



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details and outcomes

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	11355/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Warriedar Mining Pty Ltd
Application received:	21 November 2025
Application area:	90 hectares
Purpose of clearing:	Mineral production and associated activities
Method of clearing:	Mechanical removal
Tenure:	Mining Leases 24/585, 24/586 and 24/1022
Location (LGA area):	City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Colloquial name:	Eureka Mining Project

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Permit holder name proposes to clear up to 90 hectares of native vegetation within a boundary of approximately 610.22 hectares, for the purpose of mineral production and associated activities. The project is located approximately 42 kilometres northwest of Kalgoorlie, within the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder.

The application is to allow for the development of the Eureka Mining Project (Warriedar, 2025). The development of this project will include an open pit gold mine with two open pits, waste rock landform, run-of-mine pad, magazine, internal haul roads, and site office and amenities (Warriedar, 2025).

1.3. Decision on application and key considerations

Decision:	Grant
Decision date:	28 May 2026
Decision area:	90 hectares of native vegetation

1.4. Reasons for decision

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

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (Appendix A), relevant datasets (Appendix D), supporting information provided by the applicant (NVS, 2022; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022; Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2024), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (Appendix B), proposed avoidance and minimisation measures (Section 3.1), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (Section 3.3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration the purpose of the clearing to facilitate mineral 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;
- potential impacts to fauna present within the application area;
- potential land degradation from erosion;
- potential impacts to riparian vegetation; and
- potential impacts to remnant 'excellent' condition vegetation.

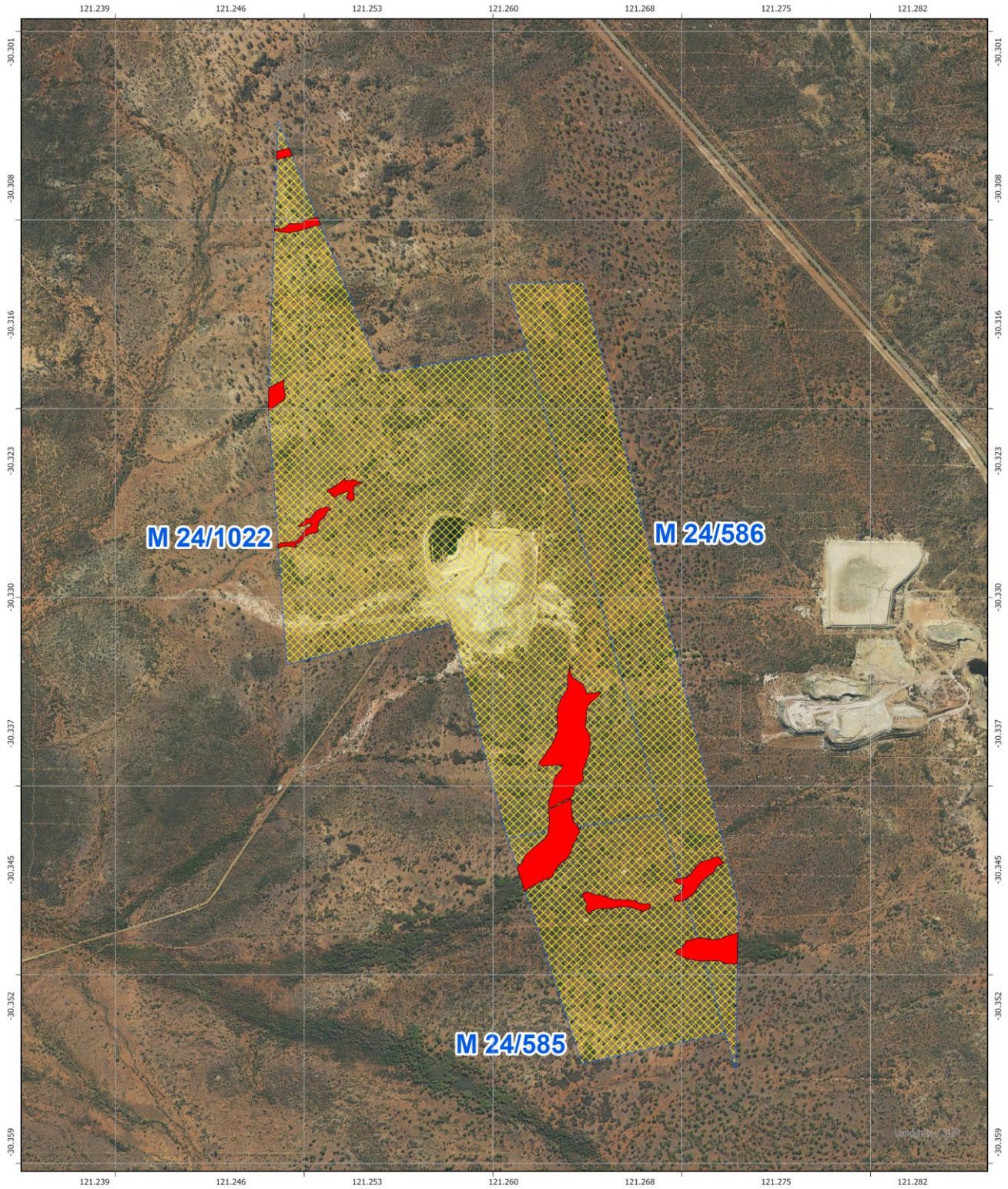
After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation or have long-term adverse impacts on the environmental values of the application area. 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;
- undertake slow, progressive one-directional clearing with a fauna spotter present to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity;
- commence construction no later than six months after undertaking clearing to reduce the risk of erosion;
- avoid riparian vegetation and maintain surface flows; and
- restrict clearing of 'excellent' condition vegetation for only the purpose of access tracks.

