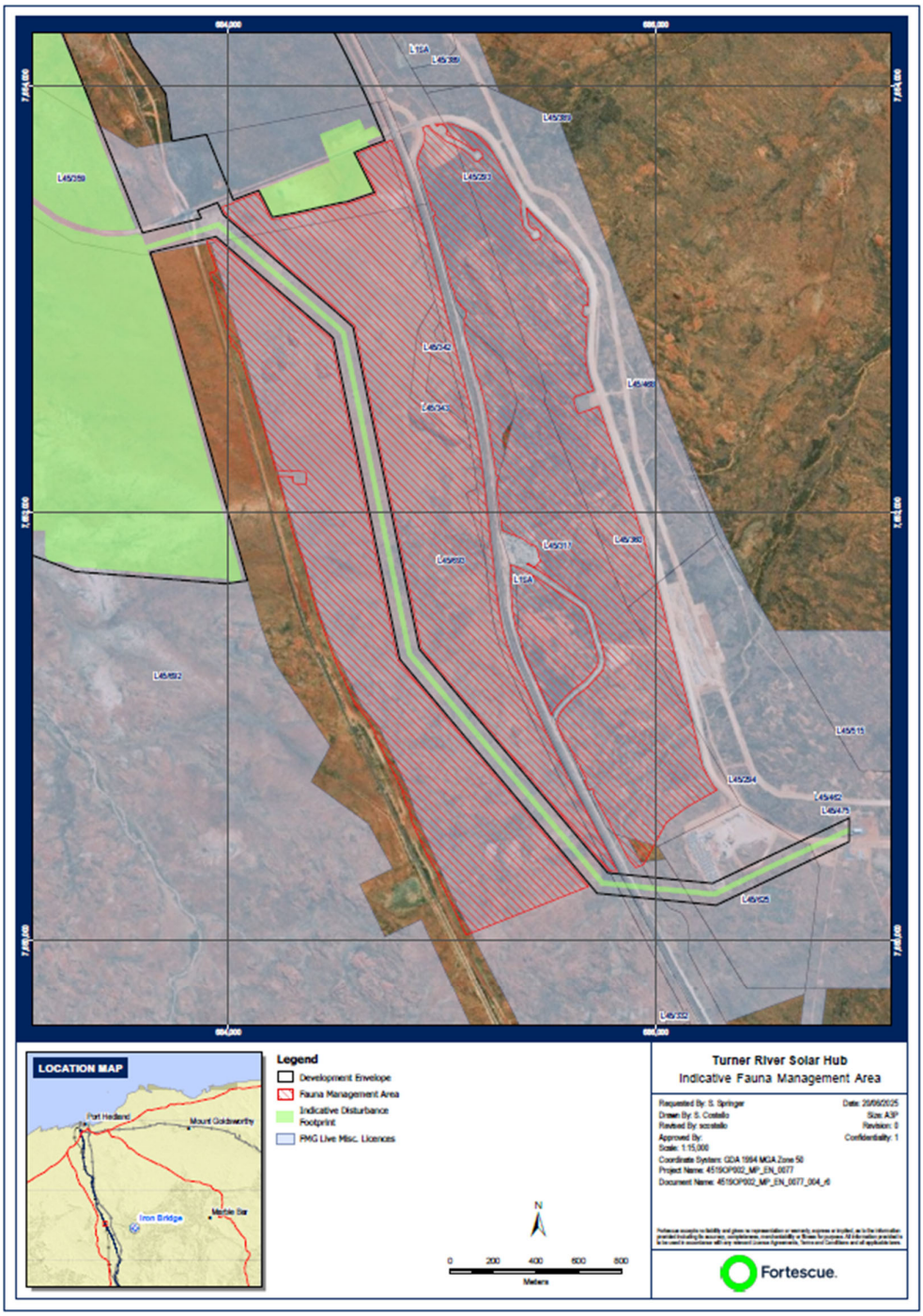

Figure 4. Fauna Management Area (shaded red) located immediately adjacent to permit area (Fortescue, 2025c)

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see 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 (see Appendix C) identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biodiversity (fauna, flora and vegetation), and / or land and water resources. 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: Biodiversity and Flora - Principles (a) and (c)

Assessment

Biodiversity

The applicant has commissioned three detailed flora, vegetation and fauna surveys over three consecutive years (2022-2024) across a total area of 11,057 ha inclusive of the application area. The flora and vegetation surveys identified eleven (11) vegetation units within the application area as listed in Appendix C1 (SLR, 2025). The vegetation units are representative of the Beard Vegetation Associations mapped for the Chichester IBRA sub-bioregion. None of the vegetation units are representative of any TEC/PEC but two vegetation units are considered significant on the basis that they provide habitat for priority flora species. The survey identified twelve (12) conservation significant flora species within the study area, three of which are within the area proposed to be cleared (see Appendix C3). Vegetation condition within the study area ranges from Excellent to Degraded (excluding the cleared area) with the majority in Excellent condition. Evidence of disturbance including weeds, cattle and existing infrastructure is present.

Eleven weed species were identified, nine of which are common across the Pilbara and two are listed as a Weed of National Significance or Declared Pest. Clearing may spread and introduce weeds to surrounding vegetation and beyond, which in turn can decrease their condition and reduce their habitat values. A weed control and management are required to avoid and mitigate this potential impact. The applicant's commitment to progressively rehabilitate and revegetate areas that are no longer required for the project will also support the weed control and management. These management measures are required as condition in the Permit.

The vegetation in the application area comprises suitable habitats for fauna, some of which are conservation significant species that have been recorded in the local area and region. Impact of clearing on fauna and fauna habitats will be discussed separately in Section 3.2.2.

Flora and vegetation

Nine (9) conservation significant flora species were recorded within the study area but outside of the area proposed to be cleared. Clearing may have indirect impacts on these species, especially those located in proximity to the area proposed to be cleared, including *Bulbostylis burbidgeae* (P4), *Euphorbia clementii* (P3) *Gymnathera cunninghamii* (P3) and *Nicotiana umbricata* (P3). The number of individuals identified and their closest distance to the application area are provided in Appendix C3. To minimise impacts on these species, the applicant is require to demarcate the boundaries of the areas authorised to be cleared and report on actions taken to avoid impacts on Priority flora.

Further assessment was made on the following species.

Euphorbia clementii

E. clementi was recorded 1,975 times from the survey area, mostly from within the ChAaTc vegetation unit. None of this record occurred within the clearing area. No known *Euphorbia clementii* (P3) individuals will be removed by the proposed clearing. The application area contains approximately, 155 ha of vegetation type ChAaTc where the species have been recorded. The study area contains 877.2 ha of this vegetation type. Noting this and that this vegetation type extends outside of the survey area, the proposed clearing will unlikely have direct or indirect impact on this taxon at the local level, regional or conservation level.

Neptunia longipila

Two hundred (200) *N. longipila* individuals were recorded from the study area, mostly from within vegetation type ChAspTE. No *N. longipila* individuals will be directly impacted by the proposed clearing, however, approximately 177.8 ha of vegetation type ChAspTE, which is identified as 'Locally significant due to occasional populations of *Neptunia longipila* (P2) on ecotonal clay boundaries' occurs within the study area. Of this approximately 1.1 ha, or 0.6% of the surveyed unit, is within the clearing area and will be cleared. Noting the absence of *N. longipila* individuals within the application area and Excellent condition of vegetation surrounding the clearing area, the loss of 0.6% of this type of vegetation is unlikely to have significant impact on *N. longipila* at the local, regional or conservation scale.

Goodenia obscurata – Priority 3

One *Goodenia obscurata* individual was opportunistically recorded during a flora and vegetation survey in 2022 (SLR, 2025a) within the clearing area. Individuals of *G. obscurata* are short-lived perennials and disturbance opportunists, frequently appearing post-fire or in disturbed habitats. *G. obscurata* was described as Priority 3 in 2023. Priority 3 flora species are not under imminent threat but are poorly known. The P3 taxa are comparatively well known from several locations but do not meet adequacy of survey requirements and known threatening processes exist that could affect them (Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia Herbarium, 2013). Review of available database (WA Herbarium) indicates that only one record is available for *G. obscurata* within 50 km radius of the application area, located approximately seven km from the application area. DBCA (2026) advised that *G. obscurata* is known from 24 herbarium specimens from scattered locations across the Carnarvon and Pilbara IBRA regions (EOO approx. 81,700 km^2). The record within the proposed application area is at the north-eastern extent of this species known range. There is one record of this species approximately 10 km north-west of the surveyed individual, however, the remaining distribution of this species is more than 100 km south of the proposal. It is important to note that the survey was completed in end of 2022 before *G. obscurata* was listed as Priority 3 flora that the survey was unlikely to have systematically searched for the species. Noting the excellent condition of native vegetation surrounding the project area that may provide suitable habitat for the taxon and the short-lived and disturbance opportunist nature of the flora species, it is likely that more individuals exist in the area.

