



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11342/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Brightstar Resources Limited
Application received:	17 November 2025
Application area:	50 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Lease 29/153 Mining Lease 29/184 Mining Lease 29/88
Location (LGA area):	Shire of Menzies
Colloquial name:	Yunndaga Gold Mine

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Brightstar Resources Limited proposes to clear up to 50 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 514 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities (Brightstar Resources, 2025a). The project is located approximately two kilometres south of Menzies, within the Shire of Menzies (GIS Database).

The application is to allow for the expansion of an existing waste dump, haul roads, laydown hardstand, mine support infrastructure and a magazine with road access (Brightstar Resources, 2025a).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	2 April 2026
Decision area:	50 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed, and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration (DMPE) advertised the application for a public comment for a period of 21 days, and no submissions were received.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix E), supporting information provided by the applicant including the results of a flora and vegetation survey (Appendix D), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing for mineral production and associated activities.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing may result in:

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

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

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing;

- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring a pre-clearance survey during breeding season for active southern whiteface nests.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* (WA) (CAWS Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

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.

Evidence was submitted by the applicant, demonstrating that nearby Aboriginal Heritage sites and suitable habitat for species of interest (*Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674)) have been avoided in the development of the proposed clearing area (Brightstar Resources, 2025b). The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

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

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

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

Assessment

A detailed flora and vegetation assessment was conducted by Western Botanical (2025a) on Mining Lease 29/88, Mining Lease 29/153 and Mining Lease 29/184 during May and August 2021. In addition, Western Botanical also conducted a targeted flora survey for *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) across the same survey area in August, 2025 (Western Botanical, 2025b). There are 47 records of *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) within close proximity to the application area, however, none of these were recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025b). A further 11 conservation significant flora species were recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The following flora species were considered possibly occurring within the application area:

***Hysterobaeckea ochropetala* subsp. *cometes*, Priority 3**

Hysterobaeckea ochropetala subsp. *cometes* is an erect compact shrub that grows on red sandy loam in mixed Eucalyptus / Mallee / Acacia low open woodland (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 29 records from the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1927 and 2023, with the majority of records collected after 1991 (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are no known records of *Hysterobaeckea ochropetala* subsp. *cometes* within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a). In addition to this, the habitat present within the application area is well represented in surrounding areas, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

***Thryptomene eremaea*, Priority 2**

Thryptomene eremaea is an erect open shrub that occurs in red or yellow sand and sandplains surrounded by Allocasuarina shrubland and Mallee shrubland (Western Botanical, 2025a; WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 13 records from the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Great Vicotria Desert and Murchison IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1927 and 2013, with the majority of records collected after 2003 (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are no known records of *Thryptomene eremaea* within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a). In addition to this, the habitat present within the application area is well represented in surrounding areas, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

***Malleostemon* sp. Adelong (G.J. Keighery 11825)**

Malleostemon sp. Adelong (G.J. Keighery 11825) is a spreading shrub that occurs in red sand surrounded by Acacia shrubland (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are four records from the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1989 and 1996 (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There is one record of *Malleostemon* sp. Adelong (G.J. Keighery 11825) located approximately eight kilometres from the application area; however this record is from 1989. Current surveys of the application area have not identified the species and as a result, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

***Calandrinia quartzitica*, Priority 1**

Calandrinia quartzitica is an erect herb that occurs in samphire shrublands on salt lake margins (Western Botanical, 2025; WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are 18 records from the Western Australian Herbarium (1998-) distributed across the Coolgardie and Murchison IBRA bioregions. These records were collected between 1982 and 2025, with the majority of records collected after 2016 (WA Herbarium, 1998-). There are no known records of *Calandrinia quartzitica* within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a). In addition to this, the habitat present within the application area is well represented in surrounding areas, therefore the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

Species of Interest

Swainsona sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674) was recorded for the first time in three sites within close proximity to the application area (Western Botanical, 2025b). A targeted flora survey for the species of interest was conducted by Western Botanical in August, 2025. The survey primarily covered the Greenstone hill *Acacia collegialis* vegetation group however also extended into nearby suitable habitat (Western Botanical, 2025b). No records of the novel flora species were located within the proposed area to be cleared.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the impacts of the proposed clearing can be managed by taking the steps to avoid and minimise the extent of the clearing.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing; and
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds.