1.5. Site map

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



LEGEND		
Mining Act Tenure		
CPS 11355/1 Area Approved to Clear		GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Area Subject to Condition 5		
GCS: GDA2020 Datum: GDA2020 Map Units: Degree	Scale: 1:20,000	

Figure 1. Map of the application area. The yellow area indicates the area within which conditional authorised clearing can occur under the granted clearing permit.

2. Legislative context

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

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

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

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Mining Act 1978* (WA)
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (RIWI Act)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

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

3. Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

As part of their submission for CPS 11355/1, Warriedar Mining Pty Ltd submitted evidence demonstrating that the following avoidance and mitigation measures would be implemented on site (Warriedar Mining, 2025):

- Clearing will only be undertaken where necessary, and activities will be managed to avoid unnecessary disturbance to vegetation e.g. existing road tracks will be used as far as possible, no disturbance outside of the approved purpose permit area.
- Hygiene inspections of vehicles prior to entering the project area, seasonal weed inspection and ongoing management during operations will be undertaken to prevent the spread of weeds.
- Clearing will be progressive to support mining operations.
- Dust suppression activities will be undertaken to reduce disturbance to vegetation.
- Topsoil will be stored on several topsoil stockpiles located outside of drainage areas and adjacent to waste rock landforms.
- During rehabilitation, topsoil will be spread over the area and seeded with locally endemic species. Monitoring will be undertaken to ensure sustainable plant growth; intervention will occur where required.

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 (Appendix B) identified the impacts of the proposed clearing are limited and able to be managed to be environmentally acceptable with standard avoid and minimise, hygiene, erosion and directional clearing management conditions.

The assessment against the clearing principles has found that the proposed clearing may be at variance to principles (f) and (g), and not likely to be at variance to principles (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (h), (i) and (j).

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The clearing permit application was advertised on 27 March 2026 by the Department of Mines, Petroleum and Exploration inviting submissions from the public. No submissions were received in relation to this application.

There are no native title claims over the area under application (DPLH, 2026). There is one native title claim that has been accepted for registration over the application area (WC2017/007), however there has not yet been an outcome for this case (DPLH, 2026). The mining tenures have 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.