The clearing of the individual identified in the 2022 survey is considered unlikely to have significant implications for the taxon. However, given the limited information available about this species, the fact that the surveyed individual is located at the northernmost known extent of its range, and that it was not specifically targeted during the 2022 survey, a pre-clearance survey focusing on this taxon is required as a permit condition. Data obtained from the pre-clearance survey will enhance understanding of the species and its local and regional distribution. Additionally, such information will support further measures aimed at avoiding and mitigating the potential impacts of clearing on any individuals encountered during the process.

Euploca mutica – Priority 3

Review of available dataset suggests that the species is relatively common in the local area (50 km radius of the application area) and the Pilbara regional, although the population is unknown. The species has been recorded from vegetation units that include grassland in various conditions including in areas disturbed by mining and grazing. The species has been recorded 34 times from within 50 km radius of the application area, with the closest record being 1.5 km from the application area. The number of individuals recorded in the 34 records range between 1 to >100 in each record.

The flora surveys identified 507 *E. mutica* individuals within the proposed application area, which represents approximately 72.74 % of known individuals within the study area. However, noting the expansive extent and characteristics of native vegetation in Excellent condition surrounding the project area, it is considered likely that the species occur beyond the study area that the loss of this species individuals due to clearing will not be significant for the species. Demarcation of the clearing area can ensure that no other individuals outside of the clearing area will be impacted.

Triodia chichesterensis – Priority 3

A review of available database indicates that within 50 km radius of the application area, *Triodia chichesterensis* has been abundantly recorded at 31 records, with the closest record located approximately four km from the application area. A total of 158,896 individuals were recorded by the surveys in the study area, 14,452 of which, or 9.10% were recorded from within the area proposed to be cleared (SLR (2025a). The surveys identified vegetation type ChAsTc as supporting a very large number of the species dominant spinifex. Approximately 877.2 ha of this vegetation type occurs within the study area, 155.2 ha of which, or approximately 17.7% of the local known extent is within the proposed clearing area and will be removed.

Noting the vegetation characteristics and conditions surrounding the application area, it is considered likely that the flora species thrives in the local area and beyond. The loss of 9.10 % of known individuals in the local area is unlikely significant at the local, regional or species scales. Inadvertent clearing of individuals adjacent to the clearing area can be avoided by demarcating the clearing area. Weed control measures can further mitigate the potential indirect impacts of clearing on adjacent population.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing may impact the biodiversity through the loss of some individuals of conservation significant flora species and areas identified of suitable habitat to conservation significant flora. However, noting the scale of impacts relative to known populations, the local occurrence of these species and habitats, conditions and characteristics of vegetation surrounding the application area, and mitigation measures applied to the proposed clearing, such as retention of suitable habitat, the impact of clearing on biodiversity is considered unlikely significant at the local and regional scales. Potential impacts on surrounding vegetation, conservation significant flora and suitable habitats adjacent to the clearing area can be managed and mitigated through the management conditions imposed on the permit.

Conditions

The following conditions are imposed on the permit:

- Demarcation of clearing area
- Pre-clearing survey for *Goodenia obscurata*
- Weed control and management; and
- Rehabilitation of temporary cleared areas.

3.2.2. Biological values: Fauna – Principles (b)

Assessment

Fauna surveys were commissioned by the applicant over a combined Study Area (SA) of a 11,060.31 ha, encompassing the DE (SLR, 2025b; Spectrum, 2024 & 2025). Surveys were targeting fauna species that have been known from the area as well as opportunistically observing the occurrence of other fauna including introduced species.

The surveys identified nine (9) fauna habitat types (excluding the cleared area) within the SA, five (5) of which occur within the proposed clearing area and will be impacted by the project. The habitat types, their extents and scale of impacts are given in Table 1 and depicted in Figure 5.

Considering records from previous surveys in the area, the surveys have also recorded the several conservation significant fauna species through the primary and secondary evidence within the SA and application area, as listed in Table 2. It is also noted that several introduced mammals were recorded during the surveys. These include the feral cats and dingos / dogs.

Table 1: Fauna habitats identified within the study area and the area proposed to be cleared (SLR, 2025b; Spectrum, 2024 & 2025)

Habitat type	**Study Area**	**Clearing area**	
	Area (ha)	**Area (ha)**	**Proportion of impact to total available habitats (percent)**
Cleared	249.91	20.7	8.28
Drainage Line/River/Creek (major)	398.81	0.00	0.00
Drainage Line/River/Creek (minor)	365.37	5.3	1.45
Granite Outcrop	83.96	0.00	0.00
Granite Outcrops (boulder piles)	121.07	0.00	0.00
Hills/Ranges/Plateaux	654.9	6.8	1.04
Plain (sand)	6,110.16	1,023.9	16.76
Plain (stony/gibber)	3,033.70	51.5	1.70
Revegetation - Regrowth	39.79	0	0.00
Rocky Escarpments/Ridges/Mesa	2.99	0	0.00
Total			

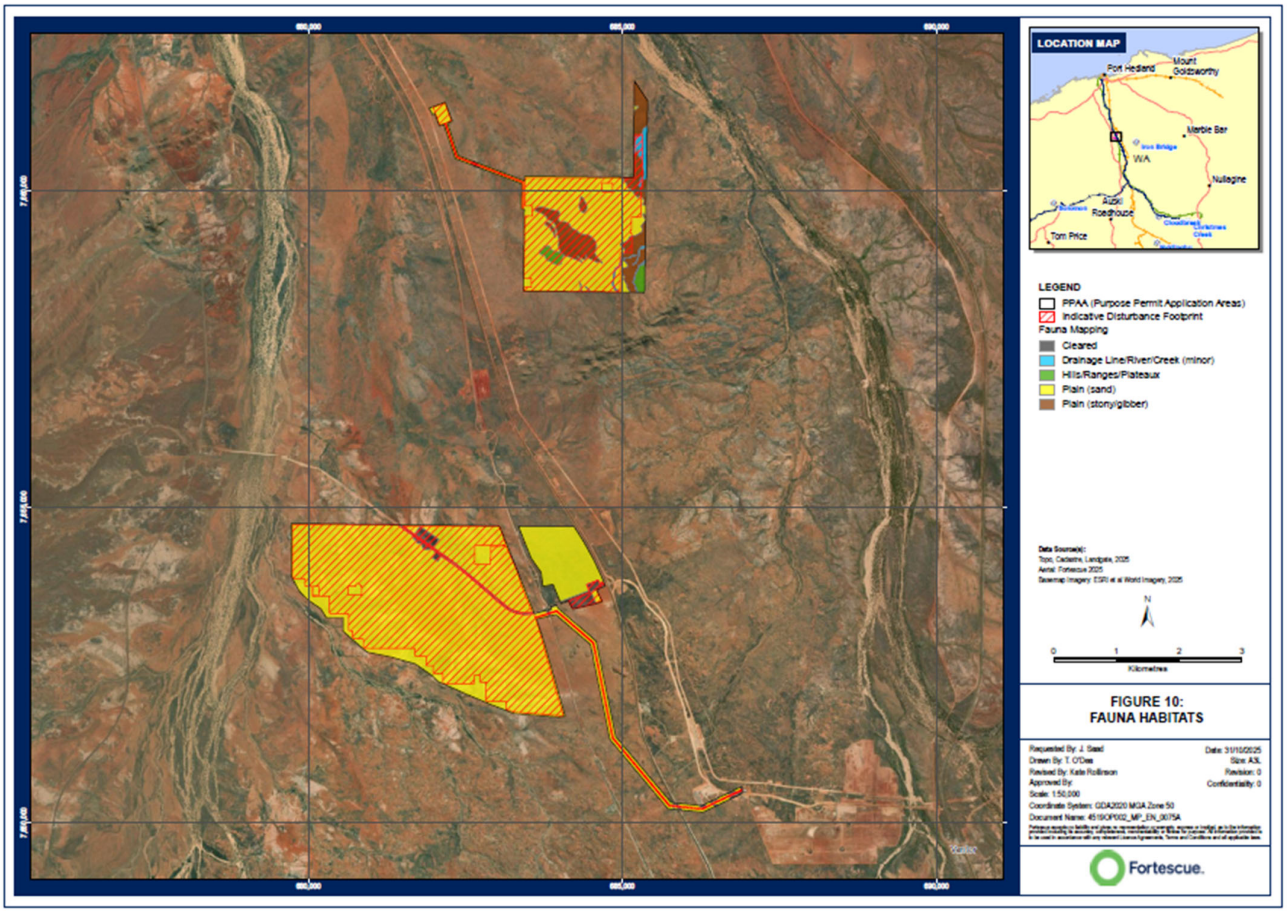

Figure 5. Maps of fauna habitat types within the Permit area (Fortescue, 2025c)

Table 2. Conservation significant fauna species identified within the study area and area proposed to be cleared (SLR, 2025b; Spectrum, 2024 & 2025)

Taxon	Conservation status	Survey Area		Occurrence within clearing area	
		Record count	Minimum Distance to clearing area	Count	Survey notes
Dasycercus blythi (Brush-tailed Mulgara)	P4	15	173.30	3	Likely burrow, old records from previous surveys
Dasyurus hallucatus (Northern Quoll)	EN	111	387.56	0	Camera recording, accidental capture, scat
Falco hypoleucos (Grey Falcon)	VU	5	116.16	0	Flying over the survey area
Macrotis lagotis (Greater Bilby)	VU	60	0.00	1	Scat and potential old Bilby digging (South)
Pseudomys chapmani (Western Pebble-mound Mouse)	P4	29	52.50	0	mounds
Rhinonicteris aurantia (Pilbara Leave-nosed Bat)	VU	29	0.00	4	Seen passing the application area (South)

Brush-tailed mulgara

The species was recorded from the survey area through likely burrows and diggings, camera traps and other secondary evidence from the fauna surveys within the survey area. Although no breeding sites are confirmed from within the application area, suitable habitat including Minor Drainage Lines occur within the application area. Approximately 1.5% of the minor drainage line habitat in the local area will be impacted by the clearing. Noting the relatively small proportion of the clearing area and the availability of similar habitats beyond the application area, the impact of clearing on Brush-tailed Mulgara is unlikely significant. Pre-clearing survey, limiting clearing to daylight, and a slow one-directional clearing can further mitigate the potential impacts on individuals that may occur at clearing. The provision of an exclusion area within the permit area and a management area just outside of the permit area minimise the potential for a severance of linkages between Brush-tailed mulgara's habitats in the landscape.