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

Assessment

A basic vertebrate fauna survey and assessment was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) on Mining Lease 29/153, Mining Lease 29/184 and Mining Lease 29/88, during 15 to 18 November 2021. The survey identified seven broad fauna habitats within the application area (see Appendix A.1). While there were no conservation significant fauna species recorded within the application area, five conservation significant fauna species were identified as likely to occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) occurs in open woodlands and shrublands with an understorey of grasses and shrubs (DCCEEW, 2023). They occupy living or dead tree hollows which are essential for breeding and roosting. This species breeds from July to October and build large domed nests of grass, bark and roosts in tree crevices and low bushes (DCCEEW, 2023). There is suitable habitat within the application area in the form of open shrublands with low understoreys of grasslands and shrubs (see A.1). Southern whiteface has been recorded in several fauna surveys in the region and as a result, is likely to occur within the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).

Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*) occur in a wide range of habitats generally consisting of a sandy substrate with trees between three and eight metres in height and a shrub layer providing horizontal cover (DCCEEW, 2024). The large-ground dwelling bird favours long unburned and ungrazed mallee and constructs nests in sandy soils and leaf litter by building large mounds used for egg incubation (DCCEEW, 2024). No malleefowl mounds or tracks were identified in the fauna survey. It was also noted that

there is minimal suitable habitat within the application area for this species (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025). It is unlikely that malleefowl will be impacted by the proposed clearing.

There are several other conservation significant bird species that may occasionally visit the application area (see A.4) however, as this habitat is well represented in a local and regional context it is unlikely that these species will be impacted by the proposed clearing.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will result in impacts on suitable fauna habitat for southern whiteface. To minimise impacts to this species, identified southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) nests should be avoided by 50 metres between the months of July and October. A directional clearing condition is also necessary to minimise any impacts to allow terrestrial fauna species transecting the area proposed to be cleared to move into adjacent habitat.

The applicant may have notification responsibilities under the EPBC Act for impacts to southern whiteface and their habitats, as set out in the EPBC Act. The applicant has been advised to contact the federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) to discuss EPBC Act referral requirements.

Conditions

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

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extend of clearing;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity; and
- a fauna management (southern whiteface) condition requiring areas proposed to be cleared between 1 July and 31 October are inspected to identify active (in use) southern whiteface nests, and to maintain a 50 metre buffer around identified active nests.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 20 January 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There is one native title claim (WCD2022/002 – Darlot) over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant group. The mining tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on southern whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), which is a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Commonwealth) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for environmental impact assessment under the EPBC Act. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the EPBC Act.

Other relevant authorisations required for the proposed land use include:

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

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

End

Appendix A. Site characteristics

A.1. Site characteristics

Characteristic	Details									
Local context	The area proposed to be cleared is part of an expansive tract of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is surrounded by the landscape and vegetation of the Murchison bioregion (GIS Database). The proposed clearing area is part of existing mining operations related to the Yunndaga Gold Mine located 10 kilometres south of Menzies (Brightstar Resources, 2025a).									
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).									
Conservation areas	The application area is not located in any known or mapped conservation areas. The closest record is Goongarrie National Park located approximately 37 kilometres east southeast of the application area (GIS Database).									
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20: Low woodland; mulga mixed with <i>Allocasuarina cristata</i> & <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.; and • 251: Low woodland; mulga & <i>Allocasuarina cristata</i> (GIS Database). <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Western Botanical during May and August, 2021. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (Western Botanical, 2025a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lateritic ironstone ridge <i>Acacia</i> shrublands; • Greenstone hill <i>Acacia sibirica</i> shrublands; • Greenstone hill <i>Acacia collegialis</i> shrublands; • Greenstone hill <i>Eucalyptus celastroides</i> woodlands; • <i>Casuarina pauper</i> - <i>Acacia sibirica</i> shrublands; • Calcyphytic pearl bluebush (<i>Maireana sedifolia</i>) shrublands; • Calcrete platform <i>Eucalyptus clelandiorum</i> woodlands; • Hardpan mulga shrublands; • <i>Eremophila scoparia</i> - <i>Senna artemisioides</i> subsp. <i>filifolia</i> shrublands; • Sago bush (<i>Maireana pyramidata</i>) low shrubland; • Calcareous plain <i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i> - <i>Acacia</i> woodlands; • Calcareous plain <i>Eucalyptus concinna</i> - <i>Acacia</i> woodlands • Open grassland; and • Drainage tract Mulga shrublands. 									
Vegetation condition	<p>Vegetation surveys of the application area found the vegetation to be in Excellent to Completely Degraded condition (Trudgen, 1991).</p> <p>The full Trudgen (1991) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.</p>									
Climate and landform	The climate of the Eastern Murchison subregion is described as arid, with the nearest weather station recording an average rainfall of approximately 252.7 millimetres per year (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002).									
Soil description	The majority of the soils are mapped as red shallow loam, calcareous loamy earth, and red shallow sand (GIS Database). There are also areas of hard-cracking clay (DPIRD, 2026).									
Land degradation risk	<p>The application area lies within the Moriarty, Bunyip land systems and partially intersects the Rainbow and Graves land systems (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). These systems have been mapped and described as (Pringle et al., 1994):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Land system</th> <th>Description</th> <th>Degradation and erosion risk</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Moriarty system</td> <td>Low greenstone rises and stony plains, supporting chenopod shrublands with patchy eucalypt overstoreys.</td> <td>Moderately susceptible to water erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bunyip system</td> <td>Gilgaied tracts draining greenstones hills, supporting mixed halophytic shrublands occasionally with a black oak overstorey.</td> <td>Slightly susceptible to soil erosion particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Land system	Description	Degradation and erosion risk	Moriarty system	Low greenstone rises and stony plains, supporting chenopod shrublands with patchy eucalypt overstoreys.	Moderately susceptible to water erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.	Bunyip system	Gilgaied tracts draining greenstones hills, supporting mixed halophytic shrublands occasionally with a black oak overstorey.	Slightly susceptible to soil erosion particularly if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced or the soil surface is disturbed.
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Characteristic	Details		
	Rainbow system	Hardpan plains supporting mulga shrublands.	This system is generally not susceptible to erosion.
	Graves system	Basalt and greenstone rises and low hills, supporting eucalypt woodlands with prominent saltbush and bluebush understoreys.	Susceptible water erosion with perennial shrub cover is substantially reduce or the soil surface is disturbed.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that five minor, non-perennial watercourses transect the area application area (GIS Database).		
Hydrogeography	The application area is located within Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). The application area intersects the Menzies Water Reserve, a Public Drinking Water Source Area proclaimed under the <i>Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947</i> (GIS Database). The mapped groundwater salinity is between approximately 3,000 – 7,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as brackish to saline (GIS Database).		
Flora	The desktop assessment located 11 conservation significant flora species within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). The nearest record is located approximately three kilometres from the application area (GIS Database).		
Ecological communities	The application area does not form part of any known Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities. The closest record is part of the Priority 3 Ecological Community 'Emu Land System' located approximately 43 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).		
Fauna	There were no conservation significant fauna species identified within the application area (GIS Database). Four conservation significant fauna species were recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).		
Fauna habitat	<p>A basic vertebrate fauna assessment was conducted by Terrestrial Ecosystems in November, 2021. Seven broad habitat types were identified (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushy shrubland; • Casuarina woodland; • Eucalypt woodland; • Open grassland; • Shrubland on a ridge; • Shrubland; and • Previously disturbed areas. <p>Representative photos provided from the basic vertebrate fauna survey are available in Appendix D.</p>		

A.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European area (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current extent in all DBCA Managed Land (proportion of pre-European extent) (%)
IBRA Bioregion - Murchison	28,120,586.77	28,044,823.42	99.73	2,185,987.96	7.77
Beard vegetation associations - State					
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,295,103.39	1,292,474.58	99.80	250,985.57	19.38
Veg Assoc No. 251	173,096.19	172,864.64	99.87	120,496.03	69.61
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 20	1,174,259.17	1,171,630.81	99.78	181,845.19	15.49
Veg Assoc No. 251	58,012.00	57,780.45	99.60	5,411.84	9.33

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix E.1), and biological survey information (Western Botanical, 2025a; 2025b), impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Apatelantha insignis</i>	P2	N	<5	31	Unlikely
<i>Grevillea erectiloba</i>	P4	N	<5	30	Unlikely
<i>Hysterobaeckea ochropetala</i> subsp. <i>cometes</i>	P3	Y	<5	29	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Philotheca coateana</i>	P3	N	<5	14	Unlikely
<i>Swainsona</i> sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674)	Species of Interest	N	<5	51	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Thryptomene eremaea</i>	P2	Y	<5	13	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Malleostemon</i> sp. Adelong (G.J. Keighery 11825)	P2	Y	<10	4	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Calandrinia quartzitica</i>	P1	Y	<15	18	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.1
<i>Eucalyptus jutsonii</i> subsp. <i>jutsonii</i>	P4	N	<20	36	Unlikely
<i>Homalocalyx grandiflorus</i>	P3	N	<20	16	Unlikely
<i>Persoonia leucopogon</i>	P1	N	<20	5	Unlikely