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	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is part of a semi-disturbed patch of native vegetation in the extensive land use zone of Western Australia (GIS Database). It is located approximately 44 kilometres north west of Kalgoorlie, surrounded by road infrastructure and other mine sites (GIS Database). The application area is centred on the Eureka open pit gold mine that was operated during the 1990s, with the proposed site layout is to utilise parts of the already disturbed mine footprint (GIS Database).</p> <p>The predominant land uses in the region are grazing, Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Crown Reserves, mining, and conservation (CALM, 2002).</p>
Ecological linkage	According to available databases, the application area does not contain any known or mapped ecological linkages (GIS Database).
Conservation areas	The nearest conservation area is the Goongarrie National Park located approximately 27 kilometres northeast of the application area (GIS Database).
Vegetation description	<p>The vegetation of the application area is broadly mapped as the following Beard vegetation associations:</p> <p>2903: woodland other, Wheatbelt; York gum, salmon gum etc. <i>Eucalyptus loxophleba</i>, <i>E. salmonophloia</i>. Goldfields; gimlet, redwood etc. <i>E. salubris</i>, <i>E. oleosa</i>. Riverine; rivergum <i>E. camaldulensis</i>. Tropical; messmate, woolybush (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey was conducted over the application area by Native Vegetation Solutions on 10 and 11 of May 2022. The following vegetation associations were recorded within the application area (NVS, 2022):</p> <p>(A): <i>Casuarina pauper</i> thicket over sclerophyll shrubland in broad drainage lines; This Thicket (Muir, 1977) consisted of 12 Families, 17 Genera and 28 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 4.61 ha which makes up 0.64% of the survey area.</p> <p>(B): Open <i>Eucalyptus salmonophloia</i> woodland; This Woodland (Muir, 1977) consisted of 16 Families, 25 Genera and 47 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 308.65 ha which makes up 42.78% of the survey area.</p> <p>(C): <i>Acacia acuminata</i> shrubland; This Scrub (Muir, 1977) consisted of 9 Families, 13 Genera and 22 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 8.22 ha which makes up 1.14% of the survey area.</p> <p>(D): Sclerophyll shrubland; This Heath A (Muir, 1977) consisted of 12 Families, 24 Genera and 31 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 128.39 ha which makes up 17.79% of the survey area.</p> <p>(E): <i>Eucalyptus ravida</i> woodland; This Low Woodland A (Muir, 1977) consisted of 12 Families, 18 Genera and 27 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 61.51 ha which makes up 8.52% of the survey area.</p> <p>(F): <i>Acacia acuminata</i> and <i>Acacia quadrimarginea</i> shrubland over rocky rises; This Heath A (Muir, 1977) consisted of 16 Families, 21 Genera and 28 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 3.55 ha which makes up 0.49% of the survey area.</p> <p>(G): Mixed Eucalyptus woodland over mixed sclerophyll shrubland; This Low Woodland A (Muir, 1977) consisted of 16 Families, 21 Genera and 45 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 94.84 ha which makes up 13.14% of the survey area.</p> <p>(H): <i>Acacia acuminata</i> shrubland with emergent <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i>; This Tree Mallee (Muir, 1977) consisted of 10 Families, 14 Genera and 23 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 4.85 ha which makes up 0.67% of the survey area.</p> <p>(I): <i>Acacia acuminata</i> shrubland on granite hills; This Heath A (Muir, 1977) consisted of 9 Families, 10 Genera and 12 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 3.71 ha which makes up 0.51% of the survey area.</p> <p>(J): Mixed Eucalyptus woodland over dense sclerophyll shrubland within broad drainage lines; This Forest (Muir, 1977) consisted of 12 Families, 21 Genera and 42 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 44.51 ha which makes up 6.17% of the survey area.</p> <p>(K): Mulga shrubland; This Thicket (Muir, 1977) consisted of 4 Families, 5 Genera and 10 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 0.90 ha which makes up 0.13% of the survey area.</p>