Greater Bilby

The Greater Bilby is highly mobile and can have large foraging ranges, with adult males recorded moving up to 5 km between burrows on consecutive days (DCCEEW, 2023). Once occupied more than three quarters of Australia, the Greater Bilby's range has now been reduced by more than 80%, with central and northern Western Australia as one of the remaining known current distributions. Predation by invasive species including feral animal and habitat loss and fragmentation are considered the main threat to Bilby's survival.

The recovery plan for Bilby (DCCEEW, 2023) aims at maximising the species' chances of long-term survival in nature by maintaining and increasing the size of populations and area occupied by the species, maintaining the genetic diversity and involving indigenous people in its conservation.

The proposed clearing area occurs within known Greater Bilby habitat, with numerous current and historical records in the surrounding landscape (Spectrum, 2025). Habitat types within the proposed clearing area include sand plains and drainage lines (minor), which provide suitable breeding and foraging habitat for the species. Sand plains habitat is widely common in the local area, 16% of which is located within the application area. The drainage lines (minor) habitat that will be impacted by the proposed clearing is relatively small (2%) of the same habitat mapped within the survey area. The clearing will also impact on approximately 51.5 ha of Plain (stony / gibber) habitat which is considered supporting habitat for burrowing and foraging occurs within the application area. This represents approximately 1.7 percent of the stony/gibber habitat mapped in the local area.

One individual (scat) was identified during the Spectrum (2025a) survey within the application area (the Southern part). A further targeted survey (Spectrum, 2025b) confirmed three old diggings outside of the application area within the study area which had been previously recorded by Spectrum (2025a). Noting that no active digging for the species has been identified within the application area, direct impact to Bilby individuals is considered unlikely.

According to DBCA (2026), greater bilbies are a highly mobile species, capable of moving up to five km between burrows on consecutive nights, with reported home ranges typically between 110 and 300 ha. Burrow locations and patterns of habitat use can vary seasonally in response to rainfall and food availability, with bilbies often sparsely distributed across large areas. While no active burrows were identified during recent surveys, the proposed development area supports suitable habitat, and it is possible that bilbies may occupy the area and construct burrows prior to the commencement of clearing. Pre-clearing survey for bilby can avoid impacts on individuals that may occur at the time of clearing. Limiting clearing activities to daytime will also prevent inadvertent impact to any individuals present or traversing the area.

The assessment concluded that although the clearing will impact only a portion of the suitably bilby habitat in the local area (survey area) and beyond, limiting the extent of clearing of these habitats can mitigate the potential for broader regional consequences of the clearing. Maintaining connectivity between habitats can further mitigate the impacts. As discussed in Section 3.1, the applicant is committed to set aside approximately 228.4 ha vegetation within the DE, excluded from any development where no development will occur to conserve conservation significant fauna habitat (Figure 3). Additionally, a Fauna Management Area measuring 439.7 ha is set aside over the resident populations of Greater Bilby and Northern Quoll outside of but adjacent to the DE, where management actions (e.g., weed, introduced predator and fire control) will be implemented (Figure 4). The applicant has also excluded 100 m buffers zone of the Turner River which improves the effectiveness of ecological linkage processes and movements across the landscape. The mitigation measures will ensure habitat availability and that connection between habitats in the landscape is maintained.

Noting the limited evidence of bilby activity in the application area, the extent of similar habitat outside of it, that bilby is not site-dedicated and move through areas of suitable habitat over time, and the mitigation measures proposed by

the applicant and imposed on the permit, the impact of the proposed clearing on bilby is unlikely significant to the species and within the local and regional extents. The residual impact of the proposed clearing is not inconsistent with the recovery plan and conservation advice discussed above. As such, the proposed clearing will not result in significant residual impacts on this species.

Northern Quoll

The northern quoll *Dasyurus hallucatus* is a carnivorous marsupial whose distribution is currently confined to disjunct populations across the north of Australia. Quolls are susceptible to fire and introduced predators including foxes and cats. According to National Recovery Plan for Northern quoll (Hill B.M and Ward S.J., 2010) the fauna species does not have highly specific habitat requirements. They occur in a variety of habitats across their range and can take shelters in rocky outcrops, tree hollows, hollow logs, termite mounds, goanna burrows and even human dwellings for protection from predators and weather. Therefore, habitat critical to survival is where northern quolls are least exposed or least likely to be exposed to threats. Within this context, rocky areas and offshore islands provide critical habitats for northern quolls.

The project area is within the mapped distribution of Northern quoll. The species was recorded 111 times during the fauna surveys between 2022 and 2024 via direct and indirect evidence found within the study area. None of the record, however, is from within the application area. The closest record to the application area is one from approximately 387 m outside of the application area. A resident population of the species is recorded near the application area. The species has also been recorded from several previous surveys in the vicinity of the DE and broader area.

The application area does not contain granite outcrops habitat which is critical for the survival of quolls, but it contains approximately 6.8 ha of Hills/Ranges/Plateaux habitat which is suitable for foraging. This represents approximately 1.4% of total area of Hills/Ranges/Plateaux habitat in the local / surveyed area. Given the absence of individuals, breeding sites and critical habitat from the application area, and the relatively small proportion of foraging habitat impacted in the local context, direct significant impacts of clearing on quoll individuals are considered unlikely. However, noting the occurrence of resident population nearby and quolls' mobility across available habitats, it is considered likely that that individuals forage into and set up new dens in the clearing areas or areas adjacent to clearing since the last surveys. Impacts on individuals during clearing can be mitigated by ensuring that clearing and associated works are conducted at daytime. Should this not be possible, based on pre-clearing survey information, avoiding clearing within 50 m of any identified dens can mitigate the potential impact.

Impacts should also be considered in the context of impacts on dispersal and foraging habitat associated with, or connecting populations which are important for the long-term survival of northern quoll (DBCA, 2026). Noting the occurrences of granite domes and boulder piles and Major and minor drainage lines in the surveyed area located close to but not within the application area (Spectrum (2025a), it is likely that the resident populations near to the application area are using the habitats for breeding, foraging and dispersing across the landscape. The drainage lines are important for foraging and dispersal of quolls that persist in the granite domes and boulders piles adjacent to the application. Fragmentation of vegetation, especially within the minor drainage vegetation may affect the dispersal of and connectivity between quolls population surrounding the application area; and this must be avoided. DWER acknowledges the applicant's effort to address this potential impact by siting the project away from the Turner River shores, providing 100 m buffer from the waterways to maintain connectivity between habitats associated with drainages. The siting of facilities across two large areas (north and south), rather than on many smaller areas, also avoided fragmentation or severance of ecological connectivity in the landscape. Further avoidance and mitigation measures applied by the proponent include the exclusion of 228.4 ha of suitable habitat within the project area from development. In addition, the allocation of a further 439.7 ha of suitable habitat for fauna management area just outside of the project area will not only avoid impacts on the fauna species but also maintain connectivity between available habitats.

Pebble-mound mouse - *Pseudomys chapmani*

Pebble-mound mouse *(Pseudomys chapmani)* is declared by DBCA as a species that is likely to become extinct or is rare (Priority 4). The small rodent's distribution seems to be limited to the Pilbara (Start, 1996). One active mound was recorded in the study area, near to but outside of the application area during the Targeted Bilby Survey (Spectrum, 2025b). Noting that no individuals or breeding sites are identified within the application area, direct impact to Western Pebble-mound mouse individuals is unlikely.

However, given the proximity of the proposed clearing to a resident population in the area, clearing may pose indirect impact to the species. New mounds may be established since the completion of the surveys and the clearing. To

avoid impacts on individuals at the time of clearing, in addition to a slow-one directional clearing, a pre-clearing survey is required. Excluding any mounds, if identified, from clearing can mitigate the potential impacts on the species.

Grey Falcon and Pilbara Leaf-nosed Bat

Grey falcon was recorded from Spectrum (2025a) survey as flying over the survey area. Further records from previous surveys in the region are also known. This indicates that suitable breeding and foraging habitats for the falcon is available in the survey area. The application area does not contain a Major Drainage Line habitat, but a Minor Drainage Line habitat, which is a supporting habitat for the falcon, exists.