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

The following conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (local area)	Likelihood of occurrence
<i>Aspidites ramsayi</i> (southwest subpopulation) (woma)	P1	Y	<5	1	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl)	VU	Y	<5	15	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Branchinella simplex</i> (a fairy shrimp (inland WA))	P1	N	<15	1	Unlikely
<i>Pezoporus occidentalis</i> (night parrot)	CR	N	<20	1	Unlikely – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine falcon)	OS	Y	<55	0	Infrequently – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Apus pacificus</i> (Fork-tailed swift)	MI	Y	<70	0	Infrequently – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Falco hypoleucos</i> (Grey falcon)	VU	Y	<140	0	Infrequently – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Polytelis alexandrae</i> (Princess parrot)	P4	Y	<255	0	Infrequently – discussed in Section 3.2.2
<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (southern whiteface)	VU	Y	<275	0	Possible – discussed in Section 3.2.2

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

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p>Principle (a): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain habitat necessary for the maintenance of conservation significant flora.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p>Principle (b): <i>"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."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared contains foraging and breeding habitat for conservation significant fauna, specifically the southern whiteface.</p>	At variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p>Principle (c): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain flora species listed under the BC Act (Western Botanical, 2025a).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p>Principle (d): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>No Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) have been recorded within the application area, and there are no TECs mapped near the application area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p>Principle (e): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area falls within the Murchison Bioregion of the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (GIS Database). Over 99 per cent of the pre-European vegetation exists in the Murchison Bioregion (Government of Western Australia, 2019). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area (GIS Database).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p>Principle (h): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p>Principle (f): <i>"Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland."</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the area proposed to be cleared (GIS Database).</p> <p>There are five minor, non-perennial watercourses within the application area which flow only briefly after significant rainfall. The potential impacts to vegetation can be managed with the implementation of a vegetation management condition.</p>	At variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>Principle (g): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The land systems within the application area are susceptible to erosion, particularly if perennial vegetation is cleared. Potential impacts to native vegetation as a result of land degradation can be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.</p>	May be at variance	No
<p>Principle (i): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area, it is unlikely the proposed clearing will have a significant impact on surface water quality. There is one Public Drinking Water Source Area (Menzies Water Reserve) that intersects the application area (GIS Database). The proposed clearing is considered to be compatible with the conditions of the Menzies Water Reserve, therefore the proposed clearing is unlikely to significantly impact underground water quality (DWER, 2026).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p>Principle (j): <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given there are no permanent watercourses or wetlands within the application area, and the application area is mapped as low rises and plains, the proposed clearing is unlikely to contribute to an increased incidence or intensity of flooding (DPIRD, 2026; GIS Database). Potential impacts that are likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incident or intensity flooding can be minimised by the implementation of a watercourse management condition.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Appendix C. Vegetation condition rating scale

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

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from Trudgen, M.E. (1991) *Vegetation condition scale* in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.

Measuring vegetation condition for the Eremaean and Northern Botanical Provinces (Trudgen, 1991)

Condition	Description
Excellent	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement.
Very good	Some relatively slight signs of damage caused by human activities since European settlement. For example, some signs of damage to tree trunks caused by repeated fire, the presence of some relatively non-aggressive weeds, or occasional vehicle tracks.
Good	More obvious signs of damage caused by human activity since European settlement, including some obvious impact on the vegetation structure such as that caused by low levels of grazing or slightly aggressive weeds.
Poor	Still retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it after very obvious impacts of human activities since European settlement, such as grazing, partial clearing, frequent fires or aggressive weeds.
Very poor	Severely impacted by grazing, very frequent fires, clearing or a combination of these activities. Scope for some regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. Usually with a number of weed species present including very aggressive species.
Completely degraded	Areas that are completely or almost completely without native species in the structure of their vegetation; i.e. areas that are cleared or ‘parkland cleared’ with their flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix D. Photographs of the vegetation

The following photographs represent the main fauna habitats in the application area (Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025).