Characteristic	Details
	<p>(L): <i>Eucalyptus griffithsii</i> thicket over sclerophyll shrubland; This Tree Mallee (Muir, 1977) consisted of 9 Families, 13 Genera and 20 Species. The vegetation group was approximately 0.89 ha which makes up 0.12% of the survey area.</p> <p>Existing Disturbance: Existing disturbance within the survey area consisted of mining areas, historic exploration and access roads and was approximately 56.89 ha which makes up 7.89% of the survey area.</p>
Vegetation condition	The vegetation survey (NVS, 2022) indicates the vegetation within the proposed clearing area is in Degraded to Excellent (Keighery, 1994) condition. The full Keighery (1994) condition rating scale is provided in Appendix C.
Climate and landform	The climate for the Murchison region is arid to semi-arid with an annual rainfall average of approximately 265.5 millimetres recorded at Kalgoorlie (BoM, 2026; CALM, 2002). The application area is mapped within elevations of 370 to 440 meters Australian height datum (GIS Database).
Soil description and land degradation risk	<p>The soil is mapped as part of the following land systems and soil descriptions (DPIRD, 2026; Waddell and Galloway, 2023; GIS Database):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gumland Land System (265Gm) alluvial plains, supporting eucalypt woodlands with halophytic shrub understoreys. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous loamy earth, red loamy earth, Alkaline red shallow loamy duplex, calcareous shallow loam, calcareous clay loam, self-mulching cracking clay and calcareous loamy ironstone gravel. Alluvial plains, drainage tracts and foci are susceptible to erosion if perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, as are footslopes if protective mantles are disturbed. Infrastructure across sheetwash and alluvial plains can result in concentrated water flows and cause erosion incision. Halophytic vegetation is prone to overgrazing and subsequent degradation. • Gumland Disturbed land phase (265Gm) disturbed and degraded areas of the Gumland Land System. • Gundockerta Land System (265Gu) extensive, gently undulating, calcareous plains, supporting bluebush shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are calcareous stony soil, very shallow ironstone soil, calcareous shallow loam, shallow non-cracking clay, alkaline red shallow sandy duplex, red shallow loam, red-brown hardpan shallow loam and cracking clays in gilgai areas. Where not protected by a stony mantle, saline stony plains and adjacent lower alluvial landforms are susceptible to water erosion, particularly in areas with reduced perennial shrub cover or disturbed soil surfaces. The vegetation is prone to overgrazing and consequent degradation. • Illaara Land System (265II) low rises and undulating plains with ironstone gravel or calcrete mantles, supporting eucalypt woodlands and mulga-casuarina shrublands. Soils associated with this land system are loamy gravel, calcareous shallow loam, red loamy earth, very shallow soil over ferruginous duricrust, shallow calcrete ironstone gravel, shallow loamy gravel, calcareous loamy ironstone gravel, calcareous loamy earth and red loamy earth. This land system is generally not susceptible to erosion. • Illaara Disturbed land phase (265II) disturbed and degraded areas of the Illaara Land System.
Waterbodies	The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that the application area is intersected by one minor non-perennial watercourse (GIS Database).
Hydrogeography	<p>The nearest Public Drinking Water Source Area is the Broad Arrow Dam catchment area located approximately 4.2 kilometres south of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The application area is located within the Goldfields Groundwater Area proclaimed under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database).</p> <p>The nearest Wetland of National or International Importance is the Rowles Lagoon System located approximately 33 kilometres west southwest of the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>The groundwater salinity is mapped as 14,000 to 35,000 milligrams per litre total dissolved solids which is described as saline (BoM, 2019; GIS Database).</p>
Flora	There are records of eight priority flora within 20 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). No conservation significant flora species have been identified within the application area (NVS, 2022).
Ecological communities	There are no Priority Ecological Communities or Threatened Ecological Communities (PECs/TECs) intersecting the application area (GIS Database). The closest recorded PEC is the Emu Land System located approximately 13 kilometres north northwest of the application area (GIS Database).
Fauna	There are 20 records of conservation significance fauna within 50 kilometres of the application area (GIS Database). No conservation significant fauna species have been identified within the application area (TE, 2022; TE, 2024).
Fauna habitat	Two broad fauna habitats were identified within the application area (TE, 2022):

Characteristic	Details
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> eucalypt woodland over shrubland; and mixed shrubland.