The falcon often nests on large and tall trees along drainages, including minor drainage lines. The fauna survey (Spectrum, 2025a) did not find tall and large trees suitable for nesting along the drainage lines. Noting this, and the relatively small proportion of Minor Drainage Habitat within the application area within the context of the broader area, the vegetation proposed to be cleared is unlikely to comprise a significant habitat for the species. Clearing is therefore unlikely to have significant impact on the species.

The Pilbara Leaf-nosed bats were recorded from within the survey area. The records were not made close to sunset/sunrise, indicating that there was no roost nearby. The records, however, indicate that suitable foraging habitat occurs within the survey area and the application area. The habitats include drainage lines (major and minor), granite outcrops, and spinifex sand plain habitats occurring within the study area and adjacent to the proposed clearing area. While direct impact on breeding sites is considered unlikely, clearing may reduce the foraging resources availability and connectivity between available habitats. Noting the small proportion of the Drainage Lines (Minor) habitat occurring within the application area within the context of much larger habitat in excellent or better condition in the local area, the habitat impacted is considered unlikely to comprise a significant habitat to the species. Impact of the proposed clearing on the species is therefore unlikely significant. The avoidance of clearing within 100 m of the Turner Rivers, the applicant commitment for an exclusion area within the Development envelope and the Fauna Management Area located immediately adjacent to the clearing area will further maintain connectivity and availability of foraging habitat for the Threatened bats.

Conclusion

The proposed clearing poses risks to fauna, including conservation significant fauna, due to the loss of habitats, their connectivity, and increased predatory by introduced fauna species. However, within the context of available habitats in similar or better conditions and abundance in the local area and beyond, the extent of the proposed clearing area is proportionately small that it is unlikely to comprise significant habitat for the fauna. The avoidance and mitigation measures applied and proposed by the applicant further reduce the risks of significant impact on fauna. Inadvertent impacts on individuals at clearing and other potential residual impact can be managed by imposing management conditions protective of fauna species. For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on fauna can be managed by the implementation of management measures to be environmentally acceptable and do not constitute a significant residual impact.

Conditions

The following conditions are imposed on the clearing permit:

- Demarcation of clearing area
- Slow and one directional clearing toward adjacent vegetation
- Limiting clearing to daytime
- Pre-clearing surveys for conservation significant fauna; and
- Exclusion of 228.4 ha of suitable habitat within the project area from development.

3.2.3. Land and water resources - Clearing Principles (f), (g) and (i)

Assessment

The proposed clearing and project area is located between the Turner River and Turner River West. It is on the rivers' catchment areas with most of the project area lies within the Turner River West catchment. The area is also within the Pilbara Surface Water Area proclaimed under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* but does not intersect any Public Drinking Water Source Areas.

The rivers, their floodplains and catchment hold important ecological and cultural values. Noting this, the applicant has avoided direct impact to both Rivers and their ecological values by placing a buffer of minimum 100 m between the clearing / project areas and the rivers. Major and minor drainage lines have been avoided that direct impact to

the waterways is unlikely. No riparian vegetation will be affected by the proposed clearing. The applicant had applied for a Bed and Banks Permit for the project (application reference number: 074990) but it was deemed by DWER as not required on 26 September 2025.

The project site is situated on a flat area at the upper end of the catchment. Despite limited rainfall and a relatively low risk of water erosion, the applicant has proactively addressed potential risks through careful selection of the site and thoughtful design of the works. The applicant submitted that earthworks for the project are not anticipated to substantially alter the existing topography and result in minimal changes to flow paths, depths and velocities. To mitigate the potential for erosion and transport of sediment downstream, stormwater drainage infrastructure for the Project have been designed and implemented to minimise the risk. A Surface Water Management Plan has been developed as a guide to mitigate the potential impacts deriving from the erosion risks.

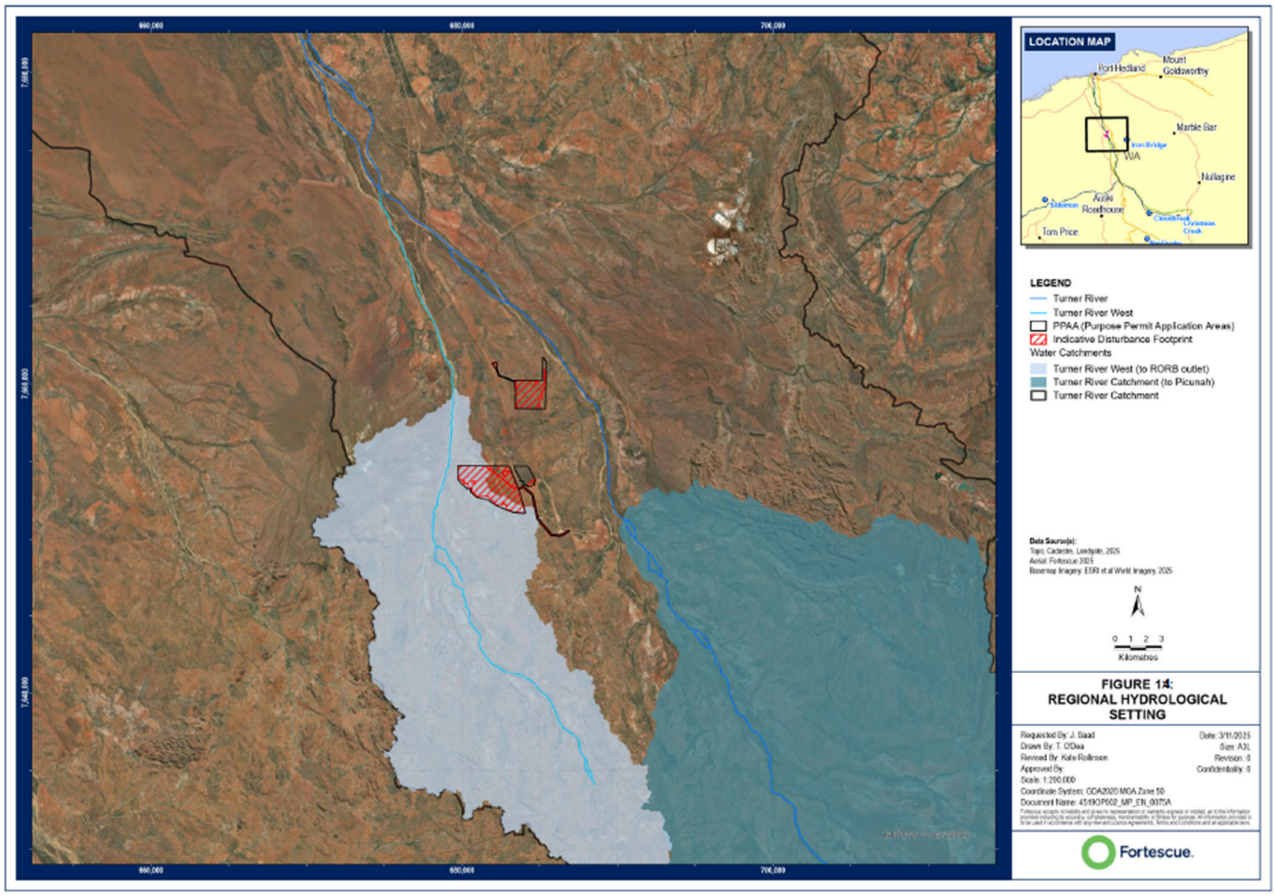

Figure 6. Catchment areas of the Turner River and Turner River West (Fortescue, 2025c)

The soils of the Pilbara are mapped as susceptible to wind erosion when exposed. The dry climate and clearing may exacerbate the risk of wind erosion and increase dust dispersion and deposition. Dust can be deposited not only on the solar panels which can reduce their efficiency, but also on nearby vegetation may reduce their quality and habitat values. The applicant has prepared a Dust Management Plan to address these potential impacts. Noting the large extent of native vegetation surrounding the project and its Excellent condition in addition to the adherence to the dust management plan, impact of clearing in the form of wind erosion and dust deposition is unlikely significant.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing on water and land resources can be managed by the implementation of land management measures to be environmentally acceptable. The avoidance and mitigation measures applied and to be applied during the proposed works reduce the risks that the proposed clearing does not constitute a significant residual impact to land and water resources.

Conditions

To address the potential impacts, the following conditions will be required on the clearing permit:

- Staged clearing; and
- Commencement of works within 12 weeks of clearing.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The Project was referred to the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act on 5 May 2025 and a decision to not assess was made under s.38G(1) on the 23 May 2025. The Project was also referred to DCCEEW under section 18 of the *EPBC Act* and was determined to be a Controlled Action on 7 July 2025 for impacts to two protected matters (threatened species and communities); *Dasyurus hallucatus* (Northern Quoll) and *Macrotis lagotis* (Greater Bilby). DCCEEW issued the approval under the EPBC Act on 18 December 2025.