Figure 1. Bushy shrubland



Figure 2. Casuarina woodland



Figure 3. Eucalypt woodland



Figure 4. Open grassland



Figure 5. Shrubland on a ridge



Figure 6. Shrubland



Figure 7. Previously disturbed area

Appendix E. Sources of information

E.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Instruments Activities (Areas Approved to Clear) (DWER-076)
- Clearing Instruments Conditions (Areas Subject to Conditions) (DWER-077)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Geographic Names (GEONOMA) (LGATE-013)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Line) (LGATE-018)
- Medium Scale Topo Water (Polygon) (LGATE-016)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Reserves (LGATE-227)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Project Areas (DPIRD-070)
- Surface Water Management Areas (DWER-041)
- Surface Water Management Subareas (DWER-042)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)
- WA Now Aerial Imagery
- WRIMS - Groundwater Areas (DWER-085)
- WRIMS - Groundwater Resources (DWER-084)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Areas (DWER-082)
- WRIMS - Surface Water Resources (DWER-081)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

E.2. References

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- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) (2026) Bureau of Meteorology Website – Climate Data Online, Menzies (Number 12052). Bureau of Meteorology. <https://reg.bom.gov.au/climate/data/> (Accessed 16 March 2026).
- Conservation and Land Management (CALM) (2002) A Biodiversity Audit of Western Australia's 53 Biogeographic Subregions in 2002. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Western Australia.
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- Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) (2016) Technical Guidance - Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment. http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Policies_and_Guidance/EPA%20Technical%20Guidance%20-%20Flora%20and%20Vegetation%20survey_Dec13.pdf
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- Government of Western Australia (2019) 2018 Statewide Vegetation Statistics incorporating the CAR Reserve Analysis (Full Report). Current as of March 2019. WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. <https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au/dataset/dbca-statewide-vegetation-statistics>
- Pringle, H J, Gilligan, S A, and van Vreeswyk, A M. (1994) An inventory and condition survey of rangelands in the north eastern Goldfields, Western Australia. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia, Perth. Technical Bulletin 87.
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (2025) Basic Vertebrate Fauna Survey and Risk Assessment – Menzies Mining Project. Prepared for Brightstar Resources by Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2025.
- Trudgen, M.E. (1991) Vegetation condition scale in National Trust (WA) 1993 Urban Bushland Policy. National Trust of Australia (WA), Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.), and the Tree Society (Inc.), Perth.
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- Western Botanical (2025a) Detailed Flora and Vegetation Assessment for the Menzies Gold Project for Kingwest Resources Ltd, V2. Prepared for Kingwest Resources Ltd by Western Botanical, January 2025.
- Western Botanical (2025b) WB1079 Memo Summary of findings from recent Targeted Survey for *Swainsona* sp. Menzies (J. Warden & J. Paterson WB40674). Prepared for Brightstar Resources Limited by Western Botanical, 28 August 2025.

Glossary

Acronyms:

BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> , Western Australia
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
DAA	Department of Aboriginal Affairs, Western Australia (now DPLH)
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (now DPIRD)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Australian Government
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Western Australia
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now DMPE)
DER	Department of Environment Regulation, Western Australia (now DWER)
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia (now DMPE)
DMPE	Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration
DoEE	Department of the Environment and Energy (now DCCEEW)
DoW	Department of Water, Western Australia (now DWER)
DPaW	Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia (now DBCA)
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, Western Australia
DRF	Declared Rare Flora (now known as Threatened Flora)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Western Australia
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , Western Australia
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority, Western Australia
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
PEC	Priority Ecological Community, Western Australia
RIWI Act	<i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> , Western Australia
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

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

CR Critically endangered species

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

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

EN Endangered species

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

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

VU Vulnerable species

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

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

Extinct species

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

EX Extinct species

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

EW Extinct in the wild species

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

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

Specially protected species**SP Specially protected species**

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

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

MI Migratory species

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

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

CD Species of special conservation interest (conservation dependent fauna)

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

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

OS Other specially protected species

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

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

Priority species**P Priority species**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Rare. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and that are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection but could be if present circumstances change. These species are usually represented on conservation lands.
- (b) Near Threatened. Species that are considered to have been adequately surveyed and that are close to qualifying for vulnerable but are not listed as a conservation dependent specially protected species.
- (c) Species that have been removed from the list of threatened species or lists of conservation dependent or other specially protected species, during the past five years for reasons other than taxonomy.
- (d) Other species in need of monitoring.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

- (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.
- (b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.
- (c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.
- (d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.
- (e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.
- (f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.
- (g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

- (h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.
- (i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.
- (j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.