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. 2903	28,308.84	27,330.91	96.55	-	-
Beard vegetation associations - Bioregion					
Veg Assoc No. 2903	28,295.17	27,317.23	96.54	-	-

Government of Western Australia (2019)

A.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and the 2022 Native Vegetation Solutions survey of the application area, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration (NVS, 2022; WAH, 1998; GIS Database).

Species name	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)
Priority 1			
<i>Acacia epedunculata</i>	N	<15	8
<i>Rhodanthe uniflora</i>	N	<15	3
<i>Ricinocarpus digynus</i>	Y	<20	10
Priority 2			
<i>Eremophila praecox</i>	N	<5	52
Priority 3			
<i>Angianthus prostratus</i>	N	<15	10
<i>Eleocharis papillosa</i>	N	<15	15
<i>Notisia intonsa</i>	N	<15	29
Priority 4			
<i>Eucalyptus jutsonii subsp. jutsonii</i>	N	<5	36

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

A.4. Fauna analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (Appendix D.1), and the 2022 Terrestrial Ecosystems survey of the application area, impacts to the following conservation significant fauna required further consideration (TE, 2022; Commonwealth of Australia, 2008; GIS Database).

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)
Birds			
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> (common sandpiper)	MI	N	<40
<i>Arenaria interpres</i> (ruddy turnstone)	MI	N	<40
<i>Calidris acuminata</i> (sharp-tailed sandpiper)	MI	N	<30
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i> (curlew sandpiper)	CR	N	<45
<i>Calidris ruficollis</i> (red-necked stint)	MI	N	<45
<i>Charadrius cucullatus</i> (hooded plover, hooded dotterel)	P4	N	<25
<i>Charadrius veredus</i> (oriental plover)	MI	N	<45
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (peregrine falcon)	OS	N	<45
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (malleefowl)	VU	N	<5
<i>Oxyura australis</i> (blue-billed duck)	P4	N	<40
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (glossy ibis)	MI	N	<35
<i>Tringa glareola</i> (wood sandpiper)	MI	N	<40
<i>Tringa nebularia</i> (common greenshank)	MI	N	<30
<i>Zanda latirostris</i> (Carnaby's cockatoo)	EN	N	<50
Invertebrates			
<i>Branchinella denticulata</i> (a fairy shrimp (Carnarvon to Kalgoorlie))	P3	N	<30
<i>Jalmenus aridus</i> (inland hairstreak, desert blue butterfly)	P2	Y	<10
<i>Ogyris subterrestris petrina</i> (arid bronze azure butterfly)	CR	Y	<25
Mammals			
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i> (chuditch, western quoll)	VU	N	<45
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i> (central long-eared bat)	P3	N	<40
<i>Pseudomys occidentalis</i> (western mouse)	P4	N	<30