The project will operate under a Mining Development and Closure Proposals (MDCP). The project spans over Miscellaneous Licence tenures on Lot 209 on Deposited Plan 238236 held by various entities that are subsidiaries of Fortescue Ltd. It is noted that L 45/838 is a pending tenement to Pilbara Energy (Generation) Pty Ltd. The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) has advised DWER that the pending tenement and MDCP are currently under assessment for approval. DMPE also advises that the MDCP must be prepared in accordance with the *Mining Act 1978* and the *Mining Regulations 1981*. The conditions attached to the approval that may include standard environmental conditions, site-specific conditions, reporting and other conditions, standard closure outcomes and site-specific closure outcomes.

The project area is within the Kariyarra Native Title land. A Native Title – Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the Kariyarra People and FMG exists. DWER invited the representative of the Karriyara people to provide their comments on the application, however no comments have been provided. Several Aboriginal sites of significance have been mapped adjacent to but outside of the application area. It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* (WA) and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
No adequate document provided to demonstrate any attempt to avoid the large clearing area or alternate areas to minimise impact	Information is provided in the supporting document published with the publication of the application. Avoidance measures have been exercised by the applicant. This includes but not limited to the provision of exclusion areas within the Development Envelope where no clearing and development will take place. This is discussed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2.2 and required as a condition in the Permit.
There is no document describing the justification for the project	Information is provided in the supporting document published with the publication of the application. It is also discussed in Section 1.2.
There is no justification or description of the cumulative impacts	Information is provided in the supporting document published with the publication of the application. It is further discussed in Section 3.2.
Supporting Document was not provided at publication	Supporting Documents are provided on FTP on 24/12/2025. Additional documents including management plans are published with the permit.

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of a part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia. The application area is within the Chichester Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) Subregion of the Pilbara bioregion of the IBRA. It is surrounded by a large tract of native vegetation.

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Spatial data indicates the local area (50-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 99 per cent of the original native vegetation cover</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ecological linkage</td><td>No formal ecological linkages are mapped over the application area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Conservation areas</td><td>The application area does not intersect any conservation areas. The closest conservation site is the Mungaroona Range Nature Reserve, located approximately 56 km southwest of the application area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation description</td><td>Vegetation survey (SLR Consulting, 2025) over the application area and surrounds identified eleven (11) vegetation units within the area proposed to be cleared, excluding the cleared areas.
<table>
<tr><th rowspan="2">Code</th><th rowspan="2">Vegetation unit</th><th colspan="2">Extent (ha)</th><th rowspan="2">Percent of impact</th></tr>
<tr><th>Within survey Area</th><th>Within proposed clearing area</th></tr>
<tr><td>AanTl:</td><td>Acacia ancistrocarpa (A. orthocarpa, A. tumida var. pilbarensis) mid to tall shrubland over Triodia lanigera (T. epactia) low open hummock grassland</td><td>163.3</td><td>104.73</td><td>64.1</td></tr>
<tr><td>AeTe</td><td>Acacia eriopoda and A. tumida var. pilbarensis tall sparse shrubland over Triodia epactia and T. lanigera low open hummock grassland</td><td>129.40</td><td>1.79</td><td>1.4</td></tr>
<tr><td>AiAbTw</td><td>Acacia inaequilatera tall isolated shrubs over A. acradenia and A. bivenosa mid open shrubland over Triodia wiseana low open hummock grassland</td><td>323.00</td><td>11.00</td><td>3.4</td></tr>
<tr><td>AoTe</td><td>Acacia orthocarpa (A. ancistrocarpa) mid to tall open shrubland over Triodia epactia and T. lanigera low open hummock grassland</td><td>4,146.8</td><td>475.92</td><td>11.5</td></tr>
<tr><td>AsTla</td><td>Acacia stellaticeps and Pluchea ferdinandi-muelleri low open shrubland over Triodia lanigera (T. epactia) low hummock grassland</td><td>350.7</td><td>15.85</td><td>4.5</td></tr>
<tr><td>ChAspTla</td><td>Corymbia hamersleyana low isolated treees over Acacia inaequilatera (Grevillea wickhamii subsp. hispidula) tall, isolated shrubs over a mosaic of A. ancistrocarpa, A. acradenia and Petalostylis labicheoides mid open shrubland over Triodia lanigera and T.</td><td>1,526.8</td><td>234.2</td><td>15.3</td></tr>
<tr><td>ChAaTs</td><td>Corymbia hamersleyana low isolated trees over Acacia</td><td>70.8</td><td>54.99</td><td>77.7</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details				
	(Locally restricted. However, dominated by species that are not restricted.)	*acradenia* tall, isolated shrubs over *Triodia schinzii* low hummock grassland			
	ChAaTc (Supports very large numbers of *Triodia chichesterensis* (P3) (dominant spinifex). Other records of conservation significant flora: *Euphorbia clementii* (P3).)	*Corymbia hamersleyana* low isolated trees over *Acacia acradenia*, *Petalostylis labicheoides*, and *Grevillea wickhamii (A. inaequilatera*) tall sparse shrubland over *Triodia chichesterensis* and *Triodia wiseana* low hummock grassland	877.2	155.14	17.7
	ChAspTrc:	*Corymbia hamersleyana* low isolated trees over *Acacia eriopoda,* and *A. colei* var. colei tall open shrubland over *Tephrosia rosea* var. clementii, *Triumfetta ramosa*, and *A. stellaticeps* mid to low open shrubland over *Themeda triandra* LIT over *T.epactia* LOHG	309.9	0.1	0.00
	ChAspTe (Locally significant due to occasional populations of *Neptunia longipila* (P2) on ecotonal clay boundaries. Dominant species not restricted)	*Corymbia hamersleyana* low isolated trees over mixed Acacia spp. mid to tall shrubland over **Cenchrus ciliaris (Chrysopogon fallax)* low isolated tussock grassland over Triodia epactia low open hummock grassland	177.8	1.14	0.6
	PfTlo	*Pluchea ferdinandi-mueller (Acacia stellaticeps*) low open shrubland over *Triodia longiceps (T. epactia*) low open hummock grassland	359.8	35.10	3.17
	Cleared		129.40	18.18	1.64
		Grand Total			

<table>
<tr><th>Characteristic</th><th>Details</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>
The full survey descriptions and maps are available in Appendix E.

This is consistent with the mapped vegetation types for the Chichester sub-bioregion for the area, as follows:

Abydos Plain – Chichester (Vegetation Association 117, 157, 589, 619, 626, 647, 93), which is characterised by Hummock grassland with Triodia spp, Acacia spp, Grevillea spp, and Eucalyptus spp (Shepherd et al, 2001)
Abydos Plain (Vegetation Associations 647 and 93) which is characterised by Hummock grassland with scattered shrubs or mallee Triodia spp. Acacia spp., Grevillea spp. Eucalyptus spp
George Ranges (Vegetation Associations 171, 619 and 82) which is characterised by Hummock grassland with scattered bloodwoods & snappy gum Triodia spp., Corymbia dichromophloia, Eucalyptus leucophloia; or Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. Eucalyptus loxophleba, E. salmonophloia. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. E. salubris, E. oleosa. Riverine; rivergum E. camaldulensis. Tropical; messmate, woolybush.

The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 99 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Vegetation condition</td><td>
Vegetation survey (SLR Consulting, 2025) indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is mostly (>95%) in Excellent condition (Keighery, 1994) with the remaining in Very Good and Completely Degraded conditions.

The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix D. The full survey descriptions and mapping are available in Appendix E.
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Climate and landform</td><td>
The landforms of the application area, descriptions and percentage of total application area are as follows:
<table>
<tr><th>System</th><th>Name</th><th>Desc</th><th>Area (ha)</th><th>Proportion to the application area (percent)</th></tr>
<tr><td>280Mc</td><td>Macroy System</td><td>Stony plains and occasional tor fields based on granite supporting hard and soft spinifex shrubby grasslands.</td><td>988.64</td><td>69.80</td></tr>
<tr><td>283Bo</td><td>Boolaloo System</td><td>Granite hills, domes, tor fields and sandy plains supporting spinifex grasslands with scattered shrubs.</td><td>11.76</td><td>0.83</td></tr>
<tr><td>283Mc</td><td>Macroy System</td><td>Stony plains and occasional tor fields based on granite supporting hard and soft spinifex shrubby grasslands.</td><td>132.32</td><td>9.34</td></tr>
<tr><td>283Ua</td><td>Uaroo System</td><td>Broad sandy plains, pebbly plains and drainage tracts supporting hard and soft spinifex hummock grasslands with scattered acacia shrubs.</td><td>283.74</td><td>20.03</td></tr>
</table>

The climate of the Pilbara Region of Western Australia is that of an arid climate with a typical annual rainfall of approximately 300 mm of rainfall annually (McKenzie, May, & McKenna, 2003). The weather station at Marble Bar (Site 004106) shows a long-term annual rainfall of 386 mm, with rain experienced predominately in January, February and March. Annual mean temperatures within the region range from 12.1°C in winter to 42.1°C in summer (BoM, 2024)
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Soil description</td><td>Soils within the application area were classified into three broad soil mapping units (Landloch, 2024 in Fortescue, 2025b):</td></tr>
</table>

Characteristic	Details
	• **SMU1: Loamy/clayey soils** – occurring in the sandy/loamy plains within both topsoil and subsoil layers and are likely to be present within the drainage floors and channels. The defining feature of these soils is the higher abundance of clay content than the other SMUs. These soils comprise approximately 49% of the Project area. • **SMU2: Rocky soils** – occurring mainly within the stony plains and interfluves landform types, however, are associated with pebbly plains and low hills and ridges. The defining feature of these soils is a high abundance of coarse fragments (i.e. rocky soils). These soils comprise approximately 42% of the Project area. • **SMU3: Sandy soils** – occurring within the sandy/loamy plains landform types. The defining feature of these soils is the very low abundance of clay throughout the soil profile. These soils comprise approximately 9% of the Project area. The three soil types are typical of rangeland soils, with generally low fertility and benign chemical properties. In-field testing indicated that no soils were Acid Sulphate Soils or Potentially Acid Sulphate Soils (Landloch, 2024).
Land degradation risk	The land systems are characterised by sandy sand plains or pebbly plains over grasslands. Without ground cover, the sandy soils are prone to wind or water erosion.
Waterbodies	The application area is situated between the East and West Turner Rivers, which are non-perennial. The application area, however, does not transect the rivers. A few minor nonperennial drainage lines are mapped over the application area.
Hydrogeography	The application area is within the Turner River catchment area, which measures a total of 4,801.9 km2. It is also within the Pilbara Groundwater and Surface water areas proclaimed under the RiWI Act.
Flora	Several conservation significant flora species have been recorded from the local area (50 km radius of the application area). Survey over the application area and beyond identified 12 conservation significant species within the study area, three of which (Priority 3) were found within the area proposed to be cleared (SLR Consulting, 2025a)
Ecological communities	No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities (TEC/PEC) occur or mapped within the application area. The nearest TEC/PEC is the Gregory Land System (P3) located approximately 18.7 km Northwest of the application area.
Fauna	Several records of conservation significant fauna species are known from the local area (50 km radius). Fauna surveys (SLR Consulting Ltd, 2025a and Spectrum Ecology & Spatial, 2025a) performed over an area of 11,060.31 ha inclusive of the application area, identified four (4) types of fauna habitats in addition to the completely degraded (cleared) area within the application area. The fauna habitat types are considered suitable for conservation significant fauna in the region. The studies directly or indirectly identified six (6) conservation significant fauna species within the study area, three of which were identified within the application area.

B.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*					

	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
Pilbara	17,804,193.01	17,785,000.81	99.89	1,478,830.81	0.08
Vegetation Association					
Abydos Plain – Chichester	5,282,107.35	5,272,054.20	99.81	205,588.43	3.89
Abydos Plain	1,468,581.73	1,437,179.60	97.86	36,652.03	2.50
Georges Range	704,975.51	703,332.58	99.77	27,705.07	3.93
Local area					
50km radius			>99	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

**Government of Western Australia (2019b)

B.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and Flora and Vegetation Survey information *(SLR, 2025a)* impacts to the following conservation significant flora have been assessed.

Taxon	Conservation Status	DBCA records within 50 km		Identified within Survey Area (SLR, 2025a)		Identified within application area (SLR, 2025a)	
		Count of records	Minimum distance to application area (km)	Number of plants	Minimum distance to application area (m)	Number of plants within clearing area	Percent of impact
Bulbostylis burbidgeae	P4	16	0.54	2,043	128.85	0	0
Euphorbia clementii	P3	2	2.76	1,975	287.91	0	0
Euploca mutica	P3	1	1.50	697	0.00	507	72.74
Goodenia obscurata	P3	1	6.98	1	0.00	1	100
Gymnanthera cunninghamii P3		5	0.66	87	132.35	0	0
Neptunia longipila		0	0.00	202	3,800.95	0	0
Nicotiana umbratica	P3	5	0.60	214	218.42	0	0
Phyllanthus hebecarpus	P3	6	0.31	191	425.15	0	0
Ptilotus mollis	P4	8	27.84	15	8,974.71	0	0
Rothia indica subsp. australis	P3	3	27.31	2	1,366.08	0	0
Triodia basitricha	P3	2	28.84	9,315	5,380.74	0	0
Triodia chichesterensis	P3	31	4.11	158,896	0.00	14,452	9.10

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

B.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and Flora and Vegetation Survey information (SLR, 2025a) impacts to the following conservation significant flora have been assessed.

Taxon	Conservation Status	DBCA records within 50 km radius		Identified within Survey Areas		Identified within application area	
		Count	Minimum Distance to application area (km)	Count	Minimum distance to application area area (m)	Count	Notes
Actitis hypoleucos (common sandpiper)	MI	4	1.44	0	-	0	-
Anilios ganei (Gane's blind snake (Pilbara))	P1	3	1.55	0	-	0	-
Antechinomys longicaudata (long-tailed dunnart)	P4	2	2.48	0	-	0	-
Antechinomys longicaudatus (long-tailed dunnart)	P4	1	0.84	0	-	0	-
Antichiropus forcipatus (Abydos antichiropus millipede)	P1	26	1.56	0	-	0	-
Apus pacificus (fork-tailed swift)	MI	14	0.14	0	-	0	-
Arenaria interpres (ruddy turnstone)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Calidris acuminata (sharp-tailed sandpiper)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Calidris ruficollis (red-necked stint)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Charadrius veredus (oriental plover)	MI	2	0.09	0	-	0	-
Ctenotus nigrilineatus (pin-striped finesnout ctenotus)	P1	5	2.65	0	-	0	-
Dasycercus blythi (brush-tailed mulgara)	P4	159	0.02	35	173.30	3	Likely burrow
Dasyurus hallucatus (northern quoll)	EN	2344	0.04	111	387.56		
Falco hypoleucos (grey falcon)	VU	22	0.03	5	116.16		
Falco peregrinus (peregrine falcon)	OS	5	0.79	0	-	0	-
Fregata ariel (lesser frigatebird)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Glareola maldivarum (oriental pratincole)	MI	1	4.80	0	-	0	-
Hydroprogne caspia (Caspian tern)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Lagorchestes conspicillatus leichardti (spectacled hare-wallaby (mainland))	P4	147	0.05	2	844.69		
Leggadina lakedownensis (northern short-tailed mouse, Lakeland Downs mouse, kerakenga)	P4	2	2.65	0	-	0	-
Liasis olivaceus barroni (Pilbara olive python)	VU	70	0.67	0	-	0	-
Macroderma gigas (ghost bat)	VU	351	0.02	0	-	0	-
Macrotis lagotis (bilby, dalgyte, ninu)	VU	709	0.00	158	0	1	Potential old Bilby digging
Pandion haliaetus (osprey)	MI	3	2.79	0	-	0	-

Pluvialis fulva (Pacific golden plover)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Pseudomys chapmani (western pebble-mound mouse, ngadji)	P4	265	0.00	30	52.50		
Rhinonicteris aurantia (orange leaf-nosed bat)	P4	27	0.00	0	-	0	-
Rhinonicteris aurantia (Pilbara form) (Pilbara leaf-nosed bat)	VU	840	0.00	29	0	4	Pass the application area
Thalasseus bergii (crested tern)	MI	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Tringa brevipes (grey-tailed tattler)	MI & P4	1	4.67	0	-	0	-
Tringa glareola (wood sandpiper)	MI	1	2.32	0	-	0	-
Tringa nebularia (common greenshank)	MI	3	4.05	0	-	0	-

B.5. Ecological community analysis table

No ecological community (Priority or Threatened) occur within the application area and its vicinity

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 contains locally significant fauna habitats, vegetation units that support conservation significant flora and fauna species	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: The area proposed to be cleared contains habitats that are suitable for breeding and foraging by conservation significant fauna.	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: The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act.	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: The area proposed to be cleared does not contains species that can indicate a threatened ecological community.	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
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 types and 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 likely to be 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 nearby conservation areas.	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: The application area contains vegetation unit that occur in the minor ephemeral drainage line that can be inundated by water from time to time. Example:	Not likely to be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3 above*
Principle (g): *"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation."* Assessment: The mapped soils are susceptible to wind /and water erosion when exposed. Noting the extent of the application area and the condition of the vegetation, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an appreciable impact on land degradation.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
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: The application area is within the catchment area of the Turner River and Turner River West. The project is sited approximately 100 m away from the edges of the river to avoid direct impact to the waterways. However, clearing for the the project may have indirect impact to the rivers.	May be at variance	Yes *Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.*
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 mapped /surveyed soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding.	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. Biological survey information excerpts

The applicant had commissioned consultants to perform a series of detailed flora, vegetation and fauna surveys between 2022 and 2024. The surveys have a combined Study Area (SA) of a 11,060.31 ha which includes and much larger than the application area (Figure 5 and 6).