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

*Species listed as extinct are not considered for the purpose of this report

Appendix B. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
Principle (a): "Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity." Assessment:	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p>The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally or regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, assemblages of plants.</p> <p>While suitable habitat for the Priority 1 flora species <i>Ricinocarpus digynus</i> has been identified within the application area, this species was not recorded by the 2022 NVS survey of the area (NVS, 2022). While the exact flowering period for this species is uncertain, there have been no significant limitations identified for the survey and the closest recorded instance of this species to the application area is greater than 15 kilometres away (Michael Hislop and Juliet A. Wage, 2020; GIS Database). As such, the proposed clearing is unlikely to have an impact on the conservation of this species.</p> <p>While it may provide suitable foraging habitat for some conservation significant fauna species, impacts to these species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition. Otherwise, the proposed clearing is considered not likely to be at variance to this principle.</p>		
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> <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 does not generally contain essential foraging, roosting, breeding, critical, or significant habitat for the conservation significant fauna species identified within 50 kilometres of the application area.</p> <p>While some of these species may utilise it for foraging, the vegetation within the application area is well represented in the surrounding area. As such, impacts to these species can be minimised through the implementation of a directional clearing condition.</p> <p>Suitable habitat for the Critically Endangered <i>Ogyris subterrestris petrina</i> (arid bronze azure butterfly (ABAB)) has been identified within the application area, and a survey for this species was conducted in September 2024 within the application area (TE, 2024). The survey was conducted in line with the 2020 DBCA guidelines for the survey of ABAB and no significant limitations have been identified. The survey did not locate either the target butterfly or the sugar ant they depend on, <i>Camponotus terebrans</i>, and as such there are unlikely to be significant impacts to ABAB as a result of the proposed clearing.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> <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 provide habitat for threatened flora species listed under the BC Act, and no threatened flora species have been recorded within 20 kilometres of the application area</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> <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>There are no known Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) located within or in close proximity to the application area (GIS Database).</p> <p>A flora and vegetation survey of the application area did not identify any TECs or vegetation synonymous with known TECs (NVS, 2022).</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The extent of the mapped native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia (Commonwealth of Australia, 2001). The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not considered to be part of a significant ecological linkage in the local area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (h):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p>	Not likely to be at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>Given the distance to the nearest conservation area is 27 kilometres from the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of nearby conservation areas.</p>		
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands recorded within the application area (GIS Database). There is one minor non-perennial watercourse intersecting the application area, associated with vegetation association ‘J’ (NVS, 2022; GIS Database). The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact on- or off-site hydrology and water quality, however part of the vegetation associated with this watercourse is considered to be in ‘excellent’ condition (NVS, 2022). Potential impacts to the ‘excellent’ condition vegetation can be minimised by the implementation of a restricted clearing condition.</p>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The three land systems that compose the application area (Gumland, Gundockerta and Illaara) are not generally susceptible to erosion, with the following exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gumland: somewhat susceptible to erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, infrastructure is poorly situated or protective mantles are disturbed (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). • Gundockerta: somewhat susceptible to erosion where perennial shrub cover is substantially reduced, soil surfaces are disturbed or not protected by a stony mantle (Waddell and Galloway, 2023). <p>Potential impacts of erosion may be minimised by the implementation of a staged clearing condition.</p>	May be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (i):</u> <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p>The application area is not located within a Public Drinking Water Source Area (GIS Database). The application area is located within the proclaimed Goldfields Groundwater Area under the <i>Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914</i> (GIS Database). Any groundwater extraction and/or taking or diversion of surface water for purposes other than domestic and/or stock watering is subject to licence by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Due to the climate and salinity of the area (BoM, 2026; GIS Database), the proposed clearing is not likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or ground water.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j):</u> <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>There are no permanent watercourses or wetlands recorded within the application area, with one minor non-perennial drainage line intersecting the application area (GIS Database). There is likely to be little surface flow during normal seasonal rains due to the climate of the application area (BoM, 2026; GIS Database). Larger rainfall events may result in flooding of the area, however the mapped soils and topographic contours in the surrounding area indicate the proposed clearing is not likely to contribute to waterlogging or increased incidence or intensity of flooding.</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 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 D. Sources of information

D.1. GIS datasets

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

- Cadastre (Polygon) (LGATE-217)
- Clearing Regulations - Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Clearing Regulations - Schedule One Areas (DWER-057)
- DBCA - Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA - Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- DBCA Fire History (DBCA-060)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Local Government Area (LGA) Boundaries (LGATE-233)
- Localities (LGATE-234)
- Medium Scale Topo Contour (Line) (LGATE-015)
- Native Title (Determination) (LGATE-066)
- Native Vegetation Extent (DPIRD-005)
- Pre-European Vegetation (DPIRD-006)
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Mapping - Best Available (DPIRD-027)
- Townsites (LGATE-248)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

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

D.2. References

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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:

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

Threatened species

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

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

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

The assessment of the conservation status of threatened species is in accordance with the BC Act listing criteria and the requirements of [Ministerial Guideline Number 1](#) and [Ministerial Guideline Number 2](#) that adopts the use of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [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.