The surveys are:

- SLR Consulting, (2025a) *Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment - Turner River Consolidated* (IBSA-2025-0118), comprising of three surveys conducted over three years, each surveyed over three phases, as follows

Survey Area	Year of Survey	Total Area (ha)	Percentage of Consolidated Total
Turner River	2022	4,757.00	43.02 %
Turner River West	2023	4,532.89	40.99 %
Turner River Additional	2024	1,767.73	15.99 %
Turner River Consolidated	-	11,057.62	-

- Spectrum (2025a). *North Star Junction West: Detailed Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna Assessment (v3)*. IBSA-2025-0119
  - Survey Area: 4,532.9 ha, including the Southern part of the application area
  - Two phased surveys:

    - 15-25 May 2023 with motion camera completed from 21 – 22 August 2023 (First phase)
    - 27 September – 6 October 2023 (2nd phase)
- SLR (2025b). *Vertebrate Fauna Survey: North Star Junction Additional Area.* ISA-0001061
- Spectrum (2025c). *Wodgina Project - Targeted Bilby Survey.* IBSA-2025-0120
    - Survey area: 7,135.4 ha, encompassing the North and South parts of the application area
    - Survey timing: 4-9 August 2024 and 31 July – 1 August 2024

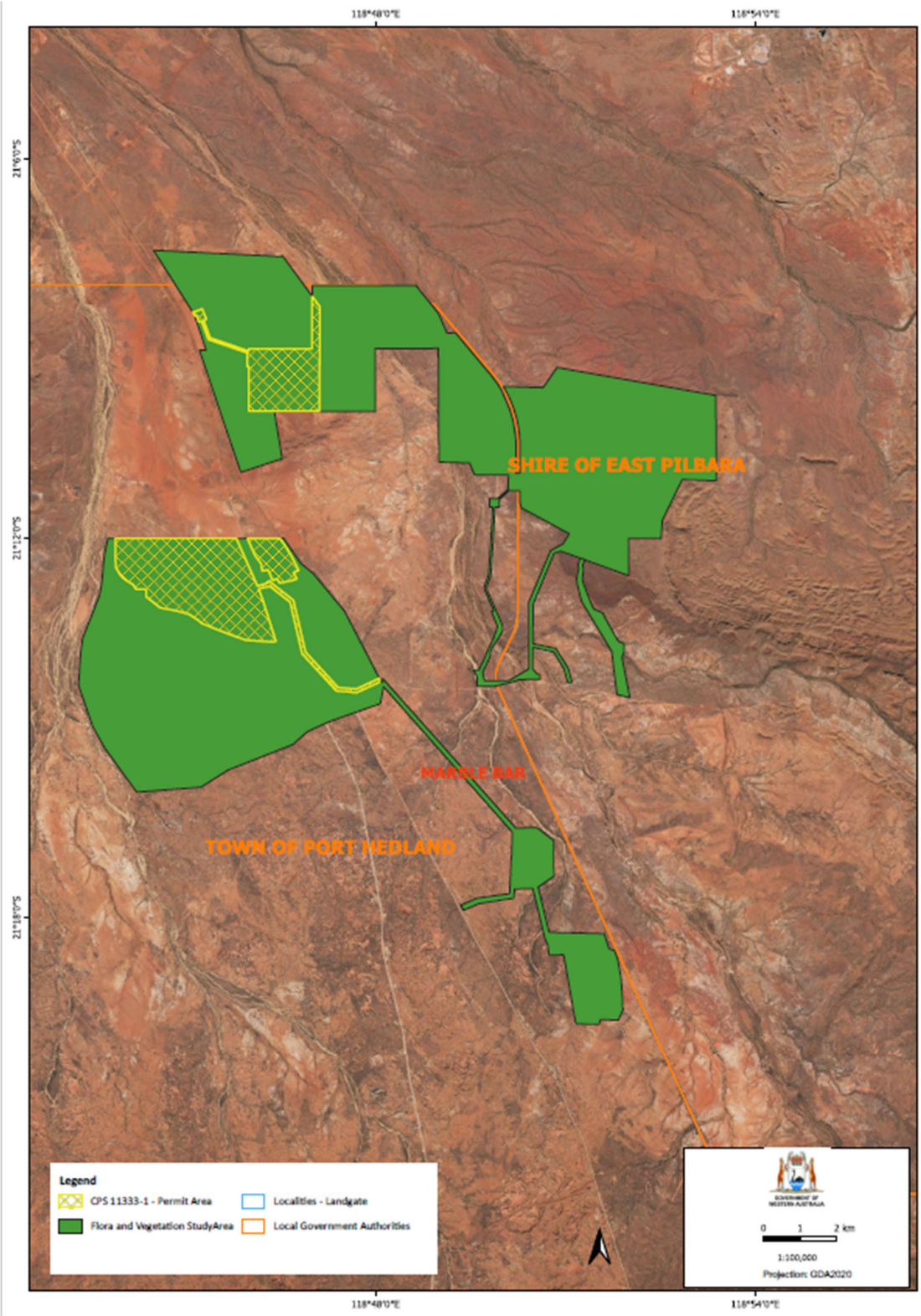

Figure 7. Map of the Survey Area for the Flora and Vegetation Surveys (SLR, 2025a)
The Survey Area is much lager than the Permit Area.

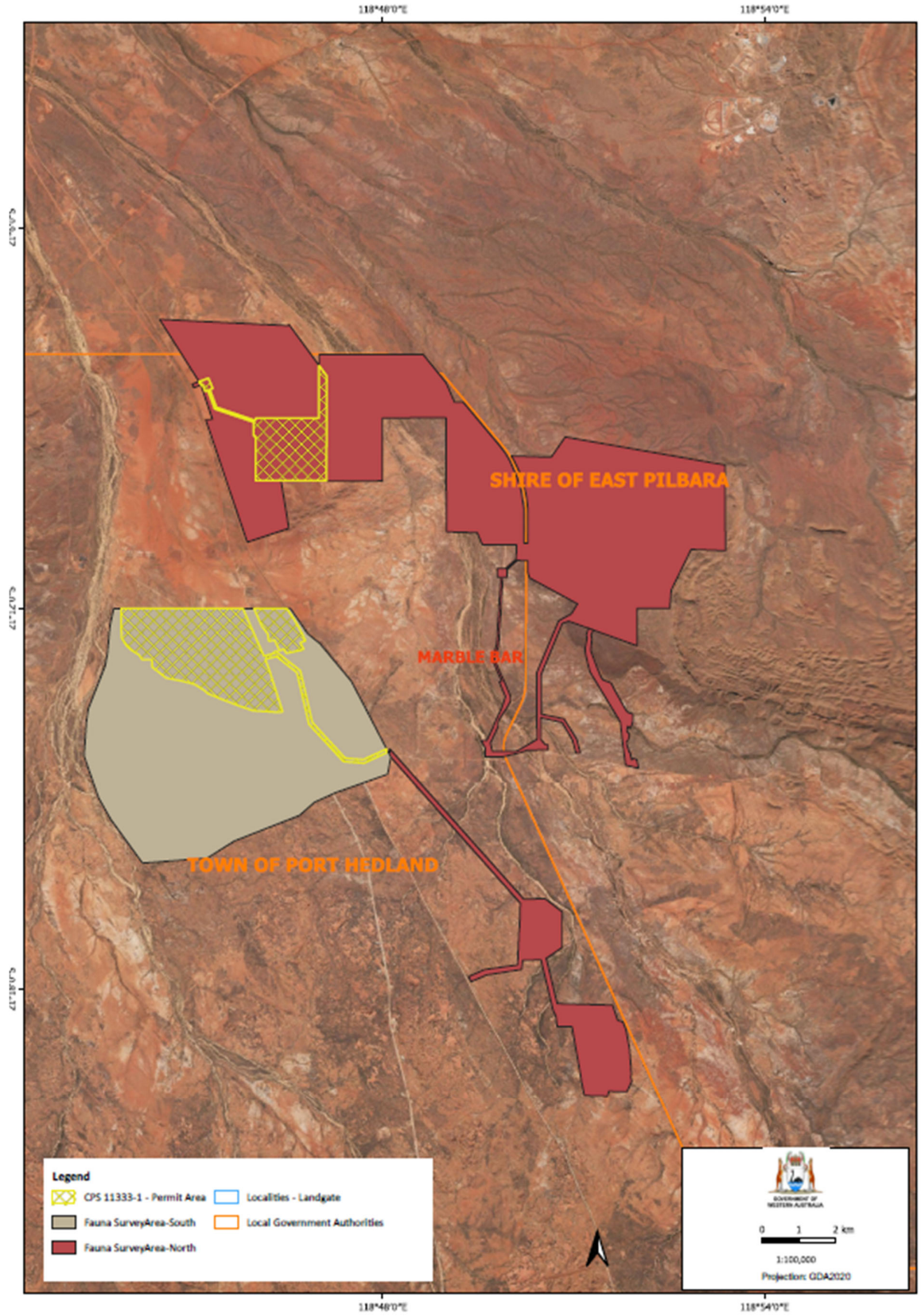

Figure 7. Map of the combined Survey Areas for the Terrestrial Fauna surveys (Spectrum (2025a & c), SLR (2025b))

The Survey Area is much larger than the Permit Area.

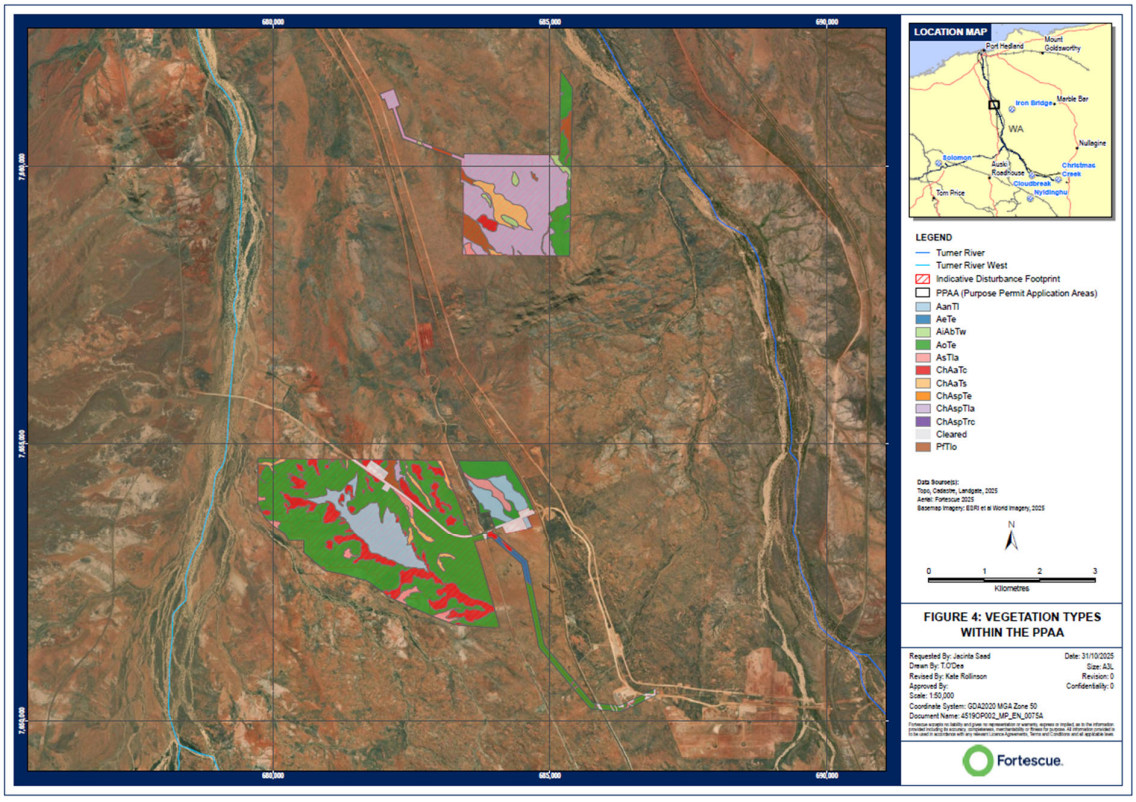

Figure 9. Vegetation Types within the Survey Area (Fortescue, 2025c)

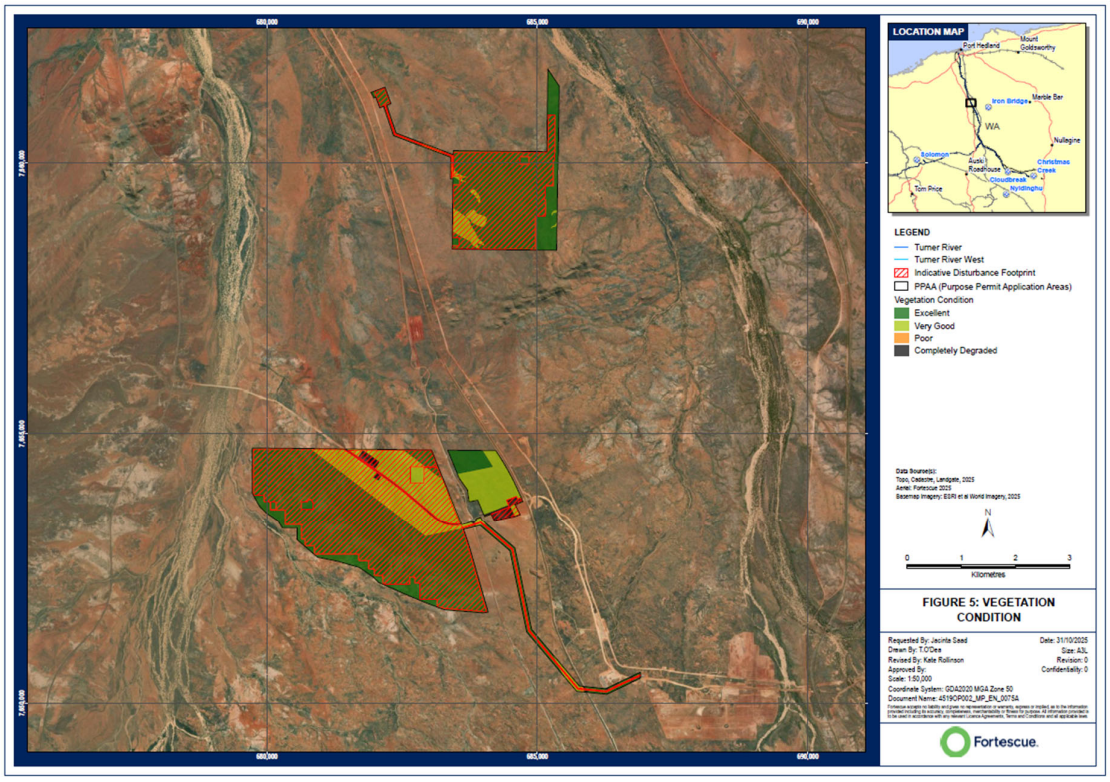

Figure 9. Vegetation conditions within the Survey Area (Fortescue, 2025c)

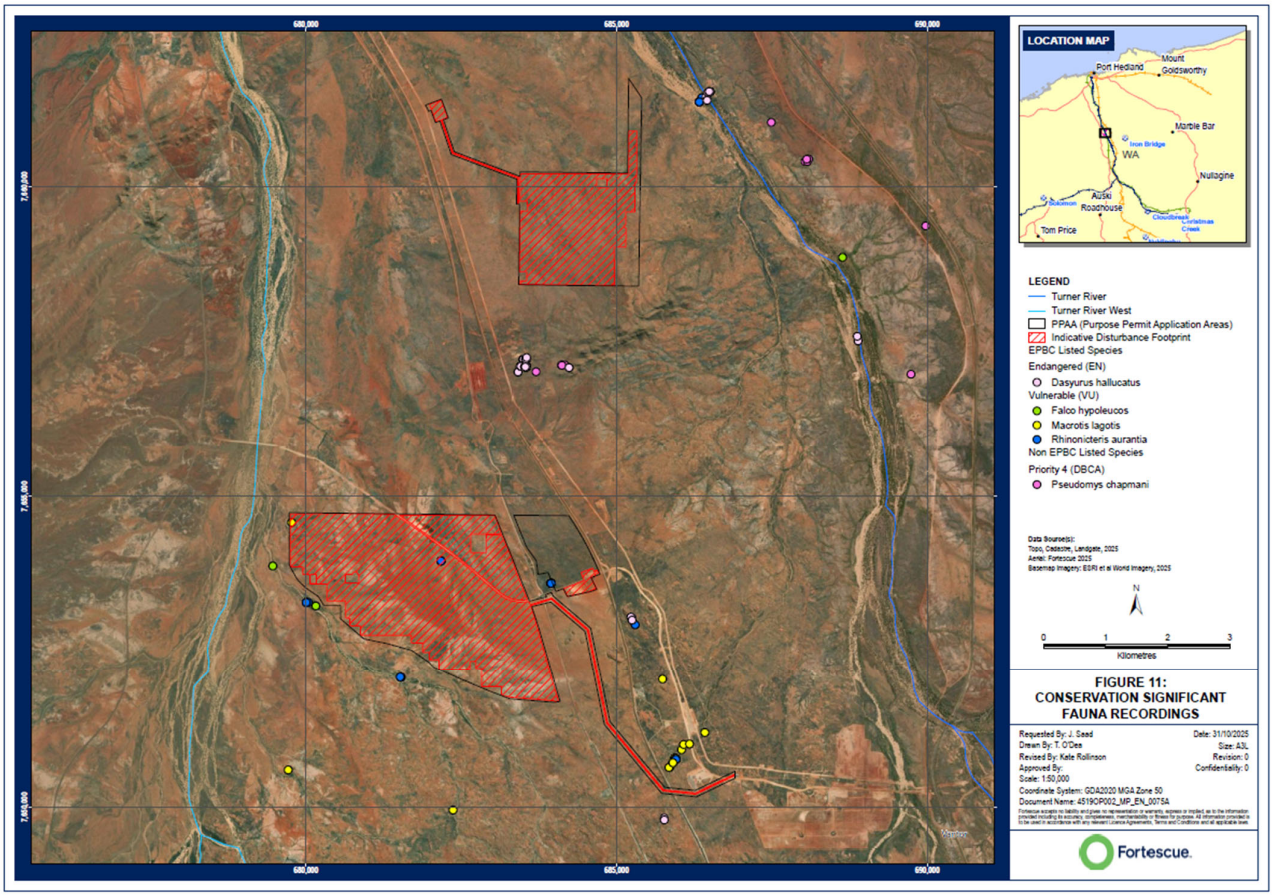

Figure 10. Location conservation significant fauna recorded during survey (Fortescue, 2025c)

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.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
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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